



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.

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.

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

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 for 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".

European court overturns French ban on plant-based products using 'steak' labels

France. A European court on Friday overturned a French government ban on makers of plant-based meats calling their products "steak" or "sausage", which Paris had imposed to protect livestock farmers.

EU members states cannot ban the use of commonly used terms if they do not have legal definitions, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJUE) said in its ruling. France issued decrees in 2022 and February 2024 restricting the use of words including "ham", "steak", "sausage" and "bacon" to animal-based products. Authorities said the rules were needed to avoid creating confusion for consumers. French livestock farmers had long



lobbed for the measure, and their lobbying organisation denounced Friday's ruling. Interbev, which represents France's cattle and livestock industries, said it "deplores this decision that validates the usurpation of natural products to commercialise ultra-transformed foods". Makers of vegetable-based proteins had protested the government's decrees, and France's top administrative court had suspended them while it awaited the CJUE's decision. A preliminary ruling had said that banning use of the words "would seriously and immediately harm the interests of businesses" involved in the plant-based protein industry. "This is a very welcome victory," said La Vie, a French maker of plant-based meats.

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

World. 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. Making a surprise first appearance in the White House briefing room, Biden added that Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu "should remember" US support for Israel when deciding on next steps. "If I were in their shoes, I'd be thinking about other alternatives than striking oil fields," Biden told reporters, when asked about his comments a day earlier that Washington was discussing the possibility of such strikes with its ally. Biden added that the Israelis "have not concluded how they're what they're going to do" in retaliation for a huge ballistic missile attack by Iran on Israel on Tuesday. The price of oil had jumped after Biden's remarks on Thursday. Any long-term rise could be hugely damaging

for Biden's Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democrat confronts Republican former president Donald Trump in a November 5 election where the cost of living is a major issue. Biden's appearance at the famed briefing room podium was not announced in advance, taking reporters by surprise. He has never spoken there before in the nearly four years of his presidency. It also comes at a tense time as he prepares to leave office with the situation boiling over in the Middle East and political criticism at home over his handling of a recent hurricane that struck the US southeast. Biden said he was doing his best to avoid a full-scale conflagration in the Middle East, where Israel is bombing Lebanon in a bid to wipe out the Iranian-backed militia Hezbollah. "The main thing we can do is try to rally the rest of the world and our allies into participating... to tamp

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.

Basic Computer Training Course Concludes at CCL



Ranchi: Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) has successfully organized a five-day Basic Computer Training Course aimed at enhancing the skills and efficiency of newly appointed Category 1 employees. The training, conducted by the Human Resource Development Department in collaboration with the Systems Department, took place from September 30 to 5 October. Eighteen Category 1 employees from the headquarters and various operational areas participated in the program, which was led by officials from the Systems Department. The training sessions focused on essential computer skills necessary for the employees' roles within the organization. The course concluded with a closing session on October 5, 2024, held in the Human Resource Department's conference room. Ramakant Pandey, General Manager of Human Resource Development, addressed the attendees, encouraging them to continue progressing in their professional endeavors. At the conclusion of the session, all participants were awarded certificates recognizing their successful completion of the training. The closing remarks and vote of thanks were delivered by Chandra Shekhar Prasad Singh, Manager (Mining) in the Human Resource Development Department, with the presence of all department officers and employees. This initiative reflects CCL's commitment to fostering employee development and enhancing operational efficiency through skill-building programs.

Naxalite with Rs 1 Lakh Reward Arrested in Gaya

by Suresh Pd Nikhar

Gaya: Police have arrested Kamlesh Rawani alias Kamlesh Ram, in Jol Bigha village, located in the Khjirasarai police station area, according to Gaya's Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ashish Bharati. The arrest took place on Saturday, with Rawani being a wanted Naxalite carrying a reward of Rs 1 lakh.

SSP Bharati stated during a press conference that Rawani was being sought in connection with multiple serious criminal cases and has a history of incarceration dating back to 2008. Notably, in 2019, he was implicated in a significant crime alongside fellow Naxalites. While five of his accomplices were apprehended during that incident, Rawani managed to evade capture and had been on the run since. Originally from Ghosi in Jehanabad, Rawani faces numerous charges in Gaya, Jehanabad, and Nalanda districts. The police were actively searching for him in various Naxalite-related cases.

SSP Bharati revealed that intelligence reports indicated Rawani's presence near Jol Bigha village, leading to his arrest with the assistance of the district police and the Special Task Force (STF). He emphasized that ongoing operations against notorious criminals and Naxalites will continue as part of the police's commitment to enhancing public safety.

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.

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 Subodh Kant 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.

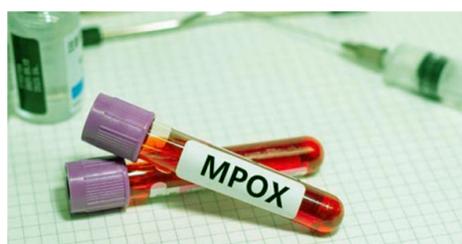
Kunal Daripa, Head of CSR at Vedanta ESL, expressed pride in the company's commitment to cleanliness, stating, "We at Vedanta ESL strongly believe in cleanliness. Our previous initiatives to foster this practice among our employees are now yielding positive results. Cleanliness has become ingrained in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

PM Modi To Unveil Metro Line, Rs 56,000 Crore Development Projects During Maharashtra Visit

Mumbai: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a visit to Maharashtra on Saturday, during which he will launch several development initiatives costing over Rs 56,000 crore, officials said. Modi will first visit Washim, where he will inaugurate the Banjara Virasat Museum, celebrating the rich heritage of the Banjara community, after offering prayers at Jagdamba Mata temple in Poharadevi and paying tribute at the 'samadhis' of Sant Sevalal Maharaj and Sant Ramrao Maharaj, an official release said.

Later in the day, he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for various development projects worth over Rs 32,800 crore in Thane. In Mumbai, he will inaugurate the BKC to Aarey JVLR section of Mumbai Metro Line - 3 costing around Rs 14,120 crore, and will also take a ride in the metro between BKC and Santacruz stations. At 12 noon, Modi will launch various initiatives related to the agricultural and animal husbandry sector worth around Rs 23,300 crore in Washim. In line with his commitment to empower farmers, Modi, during the event in Washim, will disburse the 18th instalment of the PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi worth about Rs 20,000 crore to around 9.4 crore farmers, it said. With this, the total funds released

to farmers under PM-KISAN will be around Rs 3.45 lakh crore. He will also launch the 5th instalment of NaMo Shetkari Mahasman Nidhi Yojana and disburse Rs 2,000 crore, it said. The PM will dedicate to the nation more than 7,500 projects, costing Rs 1,920 crore, under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF). The major projects include custom hiring centres, primary

Further, the PM will launch the Unified Genomic Chip for cattle and indigenous sex-sorted semen technology. This initiative aims to increase availability of sex sorted semen at affordable price to farmers and reduce the cost by around Rs 200 per dose. The Unified Genomic Chip, GAUCHIP for indigenous cattle and MAHISHCHIP for buffaloes have been developed along with genotyping services. With the implementation of genomic selection, young high-quality bulls can be identified at an early age, the release said. At around 4 pm, the PM will inaugurate and lay foundation stones for various development projects costing more than Rs 32,800 crore in Thane. The PM will lay the foundation stone of Thane Integral Ring Metro Rail Project to be constructed at the cost of around Rs 12,200 crore. The total length of the project is 29 km with 20 elevated and 2 underground stations. This ambitious infrastructure project is a key effort to address the growing transportation needs of Thane, a major industrial and commercial hub in Maharashtra, the statement said. The PM will lay the foundation stone of Elevated Eastern Freeway Extension from Chheda Nagar to Anand Nagar, Thane, worth around Rs 3,310 crore. The project will provide seamless connectivity from South Mumbai to Thane.



processing units, warehouses, sorting and grading units, cold storage projects, post-harvest management projects etc. He will dedicate to the nation 9,200 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) with a combined turnover of around Rs 1,300 crore.

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

Chennai. The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to attempt a Limca Book of Records on October 6 with a grand air show at Marina Beach, ahead of its 92nd Air Force Day celebrations. The event will showcase IAF's strength and capabilities with a large gathering of spectators. Air Force Day, celebrated on October 8 at Tambaram Air Force Station, will highlight the theme "Bharatiya Vayusena: Saksham, Sashakt aur Aatmnirbhar" (Indian Air Force: Potent, Strong, and Self-reliant). A grand flypast featuring 72 aircraft from 22 categories will be the centrepiece of the celebration. The flypast at Marina Beach will include fighter jets like the Su-30,



MiG-29, and Jaguars, along with helicopters such as the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) and Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk4. The Navy's P8I and the vintage Dakota will also attend, adding a unique touch to

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.

Chandrababu Naidu offers silk robes at Tirumala temple amid laddu row

Tirupati. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu visited the Lord Venkateswara Temple in Tirumala on Friday, marking the first day of the annual Brahmotsavams. Accompanied by his wife, Naidu offered "pattu vastrams" (silk robes) to the deity on behalf of the state government. The couple carried the silk clothes on a golden plate atop their heads, entering the temple through the main entrance. After the offering, temple chief priests tied the Parivattam (sacred thread) to Naidu, who wore the traditional Thirunaamam on his forehead. TTD Executive Officer



Shyamala Rao and Additional EO Venkaiah Chowdary honoured Naidu with Sri Vari's Sesha Vastram (sacred cloth). Earlier that day, the

Supreme Court ordered a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into allegations that the previous Andhra Pradesh government used substandard ghee containing animal fat to prepare laddu prasadam at Tirupati temple. The SIT, supervised by the CBI and including state police officers and a member from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), will investigate the claims. Noting that the allegations had the potential of hurting sentiments of people worldwide, the Supreme Court said the SIT investigation would be monitored by the CBI director.

Vinesh Phogat bats for women's safety, jobs after casting vote in Haryana polls

Wrestler Vinesh Phogat cast her vote for the Haryana Assembly elections at a polling station in Charkhi Dadri. Referring to the Congress, she said that she voted for the party that works for the rights of women and for providing jobs.

New Delhi. Wrestler Vinesh Phogat said that she cast her vote in the Haryana Assembly elections for the party that worked for the safety of women and for providing jobs. After casting her vote at a polling station in Charkhi Dadri in the state, Phogat, who is the Congress' candidate from Julana constituency, told news agency ANI, "I voted for the party that works for the rights of women and for providing jobs. You all know which party I am speaking about," she said, referring to the Congress.



"It is a huge festival for Haryana. I appeal to the people of the state to come out and cast their votes," Phogat said. She further said that 10 years ago, the level of sports in the state was good under the then Congress chief minister Bhupinder Hooda. On being asked if Phogat would get a ministerial berth if she wins, she said that it would be decided by the party. Recently, talking to India Today TV, the 30-year-old wrestler had said that entering politics was "a necessity" for her. Phogat had said that she decided to join politics after the wrestlers' protest didn't yield any results. "We fought on the streets, what did we gain? We got nothing but mistreatment and humiliation. I went to the Olympics. Did I receive justice? Nothing. We never got justice. Entering politics was not a choice, but a necessity," she had said. Notably, Phogat's entry into the Congress as a sports person and a Jat representative made Julana a high-stakes seat. BJP's Amarjeet Dhanda had won from the Julana seat in 2019.

Huge protests after Bengal girl's body found in canal, family alleges rape

Kolkata. The body of an 11-year-old girl, who had been missing since Friday night, was found in a canal. The family of the girl and the villagers have alleged that she was raped before her body was thrown into the canal. Massive protests broke out in the district following the discovery of the girl's body.



According to reports, the girl was returning home from her tuition classes when she went missing. Her family, deeply concerned, approached the local police station to file a complaint. However, they allege that instead of receiving assistance, they faced harassment from the police.

Upon the discovery of the girl's body this morning, local residents gathered in large numbers, expressing their outrage over the incident. They accused the police of failing to take timely action,

which they believe contributed to this tragic outcome. Several videos surfaced online, showing a group of villagers, mostly women, leading protests on the streets with sticks, demanding action against the accused. Another video shows locals surrounding and confronting

officials after police failed to register the complaint on time.

A video also shows villagers clashing with police officials, vandalising a police station with sticks and pelting stones. The locals also smashed bikes and other public property in anger. BJP leader Amit Malviya, via an X post, criticised the Mamata Banerjee-led West Bengal government over the police's failure to register a complaint.

"During Durga Puja, as West Bengal celebrates Devi Shakti, women and girls are unsafe. Unless Asuri Shaktis, at the helm of the State's affair, are not defeated, crimes against women will continue, unabated. Mamata Banerjee has to GO for women to be safe in Bengal," he tweeted.

Rahul Gandhi Told To Appear Before Pune Court In Savarkar Defamation Case

Pune. A special court in Pune has summoned Rahul Gandhi in a criminal defamation case filed by the grandnephew of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, accusing the Congress leader of making objectionable remarks against the Hindutva ideologue.

The court issued the summons to Mr Gandhi on Friday, asking him to appear before it on October 23. Last year, Mr Savarkar's grandnephew, Satyaki Savarkar, had lodged a complaint against the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha in this connection in a Pune court. Last month, the case was transferred to the special court for MPs and MLAs from the Judicial Magistrate First Class (FMFC) court.

Advocate Sangram Kolhatkar, who represents Satyaki Savarkar, told PTI that the special court for MPs and MLAs, presided over by Joint Civil Judge and Judicial Magistrate (First Class) Amol Shinde, issued

the summons against Mr Gandhi stating that his attendance is necessary to answer a charge punishable under section 500 (defamation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in the case, and he is required to appear in person before the court on October 23. In his complaint, Satyaki Savarkar alleged that Mr Gandhi,



in his speech made in London in March 2023, claimed that VD Savarkar had written in a book that he and five to six of his friends once beat up a Muslim man and he (Savarkar) felt happy. Satyaki Savarkar said no such incident ever took place, and that VD Savarkar never wrote any such thing anywhere. He termed Mr Gandhi's allegation as "fictitious,

false, and malicious". The court had asked the police to investigate the allegations and file a report. The Vishrambaug police station had carried out the inquiry and said that there is a prima-facie truth in the complaint.

Recognition after deprivation: Mamata Banerjee on Bengali's classical language tag

Kolkata. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee shared on social media the copy of a letter she sent to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 11, advocating for Bengali to be granted classical language status. She expressed satisfaction that the long-awaited recognition had been granted after much "deprivation."



"Here is a copy of my letter (dated January 11, 2024) to the Honourable Prime Minister of India, where I articulated our demand for the central government's recognition of Bengali as a classical language. Our facts-based, cogent arguments have finally been accepted by the Government of India," Banerjee tweeted. In response, BJP leader Amit Malviya accused Banerjee of taking undue credit,

stating she failed to push for recognition during her time as an ally of the UPA government and her early years as chief minister.

Malviya highlighted that other languages such as Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia had received classical status between 2004 and 2014, but Bengali had not.

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."

► **The court issued the summons to Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Friday, asking him to appear before it on October 23.**

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 Namrissarallah'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 Namrissarallah 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 Namrissarallah, 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.

Namrissarallah'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

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.



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

बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे, बाड़खणु থেকে বেঙ্গলে যানবাহনের প্রবেশ শুরু

प्राय २४ घण्टा पर, बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे एबं बाड़खणु থেকে बेङ्गले याओया समस्त पण्यवाही यानवाहनर प्रवेश शुरु हयैछे। गत सन्ध्या १८ टार पर बेङ्गल सरकारर आदेशे बाड़खणु-बेङ्गल मथन सीमाछे पण्यवाही यानवाहनर प्रवेश निषिद्ध करा हयैछिल।

एर फले रात थेके दुपूर पर्यंत प्राय २० किमी दीर्घ यानजट सृष्टि हय। चालकदर समस्यार कथा विवेचना करे, MASS बेङ्गल सरकारके चाप देय बाड़खणु सीमाछे थेके बेङ्गले प्रवेश करा समस्त यानवाहन बक्क करार ज्खन। एर फले, बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे बाध्य हय एबं अवशेषे भारी यानवाहनर प्रवेश आवार स्वाभाविक हय।

बेङ्गल सरकारर एहि अनुमतिर पर, ट्राक चालकरा शक्तिर निश्चास फेलैन। प्राञ्जन निरसा विधायक अरूप च्याटार्जि बाड़खणुेर मुख्याम्ही हेमन्त सोरनेनेर एहि उद्देश्येगरे प्रशंसा करेन। तिन बलेन, मुख्याम्ही हेमन्त सोरनेन एहि विषये क्रमागत गुरुत्त्व दिनेछेन। बेङ्गल सरकारर साथे इतिबाचक आलोचना करार पर बेङ्गल सरकार निषेधाज्ञा तुलेनेय। एर पर, सारिते दौड़िये थाका समस्त पण्यवाही यानवाहन बीर धीरे बेङ्गले प्रवेश करत छे शुरु करेछे। NH-६ दीर्घ यानजट एखन सीमित हछे एबं यानजटो भाङ्गते शुरु करेछे।

सम्प्रति बाड़खणुे प्रबल वृष्टिर पर, माईथन एबं पाकेत बाँधेर जनसुतर बेड़े याय एबं बांध खुले जल बेङ्गलेर दिके छेड़े देओया हय, एर पर बेङ्गल सरकार शैराराचारी मनोभाव ग्रहण करे एबं बाड़खणुे थेके बेङ्गले प्रवेश करा पण्यवाही यानवाहन सीमाछेई धामानेर आदेश देय।

भोजपुरी पूर्णिका

तोहरी नजर के धार

— श्याम कुंवर भारती (राजभर)

बरछी कटार जान तोहार नैना

दिल के हमरे पार हो गइल।

नजर के धार से दिहलू मार

घायल दिल हमार हो गइल।

चाल चललू जईसे फूल कमल के डार

लच लच लचके।

आंख में कजरा लगवलू दिन में

सगरो अनहार हो गइल।

गोरे गाल पर शोभेला काला तिल

लागेला बड़ा कातिल।

ओही तिल अटकल दिल हमार

आपिक तोहार हो गइल।

हॉट के लाली खिलल गुलाब कली तू

हऊ बड़ी मनचली।

कारी केस घोभे मोगरा के गजरा महक

कचनार हो गइल।

मिसरी से मीठ बोली कान में

रस घोली दिल पागल करे।

चान लागे रूप तोहार खिल के

यौवन कचनार हो गइल।

तोहरे इफ्क के मारल बेवफाई के

जारल हम अब जाई कहा।

फूल ना खिलल दिल से दिल

ना मिलल चर्चा हजार हो गइल।

वित्त मंत्री ने अधिकारियों को 100 दिनों में बनी गति कायम रखने का दिया निर्देश

एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय वित्त एवं कॉर्पोरेट मामलों की मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने शुक्रवार को अधिकारियों को भारत सरकार के पहले 100 दिनों में बनी गति को बनाए रखने का निर्देश दिया। साथ ही उन्होंने अधिकारियों से यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए लगन से काम करने को कहा, ताकि चालू वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 के लिए पूंजीगत व्यय लक्ष्य योजना के अनुसार पूरे हों। केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री राजधानी नई दिल्ली में वित्त मंत्रालय के वित्त विभाग (डीओई) के तहत 'पूँजी निवेश के लिए राज्यों को विशेष सहायता योजना' के वित्त का आकलन करने के लिए आयोजित एक समीक्षा बैठक के दौरान कही। सीतारमण ने योजना की भूमिका को स्वीकार करते हुए राज्यों के साथ निरंतर सहयोग के महत्व पर जोर दिया। इसके साथ ही वित्त मंत्री ने उन्हें परिकल्पित सुधारों को अपनाने के लिए प्रेरित किया। सीतारमण ने बैठक की अध्यक्षता करते हुए कहा कि यह योजना राज्य स्तर पर पूंजीगत व्यय को बढ़ाने में सहायक रही है, जो बदले में बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास, नौकरी सृजन और आर्थिक विकास

को प्रोत्साहित करती है। वित्त मंत्री ने शिक्षा विभाग के सचिव से राज्य सरकारों के साथ समन्वय करने और



योजना के तहत प्रस्तावों को प्रस्तुत करने और अनुमोदन में तेजी लाने का आग्रह किया, ताकि ये सुनिश्चित हो सके कि पूंजी निवेश समय पर और कुशल तरीके से किया जाए।

वित्त मंत्रालय के एक्स पोस्ट पर जारी बयान के मुताबिक इस बैठक में आर्थिक मामलों के विभाग (डीईए) और वित्त विभाग के सचिव भी मौजूद थे। मंत्रालय के मुताबिक यह बैठक एक सतत

श्रृंखला का हिस्सा है, जिसका उद्देश्य महत्वपूर्ण व्यय वाले प्रमुख मंत्रालयों और विभागों के पूंजीगत व्यय

लिए राज्यों की क्षमता को बढ़ाने की पहल है। इस योजना के भाग-दू में 'अनटाइड फंड' घटक है, जिसका उपयोग राज्य अपनी पूंजी निवेश परियोजनाओं के लिए कर सकते हैं। वहीं, योजना के दूसरे भाग में राज्यों द्वारा विभिन्न सुधारों से जुड़ी रिलीज शामिल है, जो इस प्रकार है:-

- यूनिटी मॉल, पुलिस आवाम और पुस्तकालयों का निर्माण।
- पुराने वाहनों को हटाना।
- प्रतिष्ठित पर्यटन केंद्रों का विकास।
- औद्योगिक विकास को बढ़ावा देना।
- ग्रामीण भूमि अभिलेखों का आधुनिकीकरण और डिजिटलीकरण।
- राज्य किसानों की रजिस्ट्री का निर्माण।
- राज्य सरकार द्वारा शहरी क्षेत्रों में भूमि सुधार करना तथा कामकाजी महिलाओं के लिए छात्रावासों का निर्माण आदि।

उल्लेखनीय है कि वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 के लिए 1.5 लाख करोड़ रुपये के कुल परिव्यय के साथ 30 सितंबर, 2024 तक 50,069 करोड़ रुपये की परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दी गई है।

उल्लेखनीय है कि वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 के लिए 1.5 लाख करोड़ रुपये के कुल परिव्यय के साथ 30 सितंबर, 2024 तक 50,069 करोड़ रुपये की परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दी गई है।

हुंडई मोटर अपने आईपीओ के साइज और वैल्यू में कर सकती है बदलाव, 7 को सेबी के पास जमा होगा अपडेट ड्राफ्ट

एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। देश की दूसरी सबसे बड़ी कार निर्माता कंपनी हुंडई मोटर इंडिया लिमिटेड अगले हफ्ते 7 अक्टूबर को मार्केट रेगुलेटर सिक्समिटीज एंड एक्सचेंज बोर्ड ऑफ इंडिया (सेबी) के पास अपने आईपीओ के लिए अपडेट ड्राफ्ट फाइल कर सकती है। माना जा रहा है कि अपडेट ड्राफ्ट में कंपनी अपने प्रस्तावित इश्यू के साइज, वैल्यू और टर्मिंग जैसे डिटेल में बदलाव कर सकती है।

अभी तक की खबरों के मुताबिक हुंडई मोटर इंडिया लिमिटेड 14 अक्टूबर को 25 हजार करोड़ रुपये का आईपीओ सब्सक्रिप्शन के लिए लॉन्च कर सकती है। इसकी क्लोजिंग 16 अक्टूबर को हो सकती है। अगर आईपीओ के साइज में अपडेट ड्राफ्ट में बदलाव नहीं किया गया तो ये आईपीओ देश में अभी तक का सबसे बड़ा आईपीओ हो सकता है। इसके पहले भारतीय

जीवन बीमा निगम ने 2022 में 21 हजार करोड़ रुपये का आईपीओ लॉन्च किया था, जो अभी तक का



देश का सबसे बड़ा आईपीओ है। हुंडई मोटर इंडिया लिमिटेड ने सेबी के पास अपने आईपीओ के लिए जो ड्राफ्ट रेड हैरिंग प्रॉस्पेक्टस (डीआरएचपी) जमा कराया है,

उसके मुताबिक कंपनी आईपीओ के जरिए 14,21,94,700 शेयरों को ऑफर फॉर सेल (ओएफएस) के

डीआरएचपी जमा कराया था। इसके बाद सेबी की ओर से कंपनी को आईपीओ के लिए मंजूरी मिल गई है।

इस आईपीओ के जरिए हुंडई मोटर इंडिया 17.5 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी बेचने जा रही है। बताया जा रहा है कि इस आईपीओ में निवेश करने के लिए कई ऐसट मैनेजर्स, पेंशन फंड्स, बीमा कंपनियों और सॉल्वेन्ट वेल्थ फंड समेत कई विदेशी संस्थागत निवेशकों तथा चरल संस्थागत निवेशकों ने अपने दिलचस्पी दिखाई है। मार्केट एक्सपर्ट्स का मानना है कि हुंडई मोटर इंडिया लिमिटेड के आईपीओ को निवेशकों की ओर से जोरदार रिस्पॉन्स मिल सकता है। हालांकि अगर आईपीओ लॉन्गिंग के समय मिडिल ईस्ट का तनाव बना रहा और विदेशी निवेशकों द्वारा भारतीय बाजार से पैसा निकालने का क्रम जारी रहा, तो इससे हुंडई मोटर इंडिया लिमिटेड के आईपीओ पर भी नकारात्मक असर पड़ सकता है।

वैश्विक दबाव में लुढ़का घरेलू शेयर बाजार, लगातार 5वें दिन सेंसेक्स और निफ्टी में गिरावट

एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। मिडिल ईस्ट के तनाव और विदेशी निवेशकों द्वारा की गई चौतरफा बिकवाली के कारण घरेलू शेयर बाजार आज लगातार पांचवें कारोबारी दिन गिरावट के साथ बंद हुआ। आज के कारोबार की शुरुआत भी गिरावट के साथ हुई थी। हालांकि दिन के पहले सत्र में खरीदारों ने लिवाली करके बाजार को मजबूत स्थिति में पहुंचा दिया था लेकिन दोपहर 12 बजे के बाद

बिकवाली का दबाव बन जाने के कारण सेंसेक्स और निफ्टी लगातार गिरते चले गए। सेंसेक्स ने आज इंट्रा-डे में पहले 1,100 अंक से अधिक की तेजी दिखाई, वहीं बाद में ये सूचकांक ऊपरी स्तर से 1,800 अंक से अधिक लुढ़क गया। इसी तरह निफ्टी भी इंट्रा-डे में पहले 300 अंक से अधिक उछला, वहीं बिकवाली का दबाव बनने पर ऊपरी स्तर से 500 अंकों से अधिक टूट भी गया। पूरे दिन के कारोबार के बाद

सेंसेक्स 0.98 प्रतिशत और निफ्टी 0.93 प्रतिशत की गिरावट के साथ बंद हुए। आज दिन भर के कारोबार के दौरान आईटी और पीएसयू बैंक सेक्टर के अलावा शेप सभी सेक्टरों में गिरावट के साथ लाल निशान बंद हुए। ऑटोमोबाइल, रियल्टी और एफएमसीजी सेक्टर में आज सबसे अधिक बिकवाली होती रही। इसी तरह एनर्जी, फार्मास्यूटिकल, कैपिटल गुड्स, कंज्यूमर ड्यूरेबल्स, हेल्थ केयर,

मेटल, ऑयल एंड गैस, पब्लिक सेक्टर एंटरप्राइज और टेक इंडेक्स भी गिरावट के साथ बंद हुए। ब्रॉड मार्केट में भी आज लगातार बिकवाली होती रही, जिसके कारण बीएसई का मिडिकैप इंडेक्स 0.94 प्रतिशत की गिरावट के साथ बंद हुआ। इसी तरह स्मॉलकैप इंडेक्स ने 0.80 प्रतिशत की कमजोरी के साथ आज के कारोबार का अंत किया। आज शेयर बाजार में आई कमजोरी के कारण स्टॉक मार्केट के निवेशकों

की संपत्ति में 4 लाख करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की कमी हो गई। बीएसई में लिस्टेड कंपनियों का मार्केट कैपिटलाइजेशन आज के कारोबार के बाद घट कर 461.06 लाख करोड़ रुपये (असहस्र) हो गया। जबकि पिछले कारोबारी दिन यानी गुरुवार को इसका मार्केट कैपिटलाइजेशन 465.25 लाख करोड़ रुपये था। इस तरह निवेशकों को आज के कारोबार से करीब 4.19 लाख करोड़ रुपये का

नुकसान हो गया। आज दिन भर के कारोबार में बीएसई में 4,054 शेयरों में एक्विटि ट्रेडिंग हुई। इनमें 1,579 शेयर बढ़त के साथ बंद हुए, जबकि 2,370 शेयरों में गिरावट का रुख रहा, वहीं 105 शेयर बिना किसी उतार चढ़ाव के बंद हुए। एनएसई में आज 2,513 शेयरों में एक्विटि ट्रेडिंग हुई। इनमें से 841 शेयर मुनाफा कमा कर रहे निशान में और 1,672 शेयर नुकसान उठा कर लाल निशान में बंद हुए।

स्पाइसजेट ने फाइनेंशियल कमिटमेंट सेटल करने का किया ऐलान

एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। लंबे समय से वित्तीय परेशानियों का सामना कर रही डोमेस्टिक लो कॉस्ट एयरलाइन कंपनी स्पाइसजेट ने अपने फाइनेंशियल कमिटमेंट्स के सेटलमेंट का ऐलान किया है। कंपनी की ओर से कहा गया है कि एयरलाइन की पेंडिंग सैलरी और जीएसटी का भुगतान कर दिया गया है। इसके साथ ही पिछले 10 महीने से बकाया प्रॉविडेंट फंड की राशि भी जमा करा दी गई है।

स्पाइसजेट ने हाल में ही अपनी वित्तीय परेशानियों का निपटारा करने के लिए कालिफोर्न इंस्टीट्यूशनल प्लेसमेंट (क्यूआईपी) के जरिए 50 करोड़ डॉलर यानी करीब 3,750 करोड़ रुपये के फंड की व्यवस्था की है। एयरलाइन के मैनेजमेंट की ओर



से दावा किया गया है कि फंड की व्यवस्था होने के बाद कंपनी का वित्तीय सेहत बिगड़ती चली गई। नकदी का संकट हो जाने के कारण

कामकाज सही ट्रैक पर आ गया है। कोरोना काल के पहले डोमेस्टिक एविएशन मार्केट में स्पाइसजेट की मार्केट में उसकी हिस्सेदारी भी घटती थी लेकिन कोरोना काल के बाद कंपनी स्पाइसजेट को अपनी विस्तार योजनाओं से भी पीछे हटना पड़ा। इसके साथ ही डोमेस्टिक एविएशन मार्केट में उसकी हिस्सेदारी भी घटती चली गई। लगभग 5 साल तक

वित्तीय संकट का सामना करने के बाद पिछले महीने ही कंपनी ने क्यूआईपी के जरिए 3,750 करोड़ रुपये की राशि जुटाई है। स्पाइसजेट की ओर से कहा गया है कि क्यूआईपी के जरिए जुटाई रकम से कंपनी अपने पुराने कर्ज को चुकाएगी। इसके साथ ही अपने बकिंग कैपिटल की जरूरत को भी पूरा करेगी। हालांकि जानकारों का कहना है कि स्पाइसजेट पर फिलहाल 8,000 करोड़ रुपये का कर्ज है। ऐसे में स्पाइसजेट को अपनी वित्तीय परेशानियों से पार पाने के लिए अभी और फंड जुटाने की कोशिश करनी होगी। अन्यथा कंपनी के इन्फ्लोव को सैलरी ना मिलने की समस्या आगे भी बनी रहेगी। इसके साथ ही स्पाइसजेट की विस्तार योजनाओं पर भी इसका निगेटिव असर पड़ेगा।

स्पलाई घटने से दिल्ली-एनसीआर में हाउसिंग सेल में गिरावट, कीमत में बढ़ोतरी से भी पीछे हटे खरीदार

एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। मौजूदा वित्त वर्ष की दूसरी तिमाही में दिल्ली एनसीआर में हाउसिंग सेल में करीब 7 प्रतिशत की गिरावट दर्ज की गई है। बताया जा रहा है कि एक करोड़ रुपये से कम कीमत वाले घरों की उपलब्धता में कमी होने से हाउसिंग सेल में ये गिरावट दर्ज की गई है।

नाइट फ्रैंक इंडिया के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक मौजूदा वित्त वर्ष की दूसरी तिमाही (जुलाई से सितंबर) के दौरान दिल्ली एनसीआर में कुल 12,976 यूनिट्स की बिक्री हुई, जबकि पहली तिमाही (अप्रैल से जून) के दौरान ये आंकड़ा 13,471 यूनिट का था। इसके पहले पिछले वित्त वर्ष की आखिरी तिमाही यानी जनवरी से मार्च 2024) के दौरान कुल 15,907 यूनिट की बिक्री हुई थी। इस तरह जनवरी से मार्च की

तुलना में अप्रैल से जून की अवधि

में भी हाउसिंग सेल में 15 प्रतिशत



से अधिक की गिरावट दर्ज की गई थी। जानकारों का कहना है कि दिल्ली एनसीआर में विशेष रूप से गुडगांव, नोएडा, ग्रेटर नोएडा और गाजियाबाद में एक करोड़ रुपये से कम कीमत

वाले फ्लैट्स की स्पलाई में काफी

कमी आई है। लिखा जा रहा है



खरीदने के इच्छुक लोगों के सामने एक करोड़ रुपये या इससे अधिक कीमत वाले फ्लैट खरीदने का ही विकल्प रह गया है। एक करोड़ रुपये से कम कीमत के नए फ्लैट खरीदने

का विकल्प काफी कम रह गया। ऐसी स्थिति में बड़ी संख्या में निम्न मध्य आय वर्ग (लोअर मिडिल इनकम ग्रुप) वाले खरीदारों ने कुछ समय के लिए घर खरीदने की अपनी योजना टाल दी है। दिल्ली एनसीआर में फिलहाल नए घर के रूप में लज्जती या प्रीमियम सेगमेंट वाले फ्लैट्स की स्पलाई तुलनात्मक तौर पर अधिक हो रही है। कुछ समय पहले तक प्रीमियम और लज्जरी सेगमेंट के फ्लैट्स की कीमत 80 से 90 लाख रुपये से शुरू होती थी लेकिन पिछले 6 महीने के दौरान रियल एस्टेट सेक्टर में आई तेजी के कारण अब इनकी मिनिमम प्राइस 1.10 से लेकर 1.25 करोड़ रुपये हो गई है। इसके कारण निम्न मध्य आय वर्ग के लोगों के लिए नया घर खरीदना पहले की तुलना में ज्यादा कठिन हो गया है।

देश का विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार पहली बार 700 अरब डॉलर के पार पहुंचा

एजेंसी

मुंबई/नई दिल्ली। देश का विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार पहली बार रिकॉर्ड 700 अरब डॉलर के पार पहुंच गया है। इसमें लगातार 7वें हफ्ते बढ़ोतरी दर्ज की गई है। विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार में ये वृद्धि आरबीआई की डॉलर खरीदने और वैल्यूएशन में बढ़ोतरी की वजह से आई है। इसके साथ ही अब भारत चीन, जापान और स्विट्जरलैंड के बाद 700 अरब डॉलर से ज्यादा विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार रखने वाला दुनिया का चौथा देश बन गया है। रिजर्व बैंक ऑफ इंडिया (आरबीआई) की ओर से जारी आंकड़ों के मुताबिक देश का विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार 27 सितंबर को समाप्त हफ्ते के दौरान 12.588 अरब डॉलर बढ़कर 704.885 अरब डॉलर के सर्वकालिक उच्चतम स्तर पर पहुंच गया। इससे पिछले हफ्ते में विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार 2.84 अरब डॉलर बढ़कर 692.30 अरब डॉलर रहा था। यह जुलाई 2023 के मध्य के बाद सबसे बड़ी साप्ताहिक वृद्धि है। आंकड़ों के मुताबिक इस दौरान

विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार का अहम घटक माने जाने वाली विदेशी मुद्रा आस्तियां 10.47 अरब डॉलर बढ़कर 616.15 अरब डॉलर हो गईं। 27 सितंबर को समाप्त हफ्ते में



स्वर्ण भंडार का आशुत मूल्य भी 2.18 अरब डॉलर बढ़कर 65.79 अरब डॉलर पर पहुंच गया। इसी तरह विशेष आरक्षण अधिकार (एसडीआर) 880 लाख डॉलर बढ़कर 18.55 अरब डॉलर हो गया। हालांकि, इस अवधि में अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्राकोष (आईएमएफ) के पास भारत का आशुत भंडार 7.1 करोड़ डॉलर घटकर 4.39 अरब डॉलर रहा।

अदिति पोहनकर ने सिटीजन की प्रोमास्टर वॉच का एडवांस वर्जन किया लॉन्च

एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। बॉलीवुड अभिनेत्री अदिति पोहनकर ने सिटीजन कंपनी की प्रोमास्टर वॉच का एडवांस वर्जन लॉन्च किया। जापानी कंपनी सिटीजन इंडिया प्राइवेट लिमिटेड ने

जापानी कंपनी सिटीजन इंडिया प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के भारत में महाप्रबंधक बिक्री एवं विपणन प्रमुख सदीप होमड़े ने मीडिया को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि हमारे पास इन्वेंशन की एक विरासत है। हम घड़ी के शौकीन लोगों में



अपने पेशेवर स्पोर्ट्स ब्रांड सिटीजन प्रोमास्टर के इस ब्रांड को अपनी पहली घड़ी की 100वीं वर्षगांठ के अवसर पर बाजार में उतारा है। इस वॉच की कीमत 44,900 रुपये है।

सिटीजन प्रोमास्टर के एडवांस वर्जन की लॉन्गिंग राजधानी नई दिल्ली स्थित वॉच स्टोर, एफ-42, पार्ट-1, साउथ एक्सटेंशन में किया गया। अदिति पोहनकर ने एडवांस वर्जन पेश करते हुए कहा कि इस खास मौके पर मौजूद होना मेरे लिए रोमांचक अनुभव है। प्रोमास्टर का लिमिटेड एडिशन सिर्फ एक घड़ी नहीं बल्कि एक स्टेटमेंट है, जिसमें आप स्टाइल, उपयोगिता और सिटीजन की शानदार विरासत को देखेंगे। इस अवसर पर

एडवेंचर की चाहत पूरी करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध रहे हैं। यह लॉन्च हमारी इसी विरासत और प्रतिबद्धता का सम्मान भी है। सिटीजन अपना दायरा बखूबी बढ़ा रहा है। उल्लेखनीय है कि सिटीजन वॉच ने वैश्विक स्तर पर वर्ष 1924 में अपनी पहली घड़ी को बाजार में उतारा था। इस कंपनी ने एडवेंचर और स्पोर्टिंग प्रयासों के लिए घड़ियां बनाने के क्षेत्र में हमेशा निरंतर नवाचार का प्रदर्शन किया है। सिटीजन वॉच प्राइवेट लिमिटेड एक इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स कंपनी है, जो मुख्य रूप से अपनी स्टाइलिस्ट घड़ियों के लिए ही जानी जाती है। ये जापानी की राजधानी टोक्यो के निशिटोकोयो में स्थित एक जापानी वैश्विक कॉर्पोरेट समूह की मुख्य कंपनी है।

सुस्ती से जूझ रहे ऑटो सेक्टर को अक्टूबर से उम्मीद, फेरिटव सीजन में डिमांड बढ़ने का अनुमान

एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। लंबे समय से सुस्ती का सामना कर रहा देश का ऑटोमोबाइल सेक्टर अक्टूबर के महीने में एक बार फिर रौनक लौटने की उम्मीद कर रहा है। तीन अक्टूबर से नवरात्रि की शुरुआत होने के साथ ही ऑटोमोबाइल सेक्टर को ओवरऑल बिक्री में तेजी आने की उम्मीद है। उत्तर भारत में नवरात्रि के दौरान नई गाड़ी खरीदना शुभ माना जाता है। यही कारण है कि इस अवधि में आमतौर पर टू

और फोर व्हीलर्स की बिक्री में तेजी आती है। पेसेंजर व्हीकल्स के लिहाज से पिछले कुछ महीने काफी सुस्ती वाले रहे हैं। मौजूदा वित्त वर्ष की पहली तिमाही में भी ऑटोमोबाइल कंपनियों को डिमांड में आई सुस्ती की मार झेलनी पड़ी। हालांकि पहली तिमाही के दौरान पेसेंजर और कर्माशियल व्हीकल्स तथा टू व्हीलर्स की डिमांड में आई कमी के लिए लोकसभा चुनाव की व्यस्तता और गर्मी के मौसम को जिम्मेदार माना गया लेकिन पहली

तिमाही खत्म होने के बाद जुलाई और अगस्त में भी ऑटोमोबाइल सेक्टर की डिमांड में तेजी नहीं आ सकी। ऑटोमोबाइल सेक्टर को उम्मीद थी कि सितंबर के महीने में गणेश चतुर्थी और ओणम जैसे त्योहारों के दौरान मार्केट में डिमांड बढ़ेगी, लेकिन सितंबर के महीने में भी पेसेंजर व्हीकल्स, टू व्हीलर्स या कर्माशियल व्हीकल्स की मांग में सुस्ती बनी रही। सितंबर के दूसरे पखवाड़े में पितृपक्ष शुरू हो जाने के कारण

भी ऑटोमोबाइल सेक्टर की बिक्री लगभग ठप पड़ी रही। हिंदू परिवारों में आमतौर पर पितृपक्ष के दौरान नई गाड़ी, घर या गहने की खरीदारी करना अच्छा नहीं माना जाता है। हालांकि पितृपक्ष के तुरंत बाद नवरात्रि का समय गाड़ियों की खरीद के लिए सबसे अच्छे समय में से एक माना जाता है। यही कारण है कि ऑटोमोबाइल सेक्टर की कंपनियों ने अक्टूबर के महीने से काफी उम्मीद लगा रखी है।

मौजूदा वित्त वर्ष की दूसरी तिमाही में दिल्ली एनसीआर में हाउसिंग सेल में करीब 7 प्रतिशत की गिरावट दर्ज की गई है। बताया जा रहा है कि एक करोड़ रुपये से कम कीमत वाले घरों की उपलब्धता में कमी होने से हाउसिंग सेल में ये गिरावट दर्ज की गई है।

आने वाले दशकों में बड़े स्तर पर भारतीयों का जीवन स्तर बदलेगा : सीतारमण

एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय वित्त और कॉर्पोरेट मामलों की मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने कहा कि भारत अगले पांच साल में अपने प्रति व्यक्ति आय को करीब दोगुना कर लेगा। केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री सीतारमण ने राजधानी के ताज पैलेस होटल में आयोजित कोटिल्व आर्थिक सम्मेलन (केईपी) के तीसरे संस्करण के उद्घाटन सत्र को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि पिछले 10 साल में सरकार द्वारा किए गए संरचनात्मक सुधारों से आने वाले दशकों में आम आदमी के जीवन स्तर में सबसे तेज वृद्धि होगी। हाल के दशकों में भारत का महत्वपूर्ण आर्थिक प्रदर्शन

पांच वर्षों में उसके 10वीं सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था से 5वीं सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था तक पहुंचने में साफ नजर आता है। सीतारमण ने कहा कि भारत के बैंकिंग क्षेत्र को सुदृढ़ता और लचीलापन, परिसंपत्ति गुणवत्ता सुधार, खराब ऋणों के लिए बेहतर प्रावधान, निरंतर पूंजी पर्याप्तता और लाभप्रदता में वृद्धि पर निरंतर नीतिगत ध्यान द्वारा समर्थित है। उन्होंने कहा कि एनपीए अनुपात कई वर्षों के निचले स्तर पर है, बैंकों के पास अब कुशल ऋण वसूली तंत्र है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह सुनिश्चित करना कि वित्तीय प्रणाली स्वस्थ बनी रहे और चक्र लंबे समय तक चले, हमारी एक और मुख्य नीतिगत प्राथमिकता है।

क्ले मॉडलिंग से बनाए अपना करियर



अगर आपको कलाकृतियां बनाने में दिलचस्पी है, आपकी 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 परांगत 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 शॉर्ट 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 जरूरी 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 कॉमनवेलथ गेम्स में स्टीडियम 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 उज्वल 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 यूँ 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 जखी नहीं है। इस काम के लिए आज ढेरों 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। फेशन 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 तारो 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।

जैमोलॉजिस्ट्स 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। जैमोलॉजिस्ट्स 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 जरूरी 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 जरूरी 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 जैमोलॉजिस्ट्स को होनी जरूरी है। जैमोलॉजी कोर्स में दाखिले के लिए न्यूनतम शैक्षणिक योग्यता बारहवीं उत्तीर्ण है। इसके साथ ही अंग्रेजी पर अच्छी पकड़ होनी जरूरी 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 इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ जैमोलॉजी, ईस्ट पार्क रोड, करोल बाग, नई दिल्ली।
- ज्वेलरी डिजाइन एंड टेक्नोलॉजी इंस्टीट्यूट, ए-89, सेक्टर-2, नोएडा।
- नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ फेशन टेक्नोलॉजी, गुलमोहर पार्क के पास, हौजखास, नई दिल्ली।
- इंडियन जैमोलॉजिकल इंस्टीट्यूट, निर्मल टावर्स, 10वां माला, 26 बाराखंबा रोड, नई दिल्ली।
- इंटरनेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ फेशन टेक्नोलॉजी, साउथ एक्सप्रेसन पार्क-1, नई दिल्ली।
- इंडियन डायमंड इंस्टीट्यूट सुमुल डेयरी रोड, सूरत।

कार्यक्षमता बढ़ाने के लिए एकाग्रता जरूरी

अक्सर 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, असुखा की भावना, कृंया, 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 देखें 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।



एसिस्टेंट ग्रेड परीक्षा में संभावनाएं

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 भर्तियाँ की जाती हैं। इसी प्रकार की नियुक्तियाँ 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।

प्रमुख 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 संस्थाएँ और निकाय स्वयं भी ऐसी परीक्षाएँ संचालित करते हैं।

कर्मचारी चयन आयोग द्वारा प्रति वर्ष एसिस्टेंट ग्रेड एजाम 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 एजाम 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। बहुविकल्पीय 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, कपीटिशन पर आधारित पत्रिकाओं तथा नेट पर उपलब्ध सामग्री का लाभ उठाना 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, नंबरस, 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 के खंड में कम्युनिकेशन एवं लेखन कौशल पर आधारित प्रश्न शामिल किए जाते हैं।

■ अंकगणित - कुल सौ 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 कर्ंट 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।

■ कैलकुलेशंस 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।

NEWS BOX

Hockey India League 2.0: A glorious return after 7 years with a historic first for women

New Delhi. In 2017, hockey fans in India were given a big jolt when Hockey India decided to shut down the Hockey India League. The competition, which certainly had its inspiration from the famous Indian Premier League, started in 2013 and captured the imagination of the fans. The Indian team stars were rubbing shoulders with some of the big names in hockey as they put aside their national rivalries for some time and came together with the goal of winning the HIL title. However, things will come to a halt in 2017 for different reasons. While the hockey calendar was considered to be the main factor for HIL going on a hiatus. The arrival of the Hockey Pro League was another factor but the financial constraints for franchises, according to reports, also played a role in the league going away from the fans. But now, HIL is back in a new and improved avatar. And this time, the women's stars will also be back on the turf.

The revamped league was rolled out to the fans on October 4, Friday. The eye-catching news



was the introduction of the Women's HIL, which will be simultaneously with the men's edition. There are going to be 8 teams in the men's one and 6 in the women's edition, meaning that the action is going to be scintillating. Apart from this, the focus on developing young talent will see each team have 4 U-21 players in their squad of 24. There will be 16 Indian players in each team and 8 foreigners. But the biggest factor we could see when the announcement was made the amount of groundwork which has been done by Hockey India before they decided to bring back the league from dead.

Learning from the mistakes of the past

While the announcement was being made a proud Dilip Tirkey, Hockey India president and Bhola Nath Singh, Secretary General, revealed how they went to the International Hockey Federation (FIH) and blocked in a window for the league. FIH would grant the wish and gave them the window from December 28 to February 5 for the next 10 years. Apart from this, they have also decided to have just 2 cities to host both leagues for now.

India would like to forget T20 World Cup match vs New Zealand: Jemimah Rodrigues

New Delhi India batter Jemimah Rodrigues said that the team would like to forget their Women's T20 World Cup 2024 opener against New Zealand. India fell to a shock loss against New Zealand, who had lost 10 games in a row before this. The Harmanpreet Kaur side failed to chase down 161 runs on Friday, October 4, and were bowled out for just 102 runs in Dubai.

Speaking at the post-match press conference, Jemimah said that India needed to pick themselves up quickly and show the character that this team had. After losing to NZ, India have an uphill task of beating Australia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, if they are to qualify for the semi-finals of the tournament. "Today would be the game we'd like to forget. This is a World Cup and we need to keep moving on and picking ourselves up - we can't say stuck on this



game. We need to pick ourselves up and show the character of this team," Rodrigues said in India's post-match press conference. Women's T20 World Cup, IND vs NZ: Match Report

"Going forward I think we need to have the right approach because the tournament's not over. We need to take some positives from this game and a lot of learnings from this game," she further added. On the day, none of India's batters showed up against New Zealand. Jemimah was not happy with her performance as well and stated that it was her responsibility to handle the innings after India had lost Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma and Harmanpreet Kaur for just 42 runs inside the powerplay.

"I know with my game I'm ready to bat anywhere the team wants me. Today, because I was batting well, I had some form in the warm-up games, it was my responsibility to make sure we built a partnership after losing wickets," Jemimah said.

India will bounce back: Fielding coach Munish Bali lifts spirits after tough loss

India lost to New Zealand by 58 runs in their opening match of T20 World Cup
Fielding coach Munish Bali tried to lift the mood in the dressing room
India were bowled out for 102 in Dubai

New Delhi. Fielding coach Munish Bali tried to lift the morale in the Indian dressing room after the former finalists slumped to a big loss in their first match of the Women's T20 World Cup to New Zealand in Dubai on Friday, October 4. India were comfortably outplayed by 58 runs as their hopes of reaching the semi-final from a tough group took a huge blow. Munish Bali kept the mood in the dressing room light while presenting the fielding medal, which has become a customary event for Indian men's and women's teams at major tournaments. After presenting the medal to Jemimah Rodrigues for her electric presence on the field, Munish



said he is confident of India bouncing back like how they buckled up after a few fielding lapses early in the innings. India dropped New Zealand opener Suzie Bates when wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh failed to collect a simple catch in the sixth over. However, they buckled up and saved a handful of runs on the field. Jemimah Rodrigues, Smriti Mandhana, Pooja Vastrakar and Shreyanka Patil guarded the boundary rope well, diving across the field to save crucial runs for the team. "Tough luck girls, I know it was not an ideal start, it's not the start that we wanted.

We will bounce back. The way we fielded, if we erase the sixth over, where we did two errors, after that, we came back into the match. Well done!" he said. "Smriti Mandhana and Shreyanka Patil, excellent catch. Pooja Vastrakar, excellent efforts, fielding around and diving. Three brilliant saves in the boundary. Like how we bounced back in fielding, let's bounce back in the next game," he added. Despite India's fielding brilliance, New Zealand posted a daunting total of 160 on the board after captain Sophie Devine smashed a 37-ball 56. In response,

India's batting lineup struggled to cope with the New Zealand pace attack. The Indian innings was derailed early by spinner Eden Carson, who removed both openers Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana. This double blow set the stage for a challenging chase, which was further complicated when Harmanpreet Kaur, batting at number three for the first time in 18 months, fell for a 14-ball 15 inside the powerplay. The loss of these key wickets left India reeling, and despite some resistance, they were eventually bowled out for 102 in 19 overs.

The New Zealand bowlers were instrumental in securing the victory, with Rosemary Mair being the standout performer. Mair picked up four wickets for 19 runs, while Lea Tahuhu took three wickets for 15 runs. Carson's early double strike also played a crucial role in stifling India's chase.

India's decision to go in with a batter short also seemed to backfire, as they lost six wickets for just 60 runs, highlighting the depth and balance issues in their batting lineup. The likes of Jemimah Rodrigues and Deepti Sharma, who were expected to make significant contributions, were unable to stabilise the innings against the relentless New Zealand bowling attack.

Temba Bavuma proud of team's mature performance after 174-run win vs Ireland

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma was proud of his team's clinical and mature performance in the 2nd ODI match vs Ireland.
South Africa beat Ireland by 174 runs, courtesy of Tristan Stubbs incredible hundred.



New Delhi. South Africa captain Temba Bavuma was proud of his team's maturity after 174-run win against Ireland. South Africa took an unassailable lead in the 3-match ODI series with a strong batting performance led by Tristan Stubbs in Abu Dhabi on Friday, October 4. Speaking after the match, Bavuma lauded Stubbs and Kyle Verreynne for finishing off the match well and said that these kinds of series will help South Africa make their playing pool deeper. "It was very mature and clinical (the

performance) and it was a big improvement from the first game and the kind of performance we would like to see. We spoke about the first 10 overs and swing and obviously with Stubbs and Verreynne taking it deep and then a nice finish towards the end. On all fronts, the guys have put up their hand and showed that they can do the job and that is what you want in a team. Want to have depth and it also puts pressure on the incoming guys as well," Bavuma said after the 2nd ODI. Tristan Stubbs scored an unbeaten career-best 112 from 81 balls as South Africa thumped Ireland by 174 runs to clinch their three-game One Day

International series with a game to spare in a hot and humid Abu Dhabi on Friday. After electing to bat, South Africa posted 343 for four in their 50 overs, propelled by Stubbs' maiden ODI century and 67 from 64 balls by Kyle Verreynne as the pair put on 103 for the third wicket. South Africa have a concern over captain Temba Bavuma, who retired hurt following a fluent 35 with a soft tissue injury in his arm, making him a doubt for the two-Test away tour of Bangladesh that starts on October 21. Ireland could not lay a platform from which to build in their reply and were bowled out for 169, some respectability brought to the score by a 52-run last wicket stand between Graham Hume (21) and number 11 Craig Young (29 not out), who now has the highest score in this series for Ireland. Seamer Lizaad Williams took three early wickets and finished with figures of 3-36, the pick of the South African bowlers for the second game in a row. South Africa have rested several of their regular players for the series.

Rishabh Pant: Australia players unanimously name 'best sledger' from Indian team

New Delhi Australia cricketers unanimously agreed ahead of the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy that Rishabh Pant was the biggest sledger from the Indian team. In a hilarious video on Star Sports, Australia cricketers Travis Head, Marnus Labuschagne and Usman Khawaja called Rishabh a funny man and spoke about his antics from behind the wicket. Pant, who has toured Australia twice for the BGT, will once again be in focus later in November when the bilateral series begins. The wicketkeeper-batter has been one of India's biggest match-winners in the red-ball format and the onus will once again be on him to deliver away from home. In the Star Sports video, the Australian trio chose Pant as the biggest sledger from the Indian team and said that most of the time, what Pant says does not make any sense to them. However, the trio



agreed that the Indian youngster was always funny. BGT 2018-19: Best Sledging Moments In the same video, Pant clarified that he never sledges with a particular purpose but does it because he enjoys it. He also revealed that during the team's meeting with the Australian Prime Minister, even the PM recognised him, saying, "You're the one who sledges." One of Pant's famous sledges came in the 2018-19 BGT, when he took on then-Australia captain Tim Paine and mocked him by calling him the 'temporary captain'. "We have got a special guest here. Have you heard the word temporary captain ever? You [Jadeja] don't need anything to get him out. Come on lads. He loves to talk, that's the only thing he can do. Only talking talking," Pant sledged from behind the stumps which was picked up by the stump mic.

Haryana Election: Manu Bhaker votes for first time, sends powerful message to youth

Paris Olympics double medallist Manu Bhaker cast her vote for the first time in the ongoing Haryana elections. Bhaker sent a powerful message to the youth urging them to vote for the future of the country.



New Delhi Paris Olympics double medallist Manu Bhaker voted for the first time on Saturday, October 4. The 22-year-old Bhaker, who is currently on a break from sports, voted in the Haryana assembly elections. After casting her vote, Bhaker sent out a strong message for the youth of the country, asking them to do their duty and make sure that they play an active part in choosing the leaders of the country. Bhaker, who is currently on a break after bronze medal wins in Paris Olympics, said that

small steps led to big goals and it was important for the country's youth to vote for their favourable leaders, who they felt could bring a change. "I think it is our responsibility being the youth of the country that we vote. Whoever according to you is the best candidate, is the best leader, you should go vote for them. Our small steps lead to big goals and the development is in our hands, because our chosen leaders will only fulfil our dreams," Manu Bhaker told

ANI in an interview. "This is the first time that I voted. I was quite excited and I am glad I've gotten that out of the way now," she further added. While she is away from shooting Manu Bhaker has been active in her social duties as the youth of the country. Bhaker recently hit back at social media trolls with a scathing post on X on September 25. Bhaker slammed the trolls who criticised her for wearing her Olympic medals in every promotional event that she went to. Despite the abuse and mockery, Bhaker had opted to remain quiet this long, but finally broke her silence via her social media account, stating that she wore those medals with pride and it was a way of sharing her journey with her fellow Indians. The two bronze medals I won at the Paris 2024 Olympics belong to India. Whenever I am invited for any event and asked to show these medals.

A New Goal: PR Sreejesh times his transition from player to mentor perfectly

Noida. After a storied career guarding India's goalpost, PR Sreejesh has officially stepped into a new role. No longer clad in the goalkeeper's gear that became his second skin for over 15 years, Sreejesh has swapped the action-packed turf for the sidelines, taking on the role of Director and Mentor for the Delhi SG Pipers, one of the franchises in the newly-revived Hockey India League (HIL), starting December 28. For someone who spent years donning the pads and helmet with unwavering commitment, this transition marks a significant shift. But for Sreejesh, the move was a natural evolution—one that he had been preparing for long before his retirement. "It's not a preparation of one-and-a-half months; it's a preparation of the last few years," he told India Today. "Coming out of the system is tough. Getting out of the player's mentality is really tough." Hockey India League 2.0: All you need to know The decision to leave behind his playing days didn't come easily, but it was carefully timed. Fresh off the high of securing his second Olympic medal with

the Indian men's team at the Paris 2024 Games, Sreejesh had the option to continue competing. Yet, he chose to walk away when the world was still applauding his brilliance. Somewhere in my mind, I wanted to play one or two more seasons of the Hockey India League. But I wanted people to remember me finishing on the top note. Paris was the best," he said.

Sreejesh's retirement, and his decision to not participate in the HIL player auction, signalled that the curtain had closed on one phase of his career—but it also opened the door to an exciting new opportunity.

'I NEEDED TO MOVE ON'

The return of the HIL after a seven-year hiatus had tempted Sreejesh to lace up his boots once more. Initially, he had even signed up for the player auction, before reconsidering and pulling out. "After consulting with everyone—my coaches, my well-wishers, my family - we all came to the conclusion that I had my best time in Paris and I needed to move on," Sreejesh explained. It was at that crucial moment that tennis



legend Mahesh Bhupathi, CEO of the SG Pipers group that owns the Delhi franchise, stepped in. Bhupathi's approach couldn't have been better timed. "At the right time, Mahesh bhai approached me with this offer. He said the right things, and I was convinced that this is the right platform," Sreejesh recalled, his excitement for the new role evident. "I think HIL is the right platform for me to test myself and mature into a different

challenge. I am looking forward to it, let's see where it goes in the next three years."

AMATCH MADE IN SPORTSMANSHIP

Working with Bhupathi, another athlete who understands the pressures and demands of elite sport, was part of the reason Sreejesh was drawn to the Delhi SG Pipers. Bhupathi himself echoed that sentiment, revealing that their shared background as top-level athletes helped build mutual trust. "I think we are both athletes; that definitely played a big part in it," Bhupathi said. "I gave him comfort on our vision. I think it fits right in with what he wanted to do in his second innings as well." Sreejesh had reportedly received offers from several franchises, but Delhi felt like the right fit. "Everyone wants experts," he said, referring to the wave of interest from other teams. "Initially, I declined all the offers because I thought I was going to play the Hockey India League. Then, when I made the decision [to retire], Mahesh bhai was there right in front of me. It was easy for me to work with another sportsman."



Kareena Kapoor

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 Slurp 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 'Jigarhanda 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.