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# The Researchers'

## News box

### US strikes 15 Houthi targets in Yemen, hits military outposts, airport

**Washington.** The US military said it carried out 15 strikes on Friday against targets linked to Iran-aligned Houthi fighters in Yemen, where residents reported blasts at military outposts and even an airport. Central Command, which oversees US forces in the Middle East, said the targets were tied to Houthi offensive military capabilities, but did not detail whether that included missile, drone or radar capabilities. The Houthis have carried out nearly 100 attacks on ships crossing the Red Sea since November and say they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians in Israel's year-long war in Gaza. They have sunk two vessels, seized another and killed at least four seafarers. Al Masirah TV, the main television news outlet run by the Houthi movement controlling much of Yemen, and residents said airstrikes were launched at several parts of Yemen including its capital Sanaa and Hodeidah airport. Strikes also targeted the south of Dhamar city and the southeast of al-Bayda province, the channel added. Residents said that the attack on al-Bayda province targeted several Houthi military outposts. The Biden administration has been acting mostly defensively against Houthi strikes in the Red Sea, usually moving to intercept drone and missile attacks against commercial vessels and US warships. It has also struck Houthi military infrastructure with less frequency and avoided broader targets in Yemen, as it seeks to contain fallout from the nearly year-old Israel-Hamas war.

### Drought has dried a major Amazon River tributary to its lowest level in over 122 years

**MANAUS.** One of the Amazon River's main tributaries has dropped to its lowest level ever recorded, Brazil's geological service said Friday, reflecting a severe drought that has devastated the Amazon rainforest and other parts of the country. The level of the Negro River at the port of Manaus was at 12.66 meters on Friday, as compared with a normal level of about 21 meters. It is the lowest since measurements started 122 years ago. The previous record low level was recorded last year, but toward the end of October. The Negro River's water level might drop even more in coming weeks based on forecasts for low rainfall in upstream regions, according to the geological service's predictions. Andre Martinelli, the agency's hydrology manager in Manaus, was quoted as saying the river was expected to continue receding until the end of the month. Water levels in Brazil's Amazon always rise and fall with its rainy and dry seasons, but the dry portion of this year has been much worse than usual. All of the major rivers in the Amazon basin are at critical levels, including the Madeira River, the Amazon River's longest tributary. The Negro River drains about 10% of the Amazon basin and is the world's sixth-largest by water volume. Manaus, the biggest city in the rainforest, is where the Negro joins the Amazon River.

### Yep, totally my bad': Ohio teen admits to causing crash that killed 5, forced 500 to evacuate

**World.** A 17-year-old from Ohio admitted to causing a catastrophic crash on September 29, 2023 involving a tanker truck carrying toxic ammonia, resulting in the deaths of five people. People citing National Transportation Safety Board interview reported that the young driver revealed she was in Illinois that day to visit her mother's boyfriend. While recounting her trip to authorities, she noted that she was driving behind several trucks when she encountered a slower vehicle, which prompted her to accelerate and pass it at high speed. "I was behind this boxy maybe trailer or RV. And he was going super duper slow, so I passed him," she recalled, seemingly unaware of the tragedy that unfolded after that. When asked about the tanker truck, she said, "I heard that maybe it flipped" and went off the road. She claimed not to have seen or heard the crash, merely noticing the emergency vehicles heading in the opposite direction. Dashcam footage would later reveal a different story. The video captured the moment the teen cut off the anhydrous ammonia tanker while attempting to pass at approximately 90 mph. The ensuing jackknife maneuver led the truck to collide with a utility trailer parked just off the highway, puncturing the tank and releasing thousands of gallons of the caustic chemical into the air. This toxic plume forced the evacuation of nearly 500 people for hours. When confronted with the dashcam video, the teen said, "Oh, (expletive). Yeah. Oh, my goodness. Yep, totally my bad. Wow. Holy (expletive)," acknowledging her role in the accident that had devastating consequences. The accident that occurred near Teutopolis, Illinois, resulted in the death of five people including a father and his two children and prompted the evacuation of over 500 residents in the vicinity.

## At least 70 dead in gang attack in Haiti, over 6,000 forced to flee



**Armed gang members wielding automatic rifles stormed a town in Haiti's key breadbasket region, killing at least 70 people and displacing over 6,000.**

**Port-au-Prince.** Gang members brandishing automatic rifles stormed through a town in Haiti's main breadbasket region, killing at least 70 and forcing over 6,000 to flee, causing widespread shock even in a country grown accustomed to outbreaks of violence.

More people were severely injured in the attack in the early hours of Thursday at Pont-Sonde, in the agricultural region of Artibonite in western Haiti. Gran Grif gang leader Luckson Elan took responsibility for the massacre, saying it was in retaliation for civilians remaining passive while police and vigilante groups killed his soldiers. Some 6,270 people had fled their homes due to the attacks, the UN migration agency said. Most of these are being sheltered by families living in nearby Saint-Marc and other towns, while others are staying in makeshift camps. The gang members set fire to dozens of homes and vehicles, local

authorities said, in one of the deadliest attacks in recent years in the Caribbean nation that has seen many massacres and little justice for their victims. "This odious crime against defenceless women, men and children is not only an attack against victims but against the entire Haitian nation," Prime Minister Garry Conille said on X, adding that security forces were reinforcing the area. A spokesperson for Haiti's national police told Reuters on Friday evening that the director of police in charge of the Artibonite department had been replaced. "For now, reinforcements are at the location to contain the situation and security forces are in control," the spokesperson said. The killings are the latest sign of a worsening conflict in Haiti, where armed gangs control most of the capital Port-au-Prince and are expanding to nearby regions, fuelling hunger and making



hundreds of thousands homeless. Promised international support continues to lag and nearby nations have deported migrants back to the country. "The gang did not meet any resistance," Bertide Horace, spokesperson from the Dialogue and Reconciliation Commission to Save the Artibonite Valley, told Reuters, adding that police officers remained in their station, perhaps thinking they would be outgunned by the gang members. An armored truck stationed in nearby Verrettes also failed to mobilise, said Horace,

adding that two of her own family members were injured during the attack. Many victims were shot in the head as gang members went house to house, Horace said. "They were left to shoot anybody, everybody was running everywhere. They were walking, shooting people, killing people, burning people, burning homes, burning cars." Rights organisation RNDDH said the death toll was likely higher as entire families had been wiped out. "At the time of writing, corpses are strewn on the ground as their loved ones have not yet been able to recover them," it said in a report. RNDDH said rumours had been circulating for two months about a potential massacre in retaliation for residents' help for a vigilante group that was preventing the gang from extorting money on the national highway through the town.

## Hamas leader Saeed Atallah killed in Israeli strikes in Lebanon

**World.** Saeed Atallah Ali, a member of Hamas' armed wing, al-Qassam brigades, was killed in an Israeli airstrike on a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon. Three of his family members were also killed in the attack, Reuters reported.

"The Hamas movement mourns the leader of the al-Qassam Brigades, Saeed Atallah Ali, and three of his family members as a result of the bombing of his home in the Palestinian refugee camp in Dawi in Tripoli in northern Lebanon," Hamas media reported. With his killing, Israel has eliminated yet another top leader of the militant group in recent weeks, raising concerns that the escalating conflict in the Middle East could erupt into a full-blown war. The Jewish nation has been carrying out continuous strikes in Lebanon as over 2,000 people have been killed in Israeli airstrikes so far. Furthermore, Israel also began ground incursions into Lebanon to target Hezbollah settlements to wipe out the militant group. In its airstrikes on Hezbollah headquarters in Beirut, Israel

eliminated Hassan Nasrallah, the Hezbollah chief who had been leading the militant group for the last 32 years. Reports also surfaced, claiming Israel



targeted an underground bunker in Lebanon where Hashem Safieddine, regarded as Nasrallah's successor, was holding a meeting with other Hezbollah leaders. In July this year, Israel claimed it eliminated Mohammed Deif, believed to be the mastermind behind Hamas' October

7 attacks on Israel. Deif was killed after fighter jets struck in the area of Khan Yunis in Gaza on July 13 after an intelligence assessment. The elusive Deif had survived seven Israeli assassination attempts. Hamas's political chief Ismail Haniyeh has been assassinated in Iran's capital, Tehran. He was in the capital to attend the inauguration ceremony of Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian. He, along with a bodyguard, were killed after a guest house they were staying in was struck by a missile. However, Israel hasn't claimed responsibility for the attack.

Notably, Iran launched nearly 200 missiles at Israel following the killing of Hassan Nasrallah. Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, while delivering his first Friday sermon in nearly five years, called the attack on Israel "legal and legitimate" and said that the Jewish nation would not "last long".

## Israel should hit Iran's nuclear sites first, worry about rest later: Trump

**World.** Former US President Donald Trump said Israel should target Iran's nuclear facilities in response to the Islamic Republic's recent missile barrage. His remark came after President Joe Biden said that an "all-out war" is unlikely and should be avoided in the Middle East amid escalating tensions between Israel and Iran. Trump was referring to a question posed to President Biden about the possibility of Israel targeting Iran's nuclear facilities in response to the 200-missile attack. "They asked him, what do

you think about Iran? Would you hit Iran? And he goes, 'As long as they don't hit the nuclear stuff'. That's the thing you want to hit, right?" Trump said. He added, "Isn't that what you're supposed to hit? I mean, it's the biggest risk we have, nuclear weapons." The Republican Presidential candidate for the November 5 US elections said that Biden should have asked Israel to attack Iran's nuclear sites and "worry about everything else later." If they're going to do it, they're going to do it. But we'll find out whatever their plans

are," Donald Trump added.

The 78-year-old's remark came a day after President Joe Biden said that an "all-out war" in the Middle East was unlikely. When asked how confident he was about a massive war breaking out in the Middle East as Lebanon and Iran try to corner Israel, Biden said, "How confident are you it's not going to rain? Look, I don't believe there is going to be an all-out war. I think we can avoid it." When asked if he would send American troops to help Israel, he responded.

## Israeli airstrikes in southern Beirut cut off border with Syria

**Israel carried out another series of punishing airstrikes Friday, hitting suburban Beirut and cutting off the main border crossing between Lebanon and Syria for tens of thousands of people fleeing the Israeli bombardment of the Hezbollah militant group.**

**Beirut, UPDATED.** Israel carried out another series of punishing airstrikes Friday, hitting suburban Beirut and cutting off the main border crossing between Lebanon and Syria for tens of thousands of people fleeing the Israeli bombardment of the Hezbollah militant group.

The overnight blasts in Beirut's southern suburbs sent huge plumes of smoke and flames into the night sky and shook buildings kilometres (miles) away in the Lebanese capital. Additional strikes sent people running for cover in streets littered with rubble in the Dahiyeh neighborhood, where at least one building was leveled and cars were burned out. The Israeli military said it targeted Hezbollah's central intelligence headquarters around midnight. It did not say who it was aiming for or if any militants were killed in that strike, but it claimed to have killed 100 Hezbollah fighters in the last 24 hours. Lebanon's state-run



National News Agency reported more than 10 consecutive airstrikes in the area. Some 1,400 Lebanese, including Hezbollah fighters and civilians, have been killed and some 1.2 million driven from their homes since Israel escalated its strikes in late September aiming to cripple Hezbollah and push it away from the countries' shared border.

And a hospital in southern Lebanon

said it was shelled Friday evening after being warned to evacuate. The Salah Ghandour Hospital in the city of Bint Jbeil said in a statement that the shelling "resulted in nine members of the medical and nursing staff being injured, most of them seriously," while most of the medical staff were evacuated. A day earlier, the World Health Organization said 28 health workers in Lebanon had been killed in the past 24 hours. Meanwhile, Hezbollah launched about 100 rockets into Israel on Friday, the Israeli military said. The Israeli military also said that a strike in Beirut the day before killed Mohammed Rashid Skafi, the head of Hezbollah's communications division. The military said in a statement that Skafi was "a senior Hezbollah terrorist who was responsible for the communications unit since 2000" and was "closely affiliated" with high-up Hezbollah

officials. Thursday's strike along the Lebanon-Syria border, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) east of Beirut, led to the closure of the road near the busy Masnaa Border Crossing—the first time it has been cut off since Hezbollah and Israel began trading fire almost a year ago. Israel said it targeted the crossing because it was being used by Hezbollah to transport military equipment across the border. It said fighter jets had struck a tunnel used to smuggle weapons from Iran and other proxies into Lebanon. Hezbollah is believed to have received much of its weaponry through Syria from Iran, its main backer. Associated Press video footage showed two huge craters on each side of the road. People got out of cars, unable to pass, carrying bags of their possessions as they crossed on foot. More than 250,000 Syrians and 82,000 Lebanese have fled across the border into Syria during the escalation of the past two weeks.

## Biden says Israel should seek 'other alternatives' to striking Iran oil sites

**US President Joe Biden on Friday advised Israel against striking Iran's oil facilities, saying he was trying to rally the world to avoid the escalating prospect of all-out war in the Middle East.**

this down," he told reporters. "But when you have (Iranian) proxies as irrational as Hezbollah and the Huthis (of Yemen), it's a hard thing to determine." Biden, however, had tough words for Netanyahu, with whom he has had rocky relations, as he seeks to manage Israel's response following the October 7 Hamas attacks on Israel. The Israeli premier has repeatedly ignored

Biden's calls for restraint on Lebanon, and on Israel's war in Gaza, which has killed more than 40,000 Palestinians. Biden deflected a question on whether he believed Netanyahu was hanging back on signing a Middle East peace deal in a bid to influence the US presidential election. "No administration has helped Israel more than I have. None, none, none. And I think Bibi should remember that," Biden said.

"And whether he's trying to influence the election, I don't know, but I'm not counting on that." Biden said he had still not spoken to Netanyahu since the Iranian attack, which involved some 200 missiles, but added that their teams were in "constant contact." "They're not going to make a decision immediately, and so we're going to wait to see when they want to talk," the US leader added.



# DRDO flight-tests fourth-generation very short-range air defence system

**RNS I Rajasthan:** In a significant milestone for India's defense capabilities, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted three flight-tests of its fourth-generation Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) at the Pokhran Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan on October 3 and 4.

According to a statement from the Indian government, the tests were executed against high-speed targets, demonstrating critical parameters related to maximum range and altitude interception. These trials confirmed the system's hit-to-kill capability across various engagement scenarios, including approaching, receding, and crossing modes.

The development of the VSHORADS missiles is now complete, with two production agencies actively engaged in the Development cum Production Partner (DcPP) mode.



The successful trials utilized missiles developed through these partnerships, paving the way for early user trials and production, in line with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Government's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India). VSHORADS is a Man Portable Air Defence System that has been indigenously designed and developed by the Research

Centre Imarat (RCI) in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and DcPPs. The project has seen active involvement from all three branches of the Indian Armed Forces since its inception. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh extended his congratulations to the DRDO, the Armed Forces, and the industry partners involved in these successful development trials.

He noted that this new missile, equipped with modern technologies, will significantly enhance the Armed Forces' capabilities against aerial threats. Samir V. Kamat, Secretary of the Department of Defence Research and Development and Chairman of DRDO, also commended the DRDO team, industry partners, and users for the successful flight-tests.

## CTPS Holds Vigilance Awareness Program to Promotes Ethics, Governance

**Bokaro:** In a significant initiative to promote ethical governance, the Chandrapura Thermal Power Station (CTPS), part of the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), successfully conducted a one-day vigilance awareness program. This training session was held in response to directives from the Central Vigilance Commission and took place at the DVC training institute.

The program was inaugurated by Chief General Manager and Project Head Manoj Kumar Thakur, who stressed the importance of using power and authority to benefit the public, especially marginalized communities. "It is our moral duty to ensure that the benefits of any scheme reach those standing at the last rung of society," Thakur remarked, highlighting the need for ethical governance.

Thakur urged attendees to work collectively towards

societal upliftment and national progress, emphasizing that the Constitution of India must be upheld as the cornerstone of governance. He pointed out that the nation's prosperity relies on a culture of integrity and honesty, calling on participants to embrace their social responsibilities with a dedication to public service.

Senior General Manager of Human Resources D.C. Pandey provided an in-depth overview of the program's themes, delivering detailed training to the officers present. He highlighted the importance of prioritizing collective interests over personal gains, asserting that adherence to rules and laws is essential for fostering self-confidence and inner peace. Pandey also advocated for a united approach to achieving national prosperity while cautioning against the dangers of corruption.

## BJP Unveils 5 Promising Initiatives for Jharkhand Assembly Elections 2024



**Ranchi:** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has made significant announcements ahead of the upcoming Jharkhand Assembly Elections 2024, introducing a series of initiatives under the banner of "Panch Prana." The party has committed to implementing these programs if they form the government after the elections.

Among the five major promises is the "Gogo Didi Yojana," which aims to provide financial assistance of Rs 2,100 to every woman in Jharkhand, transferred directly to their bank accounts on the 11th of each month.

**BJP's Five Promises to the People of Jharkhand:**

**Gogo Didi Yojana:** The BJP plans to transfer Rs 2,100 monthly to every woman in Jharkhand, aiming to empower women economically.

**Lakshmi Johar Scheme:** This initiative will offer LPG cylinders at Rs 500 each, with two cylinders provided free of charge annually to all households in the state.

**Employment Generation:** The BJP pledges to create 500,000 self-employment opportunities for youth over the next five years. Additionally, they will expedite recruitment for 287,000 vacant government positions, starting the process in the first cabinet meeting and completing 150,000 recruitments by November 2025. An annual recruitment calendar will also be established, consolidating existing examinations into a single format.

**Yuva Sathi Allowance:** To support graduates and post-graduates in their career pursuits, the BJP will provide a monthly allowance of Rs 2,000 for two years, aiding them with educational expenses such as books and coaching fees.

**Ghar Saakar Initiative:** This program aims to correct past governance issues by offering free sand for house construction and fully implementing the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana to build 2.1 million houses. It will also enhance assistance by Rs 100,000 for each housing unit. Furthermore, the BJP plans to provide tap water connections to 5.9 million households through the Jal Jeevan Mission by 2027.

These announcements reflect the BJP's commitment to addressing the needs of the people of Jharkhand and highlight their strategies for the forthcoming elections.

## Factional Tensions Erupt at Congress's Jan Samvad Abhiyan in Dhanbad



by Chandan Pal / Ashok Kumar

**Dhanbad:** The Congress party's Jan Samvad Abhiyan Lakshya program took place in Shyamdih, located in the Baghmara assembly constituency of Dhanbad district, with former Union Minister Subodhkant Sahay serving as the chief guest. The event saw a gathering of candidates and their supporters, all vying for representation in the upcoming assembly elections.

Tensions escalated during the program as a disagreement over sloganeering erupted between supporters of former MLA Jaleshwar Mahato and Congress leader Rohit Yadav. The dispute quickly turned physical, resulting in kicks and punches being exchanged in front of the former Union Minister.

As Jharkhand prepares for the announcement of assembly elections, political parties are ramping up their efforts. The Congress party aims to foster unity through the Jan Samvad Lakshya program, which is intended to identify and support strong candidates. However, the presence of numerous claimants for the party ticket has complicated candidate selection, leading to internal discord.

The altercation at the event has raised concerns about the Congress's readiness for the 2024 assembly elections, highlighting factionalism within the party. The clash among supporters has underscored existing tensions and dissatisfaction among party members.

In response to the situation, former Union Minister Sahay expressed optimism about the party's prospects, stating, "This time, Congress workers are full of enthusiasm. Wherever we contest, we will win." He also criticized the BJP's Gogo Didi scheme during his remarks.

Rohit Yadav, a contender for the Congress ticket from Bagmara, affirmed his commitment to Jaleshwar Mahato, saying, "This time the elder brother will work for the younger brother. We will convince him." Yadav highlighted the Congress party's struggles in the Bagmara constituency, having lost the seat in the last five elections. He pledged that if awarded the ticket, he would work to eradicate local crime within six months of taking office.

## IndiGo Passengers Stranded Nationwide Due to Major System Slowdown

**New Delhi:** IndiGo Airlines, India's largest low-cost carrier, faced a significant system slowdown on Saturday, October 5, at around 12:30 PM, resulting in widespread disruptions to flight operations and ground services at airports across the country.

The technical difficulties prevented numerous passengers from boarding their flights or making new bookings, leading to substantial delays and mounting frustration for travelers stranded at various airports.

Many affected passengers took to social media platform X (formerly Twitter) to express their grievances and urged the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to intervene.

## 'No bilateral talks planned'; upcoming Pakistan visit is solely for SCO summit: Jaishankar

**New Delhi:** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar stated on Saturday that his upcoming trip to Islamabad is solely to attend the 2024 Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit, not to discuss India-Pakistan relations. His remarks were reported by news agency ANI during the Sardar Patel Lecture on Governance, organized by the IC Centre for Governance in New Delhi.

Jaishankar confirmed, "I am scheduled to go to Pakistan in the middle of this month for the SCO heads of government meeting." He emphasized that the visit is strictly for participation in the multilateral event as a "good member of the SCO." Recognizing the heightened media interest given the context of India-Pakistan relations, Jaishankar reiterated, "I will be there for a multilateral event; I am not going there to discuss India-Pakistan relations. I will behave accordingly as a



courteous and civil person." The minister explained that the SCO Summit is being held in Islamabad this year, noting that both India and Pakistan are relatively recent members of the organization. "Normally, the Prime Minister attends the high-level meeting of heads of state. It just so happens that this meeting is taking place in Pakistan," he added.

When asked about his preparations for the summit, Jaishankar affirmed, "Of course, I am planning for it. In my business, you plan for everything you are

going to do, and for many things you are not going to do, which could happen as well."

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had previously announced Jaishankar's visit, confirming that he will lead a delegation to participate in the SCO summit scheduled for October 15-16 in Islamabad.

In August, India received an invitation from Pakistan to attend the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) in-person meeting. Notably, in May 2023, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari visited India for the SCO meeting in Goa, marking the first visit by a Pakistani Foreign Minister to India in six years.

The SCO, established on June 15, 2001, in Shanghai, includes nine member states: India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, along with three observer states: Afghanistan, Mongolia, and Belarus.

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## Vedanta ESL Launches 'Swachhata Hi Seva' Campaign with Tree Planting Initiatives

**Bokaro:** Vedanta ESL Steel Limited has actively participated in the Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign, launched by the Government of India to mark the 10th anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. The campaign began on September 17, 2024, focusing on the theme "Swabhav Swachhata - Sanskar Swachhata," highlighting the significance of cleanliness and community involvement in fostering a sustainable and healthy environment.

In alignment with this initiative, Vedanta ESL employees engaged in a Cleanliness and Plantation Drive at the Primary School in Alkusha, involving around 50 volunteers. The event aimed to promote participation among students, teachers, and community members in enhancing the school's environment. The overarching



goal was to raise environmental awareness, improve hygiene standards, and cultivate a sense of civic responsibility beneficial to both the school and the surrounding community.

During the event, attendees, including Chief Guest Philmoon Bilung (District Development Magistrate, NABARD), Rohit Rajak (Mukhiya, Alkusha Panchayat) and Shyamlee Minz (CHRO, ESL Steel Limited), took a Swachhta oath, committing to cleanliness and environmental stewardship. The occasion concluded with the planting of over 100 saplings under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" initiative.

In addition to activities at the school, Vedanta ESL employees participated in a Swachhta Slogan, Quiz & Poster campaign, along with a unique community initiative known as

"Plalking," where participants pick up litter while walking. This innovative approach combines exercise with environmental responsibility and has gained popularity in over 100 countries.

Kunal Daripa, Head of CSR at Vedanta ESL, expressed pride in the company's commitment to cleanliness, stating, "We at Vedanta ESL strongly believe in cleanliness. Our previous initiatives to foster this practice among our employees are now yielding positive results. Cleanliness has become ingrained in Vedanta ESL's culture, and we take great pride in that."

The Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign continues to inspire communities across India, and Vedanta ESL's initiatives reflect a strong commitment to environmental responsibility and community welfare.

## WHO Approves First Emergency Diagnostic Test for Mpox Outbreak

**Geneva:** The World Health Organization (WHO) announced on Friday the approval of the first diagnostic test for mpox, formerly known as monkeypox, for emergency use. This decision aims to enhance diagnostic capabilities in countries grappling with outbreaks of the disease.

The Alinity m MPXV assay, developed by Abbott Molecular Inc., is a real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test designed to detect monkeypox virus DNA from swabs taken from human skin lesions. The test is intended for use by trained clinical laboratory personnel.

Dr. Yukiko Nakatani, WHO Assistant Director-General for Access to Medicines and Health Products, described the approval as "a significant milestone" in expanding testing access in affected regions. "This first mpox diagnostic test listed under the Emergency Use Listing procedure represents a significant milestone in expanding testing availability in affected countries," she stated.

PCR testing is considered the gold standard for diagnosing mpox, and early detection is crucial for timely treatment and control of the virus. However,



WHO highlighted ongoing challenges, particularly in Africa, where limited testing capacity and delays in case confirmations have exacerbated the spread of the disease. This year alone, over 30,000 suspected cases have been reported on the continent, with the Democratic

Republic of the Congo (DRC), Burundi, and Nigeria accounting for the highest numbers. Alarmingly, only 37% of suspected cases in the DRC have been tested.

Mpox is an infectious disease caused by the monkeypox virus (MPXV), characterized by symp-

toms including a painful rash, enlarged lymph nodes, fever, headache, and muscle ache. A global outbreak began in May 2022, leading the WHO to declare a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).

The current surge in mpox cases in Africa is unprecedented, particularly in the DRC, and is driven by two distinct strains of the virus. Following the rapid spread of the virulent clade 1b strain, which has been detected beyond Africa, the WHO reaffirmed mpox as a PHEIC on August 14.

The Emergency Use List-

ing (EUL) procedure allows for the accelerated availability of critical medical products, including vaccines, tests, and treatments, during public health emergencies. On August 28, the UN agency called on manufacturers to submit expressions of interest for EUL, recognizing the urgent need to bolster global testing capacities.

To date, the WHO has received three additional submissions for EUL evaluation and is engaged in discussions with other manufacturers.

## Vigilance Commissioner A.S. Rajeev Visits Bokaro

**Bokaro:** A.S. Rajeev, the Vigilance Commissioner of the Central Vigilance Commission, Government of India, arrived in Bokaro on Saturday.

He was accompanied by S.N. Gupta, the Chief Vigilance Officer of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). Upon his arrival, Rajeev was given a Guard of Honor by CISF personnel at the Bokaro residence.

During his visit, the Vigilance Commissioner first inspected the model room at the Steel Building of Bokaro Steel Limited (BSL), where he learned about the plant's layout and production processes.

He was joined by key officials including BSL's Director-in-Charge Bindra Kumar Tiwari, Executive Director Gyanesh Jha, and other senior executives.



## With 72 aircraft at special show, Indian Air Force to attempt Limca record in Chennai

the event. Spectators, expected to number between 10 and 12 lakhs, will witness iconic formations like Arrowhead, Trishul, and Rudra, as well as thrilling aerobatics by the IAF's Surya Kiran and Sarang teams. The two-hour event will culminate with aerial drills and formations such as Sagar, Akash, and Dhvaj. The celebrations will emphasise the IAF's commitment to national security, self-reliance, and modernisation, showcasing India's growing air defence capabilities.

Earlier on Thursday, Banerjee confirmed the Centre's acceptance of the state's research supporting the request, saying, "Bengali has finally been accorded the status of a classical language by the Government of India. We have submitted three volumes of research findings, and today our claim has been accepted. We have reached the cultural apex among Indian languages."



# Iran trying to be more Palestinian than Hamas

THE barrage of over 180 ballistic missiles that Iran fired at Israel has heightened tensions in ever-turbulent West Asia. Initial reports do not speak of major casualties or damages in Israel. But escalation was on the cards for some time. Literally hours before the attack on Hezbollah leader Hassan NAMritsarallah's bunker last week, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cautioned the UN General Assembly: "There is no place — there is no place in Iran — that the long arm of Israel cannot reach. And that is true of entire Middle East."This is seen as a direct warning to the clergy leadership in Tehran. Indeed, shortly after the airstrike on the bunker in Beirut, but before the killing of NAMritsarallah was announced, reports indicated that Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei had been moved to a 'safer location.'The April assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and of revolutionary guard commander Abbas Nilforoshan in Beirut, along with NAMritsarallah, were seen as immediate provocations for the Iranian offensive. Unlike the earlier airborne attack in April, this time Iran launched only ballistic missiles against Israel, and its proxies were conspicuously absent.

Haniyeh's killing, within hours after the inauguration of President Masoud Pezeshkian — an event also attended by India's Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari — divided the Iranian leadership. While one section wanted an immediate and strong response, the other urged caution from possible reprisal and consequences for an already-sanctioned economy. The latter group won. There was no Iranian response for two months after the high-profile killing of Haniyeh.

NAMritsarallah's assassination changed that cautious Iranian response. Hezbollah has been the main force in the proxy arsenal of promoting Tehran's interests not only in Lebanon but also in Syria. Iran's investment in Hezbollah — financial and ideological support as well as a military arsenal — has enabled Tehran to emerge as a Mediterranean power, according to some Iranian gloating in conferences and academic exchanges. While the Iranian support for Hamas forms a part of its larger Islamic agenda, Hezbollah has been the most effective, efficient and cost-effective Iranian option against Israel.

Hezbollah has been more popular among Shias and more resourceful in Lebanese politics than its Amal competitor. It was able to shape confessional Lebanese politics through electoral participation. Since the Taif Accord of 1989, mediated by Saudi Arabia, there have been several efforts to 'disarm' Hezbollah. Even the UNSC Resolution of 1701 adopted in the wake of the Second Lebanon War of 2006 explicitly demanded "the disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon, (and that) there will be no weapons or authority in Lebanon other than that of the Lebanese State." No one has been able to disarm the militant group. Emboldened by Iranian backing, Hezbollah has been pursuing a foreign policy that runs counter to the interests and welfare of the larger Lebanese population, Muslims and Christians alike. Indeed, the resistance tag that Hezbollah proudly claims is also questionable. Hezbollah emerged in the early 1980s as a response to the Israeli invasion and occupation of southern Lebanon. As it relentlessly fought the occupation and periodically attacked northern Israel, the Shia militant group made the occupation costly and domestically unpopular. This resulted in Prime Minister Ehud Barak — a key figure in Israel's Lebanon policy since the 1980s — pulling out the military from Lebanon in May 2000.

The United Nations recognised that withdrawal as Israel having completed and implemented the UNSC Resolutions on Lebanon, thereby undermining Hezbollah's 'resistance' tag. Meanwhile, at the behest of Tehran, the Lebanese movement began to focus on the Palestinian problem. During the heyday of the Oslo Accords, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat even clashed with and derided Tehran's mullahs for supporting Hamas in undermining the peaceful resolution of its conflict with Israel.

# Keep science awards above politics

Instituted by the Centre last year, Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar facing a credibility crisis

IN a bold and rare move, 175 scientists and academicians have expressed dismay over the politicisation of national science awards — the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar — instituted by the Central Government last year. Soon after the inaugural set of awards was presented to the winners by the President a few weeks ago, murmurs of political interference in the selection process emerged. It so happened that the names of three scientists who were chosen by the selection committee were missing from the final list of awardees. They were told about their selection informally by some committee members, only to get a shock later. It was feared that the scientists in question were denied national recognition because of their political views and the stand they took on certain important issues. The first red flag came from 26 Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awardees in a letter to Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) Ajay Sood, who heads the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Committee (RVPC). They wanted to know if the panel's recommendations were accepted in their entirety or revised by the government and requested the PSA to reveal the criteria adopted in arriving at the final decision. Once the matter became public, the government altered the selection process, triggering the protest letter from 175 scientists. "The government has updated the selection criteria on its portal and the new version uploaded in the last couple of days adds a line that the RVPC chaired by you submits its recommendations to the Minister of Science and Technology," the scientists wrote to the PSA on September 24. The change in the selection process paved the way for the political leadership to overrule or change the decision of the RVPC — which practically represents the Indian scientific community. Presidents of scientific academies as well as secretaries of scientific departments are its members.

The scientific community should have seen this coming. In the first place, it was absurd for the Ministry of Home Affairs to ride roughshod over all scientific departments and abolish dozens of awards, including the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize instituted by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in the 1950s and those given by autonomous science academies. Abolishing established and non-partisan ways of recognising good science and replacing them with a new government award which carries no cash component was a rude shock. Now, even the new awards are facing a credibility crisis. Leaving the final decision to a political

functionary means that non-academic considerations will play a role in the selection of awardees. The episode raises important questions about academic freedom and the governance of science in India, going beyond the awards. The letter of eminent scientists has rightly called the awards episode an 'unhealthy development for Indian science'. The scientists are



concerned that this could set a precedent for ministers to use 'unrestricted vetoes' to overrule recommendations of expert committees. Academics not in the good books of the government could be sidelined from not just awards but also scientific grants, recruitment promotions, etc, the letter has said. This is against basic tenets of science practice and does not augur well for the development of scientific research.

Scientific recognitions are supposed to be based on a fair review of one's contributions in a specific area of scientific research. This is generally done through the process of peer review. The now-discontinued Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize was considered the gold standard as it recognised the very best of Indian science in different disciplines. The list of Bhatnagar awardees reads like a Who's Who of Indian science over the past several decades. Those awarded have gone on to head institutions, establish new ones and lead funding agencies as well as scientific departments. If the process of selection of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar has been compromised in its very first year, will it be able to build

a lasting legacy like the Bhatnagar Prize? The episode also highlights sustained erosion of the PSA's role in the past few years. Though the PSA's office was formed in 1999, India has had a framework for science advice for policymaking since Independence, beginning with the national committee for the coordination of scientific work in the 1950s. Subsequently, there were scientific advisory committees to the government, the Cabinet and the Prime Minister. This framework of advice resulted in organising and reorganising scientific departments, the creation of new scientific ministries, the development of research institutes and academic bodies as well as several national policies and programmes. An independent science advice system has acted as a science-policy interface and as a clearing house of new ideas. The role of a science adviser is to advise on policy matters relating to science and technology as well as science-based policy solutions in general. In both cases, science is supposed to guide policy-making. Policymakers are not supposed to handle affairs related to science grants and awards. How far this balance can be achieved depends on the individuals who become science advisers.

In recent years, however, the office of the PSA has been reduced to a coordinating wing of scientific departments and tasked with work like any other government agency. For instance, it is not the job of a science adviser to prepare sundry dashboards or arrange publicity kiosks at airports. The PSA has also been asked to handle administrative work like screening proposals for the procurement of technology and technological products, reminiscent of the work the much-maligned Director General of Technology Development used to do at the height of the 'Licence Raj' in the 1960s and 1970s. Another responsibility thrust on the PSA was making a digital catalogue of technologies developed by public sector undertakings and an e-marketplace for such technologies to facilitate their procurement by government departments and the private sector. Such routine work can be handled by other agencies and departments. Entrusting such work to the PSA's office erodes its primary function of providing independent and autonomous advice on science to the government.

# Poll-time parole

Dera chief's release is BJP's last-ditch gambit



THE timing is a dead giveaway. Dera Sacha Sauda head and rape convict Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh has been released on parole barely three days ahead of the Haryana Assembly polls. This is the last roll of the dice by the ruling BJP, which is desperate to counter anti-incumbency and withstand the Congress challenge. Ram Rahim continues to have a sizeable following in parts of the state — notwithstanding his conviction in rape and murder cases — and even his covert diktat to his flock can have a bearing on the saffron party's fortunes. During the parole period, the dera head will not be allowed to enter Haryana or take part in election-related activities. However, these restrictions are a mere fig leaf — Ram Rahim will have the leeway to influence voters without being present on ground zero, thanks to social media and word-of-mouth publicity. In any case, he does not have to make a public speech to get his message across to his devotees.

There are no prizes for guessing what 'compelling reasons' prompted the dera chief to seek parole weeks after he had

returned to Rohtak's Sunaria jail following a 21-day

furlough. The alacrity with which his plea has been processed and pushed — from the caretaker Chief Minister's office to the Prisons Department and then the state's Chief Electoral Officer — shows that the authorities can dispense with the cumbersome red tape whenever they want to do it.

The Congress' petition to the Election Commission of India, demanding that parole not be granted as it would amount to a violation of the Model Code of Conduct, has gone in vain. It's a moot point whether the 'Messenger of God' can make a divine intervention to decisively impact the electoral outcome. Ram Rahim might not be as powerful as he was a decade ago, but the ease with which he has secured parole and furlough in recent years indicates that he is no pushover. One thing is crystal clear: his release will force the BJP's rivals to recalibrate their strategy, and that too at the eleventh hour.

# Why Indus Waters Treaty needs to be renegotiated

In light of Pakistan's filibustering, it is appropriate to renegotiate the treaty to reflect contemporary realities.

GEN Pervez Musharraf, in his Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS) thesis, inferred that water would be the casus belli for future wars between India and Pakistan. After the 2019 Pulwama attack, PM Narendra Modi gave a new twist to this with the statement: "Water and terror cannot be allowed to flow together."The continued intransigence of Pakistan and the resurgence of proxy warfare, despite the Balakot strikes, have brought back the focus on leveraging water as a coercive strategy. India has formally asked Pakistan to review and renegotiate the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), which regulates water-sharing between the two co-riparian neighbours.

India has the lowest per capita freshwater availability globally and is facing looming water stress. It has 17% of the world's population, but barely 4% of its freshwater reserves. Even by optimistic projections, India has only 90 days of water reserves, compared to many other countries that have two years' worth of stored reserves. More importantly, Indians often fail to treat water as a scarce resource. In my lectures on the IWT, I've been questioned about the legitimacy of using water as a weapon. My response is: Why did we allow Ravi waters to flow to Pakistan when Punjab doesn't even allow the completion of the Sutlej-Yamuna Link canal to share water with Haryana? We are already experiencing domestic water wars over the Cauvery and Damodar rivers.

Invariably, the issue of the upper and lower riparian status and the potential blowback from China is raised. The relevant facts are: first, regarding the Brahmaputra (Tsangpo), 40-50% of the water originates from Tibet, and 70% flows to Bangladesh after accumulating in India. Therefore, the maximum impact would be on Bangladesh, especially during the lean season for flushing requirements. Second, the Indus sources only 5-8% of its water from Tibet and India's requirements

from it are minimal. Most importantly, China does not concern itself with lower riparian states, as evidenced by its actions in the Mekong Delta. We have already experienced the Chinese-triggered Pare-chu (Sutlej) deluge in 2000 and the Brahmaputra floods in 2020. China is proceeding with the Yarlung-Zangbo dam on the Tsangpo to create a 1,100-km channel to divert water to the Taklamakan Desert. The IWT, often touted as a resilient agreement between two warring nations, has survived three and a half wars, proxy terrorism and Pakistan's obduracy for over six decades. The Treaty was signed on September 16, 1960, and, according to recently leaked documents, was a double-pincer effort by the US and the World Bank to keep India in check. India was given full control of the eastern rivers (the Ravi, Beas and Sutlej) while Pakistan received the major share of the western rivers (the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab). In effect, Pakistan got 135 MAF (80.2%), and India received just 33 MAF (19.8%). India also had to contribute £83 million to finance dams and replacement canals in Pakistan. India was permitted to create limited storage on the western rivers for power generation, flood control and general usage amounting to 3.6 MAF. However, India has failed to fully utilise this capacity and is now trying to catch up, although such projects require decades of focused management. Of the assessed potential of 18,653 MW of power generation, projects with a capacity of only 3,264 MW (18%) have been commissioned so far. Additionally, while 1.34 million acres are permitted for irrigation, India is using only 0.792 million acres. On the eastern rivers, India has built major dams like Ranjit Sagar/Thein on the Ravi, Pratap Sagar (Pong) on the Beas and Gobind Sagar

(Bhakra-Nangal) on the Sutlej, ushering in the Green Revolution. This transformed India from a nation reliant on PL-480 grain shipments in 1960 to one of the world's leading grain exporters today. Similarly, Pakistan constructed dams like Tarbela, Mangla and Panjnad, which feed irrigation canals in its Punjab province. However, it has failed to utilise water efficiently, and is suffering frequent floods, high salinity and gross underutilisation of resources. India recently constructed the Shahpur-Kandi balancing reservoir as an adjunct to the Ranjit Sagar



Dam, which is essential to control the flow of the Ravi. In its absence, large amounts of water have flowed to Pakistan. The two-decade delay in the project was caused by inter-state bickering over power-sharing costs until the Central government took over the project. A major push came with the commissioning of the Baglihar Dam on the Chenab in 2016, following a protracted arbitration process and a largely favourable verdict with river

modifications. According to media reports, the filling of the reservoir resulted in 30% crop losses in Pakistan. Other projects on the Chenab — such as Pakkaldul, Lower Kalnai, Sawalkot, Rattle, and Bursar — are in the pipeline.

Even with these, India will only achieve around 62% of the potential 18,600 MW of power generation. Plans also exist for the Jhelum, including the Wullar Barrage for the Tulbul navigation project to ensure a minimum draft. The IWT has become outdated as it never accounted for climate change, water stress or livelihood needs like navigation and salinity management in dams and reservoirs. As a result, the Salal Dam is choked with silt, posing a threat to the nearby town of Reasi. Efforts to desilt the dam have been met with resistance from Pakistan.

Every Indian initiative is opposed in IWT meetings, which have become irregular following the Uri and Balakot strikes. Indian projects, even those in the permissible run-of-the-river mode, are opposed by Pakistan and dragged into arbitration, causing delays and increased costs.

Pakistan has also resorted to using multiple redress mechanisms, such as neutral experts and the Court of Arbitration (COA), concurrently on the same issues. Since September 2023, India has boycotted the COA and responded only to neutral experts.

In light of Pakistan's filibustering, it is appropriate to renegotiate the Treaty to reflect contemporary realities. Beyond the issue of terrorism, India needs water for its growing needs. And, it would be wise for Pakistan to recognise the emerging challenges and Indian leverage.







# क्ले मॉडलिंग से बनाए अपना करियर



**अ**गर आपको कलाकृतियां बनाने में दिलचस्पी है, आपके सोच रचनाधर्मी है तो आपके लिए क्ले आर्ट के क्षेत्र में भी रोजगार के अवसर उपलब्ध हैं। कागज, लकड़ी और मिट्टी से बनी कलाकृतियों को अब घर में डेकोरेशन के रूप सजाया जाने लगा है।

मिट्टी और क्ले की मदद से अपनी रचनात्मकता का इस्तेमाल कर अगर आप घर बैठे ही बहुत कुछ नया बना डाल देते हैं तो अपने इस शौक को आप बतौर करियर की ओर मोड़ सकते हैं। कुछ समय पहले तक क्ले को महज बच्चों के खिलौनों के रूप में देखा जाता था लेकिन अब इसमें करियर की अपार संभावनाएँ जुड़ गई हैं।

क्ले मॉडलिंग की कला दिल से निकली हुई कला है। अगर आपका मन इसमें रमा हुआ है और मिट्टी से खेलना आपका शौक है तो आप इसमें बहुत आगे बढ़ सकते हैं।

आजकल विभिन्न प्रदर्शनियों से लेकर कला-संस्कृति से जुड़े बड़े आयोजनों में यह कला बखूबी इस्तेमाल की जाती है। एक बार आपका क्ले में हाथ साफ हो गया फिर आप सैरमिक से लेकर नई-नई चीजों पर भी आसानी से काम कर सकते हैं। यही नहीं अगर आप एनिमेशन का कोई कोर्स करना चाहते हैं और आपकी क्ले मॉडलिंग पर अच्छी पकड़ है तो निश्चित तौर पर आप एनिमेशन में भी मास्टर हो सकते हैं।

मूलरूप से क्ले मॉडलिंग फाइन आर्ट्स का ही एक विषय है। यूँ तो आपमें हुनर और इस कला को सीखने की तलक है तो आप खुद-ब-खुद ही इसमें पारंगत हो जाएँगे।

इसके अंतर्गत क्ले मॉडलिंग का विषय खुद में बहुत रोचक है। इसी के साथ आप चाहें तो इसमें बैचलर और फिर मास्टर डिग्री भी ले सकते हैं।

■ अगर बैचलर्स नहीं करना चाहते तो शौकिया

तौर पर हॉबी क्लासेस भी ले सकते हैं या फिर कोई शार्ट टर्म कोर्स भी कर सकते हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त इंडिया हैबिटेड सेंटर, लोधी रोड और गुडगाँव के एपिसेंटर में भी मार्च और अप्रैल के माह में क्ले मॉडलिंग पर कार्यशालाओं का भी आयोजन किया जाता रहता है।

## क्या है जरूरी

■ अगर आप क्ले मॉडलिंग में स्नातक करना चाहते हैं तो इसमें प्रवेश के लिए 12वीं में आपके 55 प्रतिशत अंक होने चाहिए। जैसे हर कॉलेज का अपना अलग-अलग क्राइटेरिया होता है। इसके अतिरिक्त बैचलर के बाद आप फाइन आर्ट्स में ही मास्टर भी कर सकते हैं।

■ इन सबके अलावा आप चाहें तो किसी प्रतिष्ठित इंस्टीट्यूट 3 और 6 महीने में शॉर्ट टर्म कोर्स भी कर सकते हैं।

■ जब तक आप खुद तसल्ली न कर लें कि जो आपने बनाया है वह सही है तब तक उसे बनाते रहने का प्रयास आपमें हो। ये सभी गुण क्ले मॉडलिंग के लिए बेहद ज़रूरी हैं। अगर से सभी गुण आपमें हैं तो आप इसे बतौर करियर चुन सकते हैं।

■ क्ले मॉडलिंग को बतौर करियर चुनने के बाद आप किसी स्कूल में आर्ट टीचर बन सकते हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त अपनी खुद की प्रदर्शनी लगा सकते हैं। आजकल किसी भी इवेंट में भी क्ले मॉडलिंग का प्रयोग होता है ताकि उस स्थान को आकर्षक बनाया जा सके। इससे इतर मेट्रो स्टेशन की सजावट और कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स में स्टेडियम की सजावट से लेकर खेल गॉंव को सजाने में भी क्ले मॉडलिंग का खूब इस्तेमाल हुआ।

■ इस क्षेत्र में आप शुरुआती दौर में 15 से 20 हजार तक आसानी से कमा सकते हैं। उसके बाद यदि आपने इस क्षेत्र में मास्टर किया है तो आपकी कार्यकुशलता के अनुसार आपका वेतन बढ़ता चला जाता है।



# रत्नों में बनाएं जैमोलॉजी उज्ज्वल भविष्य

धारण करते हैं तो कुछ इसे आभूषण के तौर पर धारण करते हैं। रत्नों की खासियत के बारे में व्यापक जानकारी जैमोलॉजी के जरिए मिलती है। इसे हम यूं भी कह सकते हैं कि जैमोलॉजी के तहत रत्नों का अध्ययन किया जाता है।

**गौरतलब** है कि रत्नों को विलासिता, शान-शौकत की निशानी मानी जाती रही है। रत्नों को बादशाहत से जोड़कर भी देखा जाता रहा है, राजा-महाराज और बादशाह रत्नजड़ित आभूषण, मुकुट आदि धारण करते थे। पारंपरिक तौर पर रत्न जड़ित गहने बनाने का काम लोग पीढ़ियों से करते आ रहे हैं। केवल सुनार ही नहीं, उनके कारीगर भी यह काम सीखते और सिखाते आ रहे हैं। लेकिन आज इसके लिए पारिवारिक पृष्ठभूमि ज़रूरी नहीं है। इस काम के लिए आज देशों प्रशिक्षण केंद्र खुल गए हैं जो डिजाइन, निर्माण और बनावट की गहरी जानकारी देते हैं। इसके अलावा रत्नों की जांच परख के लिए अब तो अत्याधुनिक मशीनें भी आ गई हैं। फैशन और एसेसरीज के बढ़ते मार्केट ने जैमोलॉजी के क्षेत्र को बहुत विस्तार दिया है। हमारे देश में जयपुर तथा सूरत दुनिया के सबसे बड़े रत्न कटिंग सेंटर हैं। यहां लेटेस्ट डिजाइन और ट्रेंड्स के रत्न तैयार जाते हैं। भारतीय जैम एंड ज्वेलरी इंडस्ट्री तेजी के साथ उभरकर आई है। भारत में रत्न कटिंग करने वालों और कारीगरों को पूरी दुनिया में बहुत इज्जत से देखा जाता है।

वैश्विक जैम एंड ज्वेलरी मार्केट को बढ़ाने में भारतीयों का बड़ा योगदान रहा है। ब्रांडेड ज्वेलरी ने करियर के नए मौके सामने ला दिए हैं। ज्वेलरी निर्यात में भारत दुनिया के 70 फीसदी हिस्से का दावेदार है। पारंपरिक भारतीय रत्न जड़ित आभूषणों की अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में बहुत मांग है। एक ऑकलन के अनुसार भारत में कीमत के हिसाब से 60 फीसदी, वैल्यूम के हिसाब से 82 फीसदी और कट के हिसाब से 95 फीसदी हीरों की प्रोसेसिंग की जाती है। इसे देखते हुए कहा जा सकता है कि जैमोलॉजी के क्षेत्र में बेहतरीन करियर उपलब्ध है।

जैमोलजिस्ट्स के काम में रत्न की जांच, छंटाई और सही श्रेणी में बांटने का काम प्रमुखता से होता है। ये लोग रत्न निर्माताओं और डिजाइनर्स को उपरोक्त बातों की जानकारी प्रदान करते हैं। किसी व्यक्ति पर होने

वाले रत्नों के असर के बारे में भी इनकी जानकारी अहम होती है। जैमोलजिस्ट्स में सूक्ष्म अवलोकन करने, गहराई से जांच करने और शुद्धता की प्रामाणिकता सिद्ध करने की क्षमता होनी चाहिए। इस विषय में पढ़ाई करने के लिए उच्चतम तकनीकी जानकारी के अलावा कटिंग, छंटने, कीमत और पहचान की जानकारी ज़रूरी है।

ज्वेलरी डिजाइनिंग के अलावा जैम कटिंग, जड़ाऊ जेवर बनाने, सुधारने तथा रत्न जड़ित घड़ियाँ, वस्त्र एवं एसेसरीज भी बनाई जाती है। इसके अलावा खुद डिजाइन तैयार करके बड़े ज्वेलर्स और कंपनियों को डिजाइन देने का काम भी बहुत मुनाफे का सौदा है। आभूषणों का बाजार बहुत बड़ा और बेहद प्रतियोगी है इसलिए काम शुरू करने से पहले सेल्स का अनुभव, मार्केटिंग की जानकारी तथा बिजनेस मैनेजमेंट के गुर सीखने ज़रूरी है। आज धोखाधड़ी के दौर में सिंथेटिक रत्न भी धड़ल्ले से ग्राहकों को बेचे जा रहे हैं इसलिए सही रत्न की पहचान के लिए सिर्फ भरोसा ही नहीं, साइंटिफिक तरीकों की जानकारी भी जैमोलजिस्ट्स को होनी ज़रूरी है। जैमोलॉजी कोर्स में दाखिले के लिए न्यूनतम शैक्षणिक योग्यता बारहवीं उत्तीर्ण है। इसके साथ ही अंग्रेजी पर अच्छी पकड़ होनी ज़रूरी है क्योंकि आपको देशी ही नहीं, विदेशी ग्राहकों और कंपनियों से भी तालमेल बैठाना होता है।

यदि आप घर से अपना काम शुरू करना चाहते हैं तो दो से तीन लाख रूपए का निवेश करना होगा लेकिन यह भी है कि ऑर्टिफिशियल ज्वेलरी के कारोबार में 100 फीसदी का मार्जिन भी मौजूद है।

## संस्थान

- इंडियन इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ जैमोलॉजी, ईस्ट पार्क रोड, करोल बाग, नई दिल्ली।
- ज्वेलरी डिजाइन एंड टेक्नोलॉजी इंस्टिट्यूट, ए-89, सेक्टर-2, नोएडा।
- नेशनल इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ फैशन टेक्नोलॉजी, गुलमोहर पार्क के पास, होजखास, नई दिल्ली।
- इंडियन जैमोलजिकल इंस्टिट्यूट, निर्मल टावर्स, 10वां माला, 26 बाराखंबा रोड, नई दिल्ली।
- इंटरनेशनल इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ फैशन टेक्नोलॉजी, साउथ एक्सप्रेसन पार्क-1, नई दिल्ली।
- इंडियन डायमंड इंस्टिट्यूट सुमुल डेयरी रोड, सूरत।

# कार्यक्षमता बढ़ाने के लिए एकाग्रता जरूरी

**अ**क्सर काम करते वक्त ध्यान भटक जाता है। इससे कई लोग इस समस्या से परेशान हैं। लगातार काम करने के दौरान अथवा ज्यादा काम होने पर ध्यान भंग होने की स्थिति बन जाती है। मनोवैज्ञानिक और चिकित्सक भी बताते हैं कि जिनमें एकाग्रता की कमी होती है वे बहुत चिंतित, उदास, चिड़चिड़े और सहमे से रहते हैं। कुछ तो अपराध भावना या हीनभावना के शिकार भी हो जाते हैं। ऐसे लोगों में आत्मविश्वास की कमी, असुरक्षा की भावना, कंठ, गुस्सा, चिड़चिड़ापन तथा घबराहट बढ़ जाती है। ध्यान भटकने से अक्सर गलतियाँ होने की संभावना रहती है। ऐसे कुछ उपाय हैं जिन्हें आप अपनाकर एकाग्रता बढ़ा सकते हैं।

- एकाग्रता बढ़ाने के लिए मेडिटेशन और योग करें, इससे ध्यान केंद्रित करने की क्षमता बढ़ती है।
- एकाग्रता बढ़ाने के लिए किसी केंद्र बिंदु पर जितनी देर हो सके, ध्यान केंद्रित करें। धीरे-धीरे ध्यान केंद्रित करने का समय बढ़ाएं।
- अपने कार्यों को टाले नहीं बल्कि योजनाबद्ध तरीके से और समय पर करें, इससे काम का अतिरिक्त बोझ भी नहीं पड़ेगा।
- उद्देश्यों में कामयाब न होने पर भी नकारात्मक विचार मन में न लाए बल्कि कमियों को तलाशें और नई ऊर्जा के साथ लक्ष्य पाने में जुटे रहें।
- सफलता प्राप्त होने पर स्वयं को सकारात्मक सोच से भरें, जिससे काम करने का उत्साह बना रहे।
- अपनी काबलियत और कमजोरियों को पहचानने की कोशिश करें।
- समय-समय पर आत्म अवलोकन करें।
- एकाग्रता से काम करने के लिए माहौल को शांतिपूर्ण बनाए रखें।
- काम पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने के लिए खुद को नियंत्रित रखें ताकि आपका ध्यान केवल अपने निर्धारित काम के अलावा और कहीं नहीं जाए।
- यदि काम करते समय ध्यान टूटने देखने या किसी मनोरंजन के साधन की ओर जाए तो पहले उसे पूरा करें, फिर काम करें। इससे ध्यान भटकना नहीं और आपको संतुष्टि भी मिलेगी।



**केंद्र सरकार से जुड़े विभिन्न मंत्रालयों, विभागों, स्वायत्तशासी संस्थाओं तथा सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों में हर साल एसिस्टेंट ग्रेड के पदों पर काफी बड़ी संख्या में युवाओं की भर्तियां की जाती हैं। इसी प्रकार की नियुक्तियां अर्ध सैन्य बलों और पुलिस संगठनों में भी होती हैं। यह संख्या प्रति वर्ष हजारों में होती है लेकिन यह निश्चित नहीं होती है। इसकी चयन प्रक्रिया में 20 से 25 वर्ष तक के ग्रेजुएट युवा शामिल हो सकते हैं।**

**प्र**मुख रूप से स्टाफ सिलेक्शन कमीशन या कर्मचारी चयन आयोग द्वारा इस प्रकार की चयन परीक्षा का आयोजन केंद्र सरकार के अधिकांश मंत्रालयों और विभागों के लिए उपयुक्त प्रत्याशियों के चयन के लिए किया जाता है पर कई संस्थाएं और निकाय स्वयं ही ऐसी परीक्षाएं संचालित करते हैं।

कर्मचारी चयन आयोग द्वारा प्रति वर्ष एसिस्टेंट ग्रेड एंग्राम का संचालन किया जाता है। इसके जरिए रेल्वे बोर्ड सेक्रेटेरिएट सर्विस, सेंट्रल सेक्रेटेरिएट सर्विस, आर्म्ड फोर्स हेड क्वार्टर तथा भारत सरकार के अन्य विभागों में चयनित प्रत्याशियों को नियुक्त किया जाता है। परीक्षा के दो चरण होते हैं। पहले चरण में आब्जेक्टिव टाइप के प्रश्नों पर आधारित तीन घंटे की परीक्षा होती है इसमें चार विषयों की परीक्षा ली जाती है।

**विषय-** रीजनिंग एबिलिटी, जनरल अवेयरनेस अर्थमेटिक और लैंग्वेज (हिंदी या अंग्रेजी)। इनके 75-75 प्रश्न होते हैं। कुल 300 अंकों के ये सभी प्रश्न पत्र होते हैं। इसमें सफल उम्मीदवारों को ही मेन एंग्राम में शामिल होने की अनुमति मिल पाती है। प्रत्येक विषय के लिए अलग से टेस्ट पेपर दिया जाता है। प्रश्न अंग्रेजी और हिंदी दोनों ही भाषाओं में होते हैं। लैंग्वेज प्रश्न पत्र सिर्फ पास करने की जरूरत होती है। इसके अंक मेरिट बनाते समय जोड़े नहीं किए जाते हैं। बहुविकल्पी प्रश्न होते हैं जिनमें से एक उत्तर पर निशान लगाना होता है।

रीजनिंग एबिलिटी के प्रश्न पत्र में सामान्य ज्ञान पर आधारित प्रश्न होते हैं। इसके लिए प्रैक्टिस गाइड्स, कपीटेशन पर आधारित पत्रिकाओं तथा नेट पर उपलब्ध सामग्री का लाभ उठोया जा सकता है। जनरल अवेयरनेस के खंड में इतिहास, भूगोल, राष्ट्रीय-अंतरराष्ट्रीय मामलों, भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था तथा सामान्य विज्ञान पर प्रश्न पूछे जाते हैं। अर्थमेटिक्स के पेपर में बुनियादी गणित से संबंधित प्रश्नों पर ज्यादा जोर होता है। प्रमुख भागों में अंकगणित, नंबर्स, स्टैटिस्टिक्स, ग्राफ तथा टाइम-डिस्टेंस आदि का नाम लिया जा सकता है। इस खंड में अपेक्षित सफलता पाने के लिए प्रैक्टिस ही एकमात्र विकल्प है।

भाषा (हिंदी/अंग्रेजी) के प्रश्न पत्र का स्तर क्वालीफाइंग टाइप का ही होता है। प्रत्याशी के भाषा के व्यावहारिक ज्ञान की परख करना मात ही इस प्रश्न पत्र का एकमात्र उद्देश्य होता है।

## मुख्य परीक्षा

इसमें प्रतिभागियों की भाषा ज्ञान के अतिरिक्त स्वयं को व्यक्त कर पाने की क्षमता की भी जांच की जाती है। उत्तर विस्तृत तरीके से लिखने की बाध्यता होती है। इसी प्रकार का टेस्ट अंकगणित का होता है जिसमें एसिस्टेंट के कार्यों के अनुस्यू गणितीय कैलकुलेशन कर पाने की क्षमता को परखा जाता है। इसमें भाषा और गणित पर आधारित

दो प्रश्न पत्र होते हैं। इस परीक्षा में 200 अंकों का अंग्रेजी और 100 अंकों का गणित आधारित प्रश्न पत्र होता है।

■ भाषा - इसमें 50 अंकों का जनरल अंग्रेजी का एक खंड होता है जबकि शेष 150 अंकों को खंड में कम्युनिकेशन एवं लेखन कौशल पर आधारित प्रश्न शामिल किए जाते हैं।

■ अंकगणित - कुल 50 अंकों के इस दो घंटे की अवधि के प्रश्न पत्र में भी एलिमेंटरी गणित और सामान्य इस्तेमाल में आने वाले गणितीय अवधारणाओं से जुड़े प्रश्न पूछे जाते हैं।

## ऐसे करें तैयारी

■ अंग्रेजी या हिंदी भाषा की तैयारी के लिए व्याकरण की तैयारी के अलावा रोजाना लिखने की आदत भी डालें।

■ जनरल अवेयरनेस के लिए अखबारों और करंट अफेयर्स पर आधारित पत्रिकाओं को पढ़ने से काफी लाभ मिलता है।

■ लॉजिकल रीजनिंग के लिए सैपल टेस्ट पेपर्स जितने कर सकें उतना ही फायदा पेपर्स के समय मिलेगा।

■ गणित में आठवीं से दसवीं तक की एनसीईआरटी की किताबों का अभ्यास करने से काफी बुनियादी जानकारी मिल जाएगी।

■ शब्दों के अर्थ के साथ उनके इस्तेमाल का ज्ञान भी होना चाहिए।

■ कैलकुलेशन के शार्टकट फार्मूलों को याद करके जाए, इससे समय की काफी बचत होगी।

■ कम समय में अधिक प्रश्नों को करने की बाध्यता को देखते हुए अपने टाइम मैनेजमेंट को दुस्त रखें।











## Saif Ali Khan, Taimur Step Out in Style; Jeh Steals 'No Pics' Message To Paparazzi

Kareena Kapoor and Saif Ali Khan continue to be one of Bollywood’s most beloved power couples, consistently catching the attention of both fans and paparazzi. Their kids, Taimur and Jeh, are equally adored, often causing a stir online. Recently, the Khan family was spotted out shopping, and it was Jeh’s cheeky response to the paparazzi, saying “no pics,” that had social media buzzing. On October 2, Kareena and Saif were seen out with their children, Taimur and Jeh, in the market. In a video shared by paparazzi, Kareena was captured holding Jeh’s hand as she guided him into the car, while Saif was seen walking with Taimur. The family’s coordinated outing turned heads, but it was Jeh’s adorable moment that stole the show, as the little one politely told the photographers, “no pics.”

The Khan family served up serious family goals, dressed in matching white and blue outfits. Kareena, Saif, and Taimur were all spotted in white t-shirts and blue jeans, while Jeh rocked an all-white ensemble. The father-son duo even sported matching red caps, adding to the charm of their twinning look. Taimur Ali Khan and Jeh Ali Khan, the adorable sons of Bollywood’s power couple Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan, are undoubtedly some of the most beloved star kids in the industry. From the moment Taimur was born in 2016, he became a media sensation, with his charming personality and chubby cheeks quickly winning over the internet. His younger brother, Jeh, born in 2021, has followed suit, often stealing the spotlight with his playful antics and cute expressions. Taimur, often referred to as “Tim,” is already a mini-celebrity, frequently spotted out and about with his parents, whether it’s on vacations, family outings, or just playtime at home. Known for his mischievous yet endearing nature, Taimur has captured the hearts of fans with his confident strolls and sweet interactions with the paparazzi. Jeh, the younger of the two, has recently started to step into the public eye. Although still very young, his occasional “no pics” moments to the paparazzi have endeared him to fans, showcasing that he’s got his own budding personality. While Jeh often follows his brother’s lead during public appearances, he’s already developing his own charm, making the Khan brothers a constant source of fascination.



## Anushka Sharma Challenges Virat Kohli, Beats Him With a Hilarious Cricket Rulebook

Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli are the most loved couple in Bollywood. They never miss the chance to impress fans with their chemistry. Today, the actress shared a video on social media which immediately went viral. She was seen challenging Virat in cricket. Fans quickly reacted to the fun video. Taking to her Instagram handle, Anushka shared a video in which we can see she and Virat are playing cricket but there is a catch. Anushka mentions that the rule will be her to which Virat agrees. Both are seen having fun and Virat can also heard saying Lassi shot. “Lulu balling, lassi shots & a lot more with @pumaindia,” read the caption. One of the fans wrote, “Are cutieess”. Another wrote, “Virushka ever”.

Recently, Anushka Sharma attended a brand event in Mumbai where she opened up about inculcating the right habits in children from a young age. She said she and her cricketer husband, Virat Kohli, have been trying to do the same with their kids, Vamika and Akaay. Speaking at Slurrp Farm’s YES Moms & Dads event, the actress said, “I took her (Vamika) to an ice cream museum because she loves ice cream. Like loves, obsessed. So I took her to the ice cream museum and I’m like, ‘You know what, eat as much as you want.’ She didn’t eat that much.” During the same event, the actress also addressed the pressure parents face to be “perfect,” sharing candid insights into her parenting approach with their children, Vamika and Akaay. “There is so much pressure to be this perfect parent,” Anushka admitted. “But we’re not perfect, and that’s okay. We’ll complain about things, and it’s fine to admit it in front of our kids, so they know we’re flawed.” She emphasised that admitting to mistakes helps ease the pressure children feel, saying, “Imagine kids thinking, ‘My parents are like this,’ and having to live up to those expectations.” On the professional front, Anushka was last seen in the film Zero (2018) with Shah Rukh Khan. She is now awaiting the release of Chakda Xpress, a biopic based on the life of Indian cricketer Jhulan Goswami.



## Pooja Hegde To Team Up With Thalapathy Vijay Again After Beast, Next Film Tentatively Titled ‘Thalapathy 69’



Actress Pooja Hegde, who has worked with Vijay in the 2022 film ‘Beast’, will once again be seen sharing screen space with the superstar in the upcoming tentatively titled film ‘Thalapathy 69’. The banner KVN Productions took to X, formerly called Twitter, to make the announcement on Wednesday. Along with a picture of Pooja, the post read, “Bringing the stunning duo back to the big screen once again We know you’ve already cracked it, but officially... Welcome onboard @hegdepooja #Thalapathy69CastReveal #Thalapathy @actorvijay sir #HVinoth @thedeol @anirudhofficial @Jagadishbliss @LohithNK01 #Thalapathy69.” The film is directed by H. Vinoth, who made his directorial debut with “Sathuranga Vettai” in 2014. He then went on to make films such as ‘Theeran Adhigaaram Ondru’, ‘Nerkonda Paarvai’, ‘Valimai’ and ‘Thunivu’. Talking about Pooja, she is currently busy with Suriya’s tentatively titled film ‘Suriya 44’ helmed by ‘Jigarthanda DoubleX’ fame director Karthik Subbaraj. As for now, the filmmaker has kept all the information under wraps and fans are expecting a big update before Suriya’s other big release titled ‘Kanguva’ helmed by director Siruthai Siva, which is all set for a grand release on November 14, 2024, on a huge pan-Indian level.

The film is directed by acclaimed Malayalam filmmaker Rosshan Andrews and produced by Siddharth Roy Kapur. ‘Deva’ is set to be released on February 14, 2025. Pooja will also feature in an action-thriller titled ‘Sanki’ opposite ‘Tadap’ fame actor Ahan Shetty, helmed by director duo Yasir Jah and Adnan A. Shaikh.

## Priyanka Chopra Gives Boss Lady Vibes In Grey Pantsuit, Gets Papped At Trailblazers Event



Global icon Priyanka Chopra Jonas made heads turn once again with her impeccable style as she was spotted attending the Trailblazers event organised in London.

The actress was giving boss lady vibes in a chic grey pantsuit. The look instantly went viral, leaving fans in awe. Jerryxmimi took to their Instagram handle and shared a video in which we can see Priyanka posing and looking gorgeous. Her makeup game is also on point. Recently, Priyanka Chopra took the internet by storm after sharing throwback photos of her transformation from a 9-year-old to a 17-year-old. The global icon gave fans a nostalgic peek into her early years, highlighting changes in appearance, style, and personality. Despite her hectic routine, she always finds time for her daughter, Malti Marie Chopra Jonas. Recently, she gave fans a heartwarming glimpse of their Sunday together, where the two enjoyed some relaxed downtime. Taking to Instagram Stories, Priyanka posted a cosy selfie of her and Malti, where she was seen holding her daughter close. Dressed in comfortable loungewear, the actress radiated happiness as Malti focused on playing with a toy. Priyanka captioned the photo, “Sundays like these...” accompanied by a heart emoji.

Priyanka Chopra Jonas often treats her fans to candid glimpses of her life, and recently she shared a short clip on Instagram featuring some cherished moments from her camera roll. The video began with a stylish selfie of Priyanka dressed in a black bodycon dress, followed by a sweet selfie with her daughter, Malti.

She also included a memorable shot with her close friend Tamanna Dutt, taken during her brother Siddharth Chopra’s engagement party.

The clip wrapped up with a family photo of Priyanka posing with her husband, Nick Jonas, their daughter, and his brothers, Kevin and Joe Jonas. The text on the clip read, “POV: you open my camera roll,” giving fans a sneak peek into her personal memories. On the work front, Priyanka will next be seen in the web series, Citadel Season 2. She is also preparing to release Hollywood blockbusters such as The Bluff and Heads of State.