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# The Researchers'

## NEWS BOX

### 2 Bihar men killed after their SUV veers off road in southern Nepal

**Kathmandu** Two Indians died in a road mishap in southern Nepal, police said here on Saturday. Tamanna Seikh, 35, and Irfan Alam, 21, both residents of East Champaran district of Bihar, were killed as the Scorpio jeep in which they were travelling fell down a hilly road in Chandranigahpur section along East West Highway. Four others were injured when the vehicle with Indian number plate met with the accident in Rautahat district of Southern Nepal on Friday evening. Jeep driver Sohail Amir, 22, was among those injured in the incident, and they are all undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Birgunj, police added.

### 1 dead, 7 injured after shooting at US nightclub

**Louisville** One person is dead and seven others were injured after a shooting at a Kentucky nightclub early Saturday morning, authorities say. Louisville Metro Police Department officials said they responded to a call of several people shot at the H20 nightclub in Louisville just before 1 a.m. One man, 40-year-old Joseph D Bowers of Indianapolis, was pronounced dead at the scene. Another adult was transported to UofL Hospital with gunshot wounds police believe to be "critical and life-threatening." Six other people transported themselves to area hospitals with injuries that were not life-threatening.

The Louisville Metro Police Department's Homicide Unit is investigating the case. There are currently no suspects. "The relationship of the victims, if any, is not known at this time," police said in a statement later Saturday.

### Cops stop US man attempting to drown his children at beach

**West Haven.** A man trying to drown two small children at a Connecticut beach early Saturday morning was thwarted by police officers, according to authorities. An officer spotted an SUV parked on a beach in West Haven at about 2.30 a.m. and heard "significant screaming" from the water as he approached. As the officer entered the water, the man continued to drift further away with the two children while screaming. "Stay back!" according to a social media post by the West Haven Police Department. It had become obvious that the man "was deliberately drowning his children," according to the post. Responding officers went out nearly 100 yards (91 meters) from shore and were joined by other rescuers on a fire boat. The first officer to arrive was able to take the children and other officers helped get them to shore. Lifesaving measures were provided to the children and they were taken to a hospital, where they remained in intensive care on Saturday, according to police.

The man was in custody. It was not clear Saturday if he had an attorney. "It is without a doubt the swift response by our patrol officers saved the lives of these children," police said in the post. A call seeking information on possible charges and additional information was made to police.

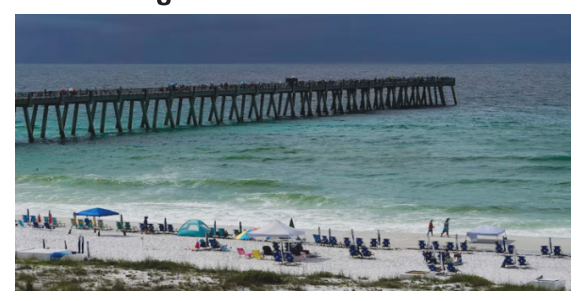
### Yemen's Houthis claim attack on 4 ships at Israel's Haifa port

**Cairo,UPDATED.** Yemen's Houthis said early on Sunday that they had conducted a joint military operation with the Islamic Resistance in Iraq militant group, targeting four ships at Israel's northern Haifa port. CThe Houthi military spokesperson, Yahya Saree, said in a televised statement that the two groups launched a drone attack on two cement tankers and two cargo ships at the Haifa port on Saturday. He said the ships belonged to companies that "violated the ban on entering the ports of occupied Palestine". The Israeli military did not immediately comment, though it had previously denied a similar claim by the Houthis early this month.

Saree also said the Houthis had attacked the Shorthorn Express in the Mediterranean using drones as part of the group's campaign to disrupt shipping in key waterways, which they say is an act of solidarity with Palestinians in the Gaza war. "The two operations successfully achieved their objectives, and the strikes were precise and direct," Saree said.

There was no independent confirmation of strikes, and Reuters could not verify the claims. The Iran-aligned Houthi first launched drone and missile strikes in shipping lanes in November. In dozens of attacks, they have sunk two vessels, seized another and killed at least three seafarers.

### 3 Alabama men dead after becoming distressed while swimming at Florida beach



**Panama City Beach.** Three Alabama men have died from likely drowning after becoming distressed while swimming at a Florida Panhandle beach, authorities said Saturday morning.

The young men had travelled to the Panama City Beach area Friday evening, the Bay County Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post. The sheriff's office received an emergency call about the distressed swimmers shortly after 8 pm, officials said. The US Coast Guard and others began rescue efforts. The men, who were not immediately identified, were found separately and eventually pronounced dead at local hospitals. Earlier this week, single red flags had been posted at the beach, indicating high-hazard surf and rip current conditions.

Thursday, a Pennsylvania couple visiting Florida with their six children drowned after they were caught in a rip current while swimming. The man and woman were caught in the current on Hutchinson Island, along Florida's southeast coast, the Martin County Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post.

## Floods maroon Iowa, heatwave in other states: US faces double whammy

**The US faced contrasting weather with Iowa getting hit heavy rain in the past few days while the remaining parts of the country reeled under an intense heatwave and the weather office issuing a heat advisory for the next few days.**

but was called off when boats were able to reach stranded residents. "We've had so much rain here," he said. "We had four inches last night in an hour and a half. Our ground just cannot take anymore." Governor Kim Reynolds declared a disaster for 21 counties in northern Iowa, including Sioux County, which includes Rock Valley. In a drone video posted by the local sheriff, no streets were visible, just roofs and treetops poking above the water.



In South Dakota, Gov. Kristi Noem declared an emergency after the southeastern part of the state received heavy rainfall. The town of Canton, 48 kilometres southeast of Sioux Falls, has received 18 inches of rain. Several highways were closed, including a key stretch of Interstate 29 south of Sioux Falls that later reopened. Sioux Falls, the state's largest city, had more than seven inches of rain in three days.

degrees Celsius were predicted for Washington, DC, and Richmond, Virginia, while Philadelphia; Newark, New Jersey; Columbus, Ohio; and Detroit were bracing for temperatures above 32 degrees Celsius. Heat-related hospital visits in New York state lately were 500 per cent higher than on the average June day, according to the Department of Health. "We still have this prolonged heat wave across portions of the Ohio Valley and into the Northeast," weather service meteorologist Marc Chenard said. "We get a little bit of relief by early in the week, at least in the eastern US, the Northeast, but in general above-normal temperatures are going to cover a large portion of the country even into next week." In southeastern Michigan, DTE Energy said 7,400 customers remained without power as of Saturday afternoon due to storm-related outages, down from 75,000 earlier in the week. A heat index of 37.8 Celsius didn't stop Florida couple Judy and Bill Watson from watching the Tigers play the White Sox at Detroit's Comerica Park.

**Washington** Floodwaters forced people out of their homes in parts of Iowa, the result of weeks of rain, while much of the US longed for relief on Saturday from yet another round of extraordinary heat.

Sirens blared at 2 am in Rock Valley, Iowa, with a population of 4,200, where people in hundreds of homes were told to get out as the Rock River could no longer take the rain that had slammed the region. The city lacked running water because wells were unusable. Mayor Kevin Van Otterloo said a state helicopter was on its way to help

the US, the miserable grip of heat and humidity continued. The National Weather Service said roughly 15 million people were under a heat warning — the highest level of alert — while another 90 million were under a heat advisory. Millions across the country have had their lives disrupted by stretches of unusually high temperatures. Last year, the US experienced the most heatwaves since 1936, experts said. An AP analysis of data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that excessive heat contributed to more than 2,300 deaths, the highest in 45 years of records. Temperatures around 37.8

Even though the rain is slowing down, we need to keep vigilant," said Noem. "The worst of the flooding along our rivers will be Monday and Tuesday." Elsewhere in

## Iran overturns death sentence of rapper over lyrics about Mahsa Amini's death

**Dubai,** Iran's Supreme Court overturned the death sentence of a government critic and a popular hip-hop artist, Toomaj Salehi, who came to fame over his lyrics about the death in police custody of Mahsa Amini in 2022, his lawyer Amir Raisian said Saturday.

international criticism from the US and UN experts, who condemned it as a sign of Tehran's continuing crackdown against all dissent following years of mass protests. Salehi was released from



In a post on X, Raisian said the court assessed the case and found Salehi's past six years in prison as "excessive" since the punishment was more than what was allowed by law. He added that another branch of the court will now review the case. Salehi's death sentence in April by a Revolutionary Court in the central city of Isfahan created confusion as even Iran's state-run IRNA news agency and the judiciary did not formally confirm it. Such courts in Iran often involve closed-door hearings with evidence produced by a secretary and give limited rights to those on trial. The news quickly drew

prison last November after spending a year there on charges that his supporters said were based on the hip-hop artist's music and participation in the protests that broke out in Iran over the death of Mahsa Amini, 22. Amini died in the custody of the country's

morality police after being detained for wearing her hijab too loosely. Salehi rapped about Amini in one video, saying, "Someone's crime was dancing with her hair in the wind." In another verse, he predicts the downfall of Iran's theocracy.

Shortly after his release last year, Salehi was sent to prison again after saying in a video message that he was tortured after his detention in October 2022. State media at the time released a video showing him blindfolded and apologising for his words, a statement likely to have been made under duress. Later, in 2023, a court sentenced Salehi to more than six years in prison.

UN investigators say Iran was responsible for Amini's death, and that it violently put down largely peaceful protests in a months-long security crackdown that killed more than 500 people and saw over 22,000 detained.

## Egypt cracks down on tourism companies after death of 530 pilgrims in Mecca

**The Egyptian authorities have launched action against several tourism companies after the death of at least of its 530 citizens during this year's haj pilgrimage to Mecca**



**Cairo,UPDATED** Egypt withdrew the operating licenses of 16 tourism companies and referred them to the public prosecutor, accusing them of being responsible for the deaths of Egyptian pilgrims in Mecca, a crisis unit tasked with addressing the situation said on Saturday.

deaths were confirmed as a result of chronic illness. The tourism companies which facilitated the travel of those who died did not provide them with services of any kind, including medical, the statement said without naming the companies involved. The agencies are being blamed for sending pilgrims to Saudi on personal visit visas, rather than haj visas that allow access to Mecca where haj rituals take place. Medical services offered by Saudi

authorities to alleviate the hardships of the pilgrimage are not offered to those traveling with a personal visa. The pilgrims who died had to walk through the desert into Mecca to avoid arrest or deportation, the statement added. Egyptian authorities also say those travel agencies did not provide the pilgrims with "appropriate accommodation," adding that this caused pilgrims' "exhaustion due to the high temperatures." Egyptian authorities also documented 31 deaths among registered Egyptian pilgrims, citing "chronic diseases" as the cause of deaths. Most of those who died were unregistered, the statement said. In recent days hundreds of people from different countries have died in punishing conditions for the haj pilgrimage in the Saudi city, where temperatures have at times exceeded 51 degrees Celsius (124 Fahrenheit).

## Trump pitches for Christians vote, touches briefly on abortion at faith event

Donald Trump called on religious supporters to go to the polls in a speech to conservative Christian activists on Saturday, but mentioned only briefly the politically sensitive issue of abortion, a topic of central importance to the group. Speaking at an event organised by the Faith & Freedom Coalition in Washington, the former president reiterated his position that abortion restrictions should be decided by voters on a state-by-state basis. That stance contradicts the view of most conservative Christians, and Trump's reticence to push for or even discuss additional federal regulations speaks to how sensitive the issue has become for Republicans. Trump has repeatedly said Republicans risk electoral defeat if they take too stringent a line on abortion rights. The party's underwhelming performance in the 2022 congressional midterm elections has been widely attributed to the Supreme Court's Dobbs ruling that year, which removed most constitutional protections for the procedure. "We've gotten abortion out of the federal government and back to the states. The people will decide, and that's the way it should be," Trump said.

"Like Ronald Reagan, I believe in exceptions for the life of the mother - rape and incest... You have to go with your heart. You have to also remember you have to get elected," Trump said. Trump's comments on abortion appeared to receive a lukewarm reception. Some in the crowd broke out in chants of "No dead babies!" as he discussed the topic. But there was no indication the heavily pro-Trump audience would support another candidate as the November 5 general election rematch with Democratic President Joe Biden approaches.

Trump received heavy applause when he discussed several other proposals, including eliminating the Department of Education, a measure favoured by many conservative Christians who accuse the federal government of attacking faith-based teaching methods. At multiple points during his speech, Trump called on Christians to show up to the polls in November, prompting chants of "Vote!" from the crowd. Trump has claimed credit for appointing three conservative justices to the Supreme Court who helped overturn the Roe v. Wade decision two years ago this Monday, eliminating a nationwide right to abortion in a oment of triumph for conservatives. Trump has repeatedly said he would not support a federal ban on abortion, however, preferring to leave the issue to individual states. Ralph Reed, the founder and chairman of the Faith & Freedom Coalition and a key Trump ally, has previously said his group would continue to work towards restrictions at both the state and federal levels.

**ON TO PHILADELPHIA** Later on Saturday, Trump will hold a campaign rally at Temple University in a historically Black area of Philadelphia, long a stronghold for Democrats.

## Hindujas 'appalled' by Swiss court's jail term order, file appeal

**Four members of the Hinduja family, the UK's richest, are sentenced to up to 4.5 years for exploiting servants over human trafficking charges. It is claimed they spent more on their pet dog than on an Indian help's salary. The Hinduja family have countered the charges.**

family's spokesperson said. "It may be noted that the case has no complainants left anymore and they had declared in the court that they were led into signing statements that they didn't even understand. They had neither intended to nor initiated such proceedings. All of them further testified that the four Hinduja Family Members treated them with 'respect, dignity and like family'," the spokesperson added.



**London** Britain's wealthiest family, the Hinduja, have said they are "appalled" by a Swiss court's ruling of jail terms for some members and have filed an appeal in a higher court challenging the verdict finding them guilty of exploiting vulnerable domestic workers from India employed at their villa in Geneva.

Earlier on Friday, in a statement issued on behalf of the family by their lawyers from Switzerland stressed their clients had been acquitted of all human trafficking charges. They also dismissed media reports that any members of the family faced detention after court reports from Geneva said the four were sentenced to between four and four-and-a-half years in prison. "Our clients have been acquitted of all human trafficking charges. We are appalled and disappointed by the rest of the decision made in this court of first instance, and we have, of course, filed an appeal to the higher court, thereby making this part of the judgement not effective," reads the statement signed by lawyers Yael Hayat and Robert Assael and Roman Jordan. "Under Swiss law, the presumption of innocence is paramount till a final judgement by the highest

adjudicating authority is enforced. Contrary to some media reports, there is no effective detention for any members of the family," they said. The lawyers also pointed out that "it should also be recalled that the plaintiffs in this case had withdrawn their respective complaints after declaring to the court that they had never intended to be involved in such proceedings." "The family has full faith in the judicial process and remains confident that the truth will prevail," they conclude. The statements follow a hearing in the Swiss city of Geneva after prosecutors opened the case for alleged illegal activity, including exploitation, human trafficking and violation of Switzerland's labour laws. The family members were accused of seizing the workers' passports, barring

them from leaving the villa and forcing them to work very long hours for a pittance in Switzerland, among other things. Some workers allegedly spoke only Hindi and were paid their wages in rupees in banks back in India that they could not access. During the trial, prosecutors alleged the family spent more on their dog than on their servants.

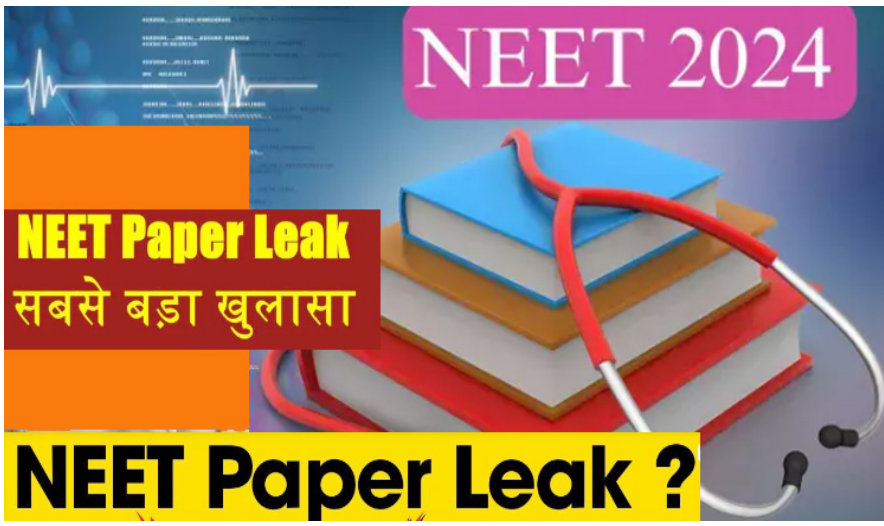
The family's legal team had countered the allegations and told the court the staff were treated respectfully and provided with accommodation. According to The Sunday Times Rich List released last month, the UK-based Hinduja family once again emerged as the country's richest, with wealth estimated at around GBP 37.196 billion. They saw this tally increase over the previous year in the wake of the opening of the brand-new luxury OWO Raffles Hotel in the heart of London. The UK-based family's group of companies, headed by chairman G P Hinduja, operates in 48 countries and across several sectors - automotive, oil and specialty chemicals, banking and finance, IT, cyber security, healthcare, trading, infrastructure project development, media and entertainment, power, and real estate.



## Organized Gang from Jharkhand's Hazaribagh Leaks NEET-UG Exam Paper: EOU Bihar

**RNS I Ranchi:** The Economic Offence Unit (EOU) of Bihar police announced today that the NEET-UG examination paper was leaked by a professional interstate organized gang from Hazaribagh, Jharkhand. Thirteen members of this gang have been arrested by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the case.

In a press statement, the EOU revealed that the paper leak resulted from tampering with the standard operating procedures (SOP) for transportation, storage, handover, and takeover as established by the National Testing Agency (NTA). The SOP was not adhered to at the examination center in Hazaribagh, leading to the breach.



The investigation found that the leaked question paper, which surfaced in Patna before the exam date, originally belonged to the Oasis School examination center at Kallu Chowk on Mandai Road in Hazaribagh.

Two masterminds behind the paper leak have been arrested, including Baldev Kumar alias Chintu, apprehended yesterday in Deoghar, Jharkhand. The SIT has also interrogated four NEET aspirants among the 15 suspected

candidates involved in the case. Out of six individuals arrested in Deoghar, two were found to be innocent. The EOU stated that the case will now be handed over to the CBI for further investigation.

## CCL holds Blood Donation Camp in North Karanpura Area



**RNS I Ranchi:** Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) hosted a blood donation camp today at Central Hospital Dakra in the North Karanpura (NK) area. The event was a joint initiative between Civil Society Dakra and the NK area, organized as part of the Swachhta Pakhwada-2024 campaign. Harsh Nath Mishra, Director (Personnel) of CCL, served as the chief guest and led by example, donating

blood himself. His participation was aimed at inspiring the public to support this noble cause. The camp saw a commendable turnout, with around 150 individuals donating blood. General Manager Sujit Kumar, along with other NK area officials, attended the event, highlighting the significance of community involvement in such initiatives.

## Govt. hands over NEET-UG exam paper leak case to CBI



**RNS I New Delhi:** The government has transferred the investigation into the alleged compromise, including paper leaks, of the NEET-UG 2024 examination to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The CBI is also probing the UGC-NET exam held on June 18, which was canceled two days later on June 20 due to integrity concerns. An FIR was registered by the CBI on June 20.

The Union Ministry of Education stated, "Certain cases of alleged irregularities/cheating/impersonation/malpractices have been reported regarding the NEET examination. For transparency in the conduct of the examination process, the Ministry of Education, after a review, has decided to entrust the matter to the CBI for a comprehensive investigation."

The ministry emphasized the government's commitment to maintaining the sanctity of examinations and protecting the interests of students. It reiterated that strict action will be taken against any individual or organization involved.

The NEET-UG was conducted on May 5 across 4,750 centers nationwide, with around 24 lakh candidates. The results were announced on June 4, ten days ahead of schedule. Allegations of question paper leaks and malpractices emerged shortly after the results, with over 67 students achieving maximum marks, some from the same examination centers.

Media reports indicated that some candidates claimed to have received question papers on the eve of the exam. An initial police investigation uncovered irregularities and paper leaks in Bihar. On Saturday, the UP STF arrested Ravi Atri, the alleged mastermind behind the paper leak.

In response to these allegations, the Union Health Ministry postponed the NEET-PG entrance examination, originally scheduled for June 23, and the CSIR-NET, citing "precautionary measures" to maintain the integrity of competitive exams.

Amid the controversy, NTA Director General Subodh Singh was removed from his position on Saturday, with senior bureaucrat Pradeep Singh Kharola appointed as the new head of the agency. Additionally, a seven-member high-level panel, led by former ISRO chief K Radhakrishnan, has been formed to review the NTA's operations and recommend exam reforms.

## Bokaro district team, all set for 14th Jharkhand State Senior Swimming Competition



**RNS I Bokaro:** The Bokaro district team for the upcoming 14th Jharkhand State Senior Swimming Competition has been finalized. The event, scheduled to take place in Jamshedpur on June 29, follows rigorous selection trials organized by the Bokaro District Swimming Association. These trials were held on Sunday at the Delhi Public School (DPS) Bokaro swimming pool in Sector-4, with over 50 participants from various schools and locations. The trials began early in the morning, with enthusiastic swimmers diving into the pool to demonstrate their

skills. After thorough evaluations, 13 swimmers were selected based on their outstanding performance across various events. Dr. A.S. Gangwar, President of the Bokaro District Swimming Association and Principal of DPS Bokaro, announced the selected team members, comprising seven boys and six girls: Aditya Singh, Ishan Alok, Aranya Rohan, Varunaditya Roy, Ankit Basu, Pragnan Kumar, Anand Raj Devnath, Anubhuti Jha, Priyashree Dubey, Anushka Yashi, Supriya Singh, Gurleen, and Aditri Chauhan. Coach Rupesh Kumar will accom-

pany the team to Jamshedpur. The Bokaro district team will compete at the JRD Sports Complex Swimming Pool in Jamshedpur, showcasing their abilities in freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly stroke, freestyle relay, and medley relay events. Dr. Gangwar extended his best wishes to the team, noting that top performers from this competition will be considered for Jharkhand's national teams, set to participate in the 77th Glenmark Senior National Swimming Championship 2024, organized by the Swimming Federation of India in September.

## Again an under construction bridge collapses in Motihari (Bihar); Costing Rs. 1.5 Crores



**RNS I Motihari (Bihar):** On Saturday night, a bridge under construction in the Ghodasahan block of East Champaran district collapsed, with a construction cost of Rs. 1.5 crores. This marks the third such incident within a week, raising serious questions about the integrity and quality of bridge construction in the region. The bridge, which was being constructed on the

road from Amwa to Chainpur station, collapsed on the same day it was cast. This incident has prompted concerns over the repeated failures of newly constructed bridges. The RCC bridge was being built by Dharendra Construction Pvt. Ltd. Srikrishnanagar. The collapse follows the earlier incidents of two different bridges failing in Araria and Siwan earlier this

week. With the collapse in Motihari, a total of three bridges have fallen within a week in Bihar, highlighting significant issues in construction practices and quality control.

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## Suman Pandey Appeals to Audience to Watch 'Kalima' on Hungama OTT

**Mumbai:** Actress and producer Suman Pandey has urged audiences to watch the Hindi film Kalima, produced by Sanware Films, on Hungama OTT. She appealed for viewers' love and support for this female-oriented film.

Kalima tells the story of lovers who defy their families to marry, with the girlfriend facing scorn and conspiracy in her lover's house. Despite humiliation, she continues to struggle and fight through her life. Directed by Anubhav Srivastava, the film carries a significant message along with its entertainment value. Audiences have appreciated the film, sharing positive feedback with Pandey. The cast includes Rajesh Prajapati, Radhika Rajput, Radina, Shubham Tiwari, Adil Mallik, Amita Sinha, Siddharth Shah, Ritika Shah, and Suman Pandey in the lead role.

## Bombay High Court Clears 'Hamare Baarah' of Charges

**Mumbai:** The Bombay High Court has exonerated the film 'Hamare Baarah' from accusations of negatively portraying the Muslim community and misinterpreting the Quran, citing insufficient evidence to support these claims.

The ruling came after numerous petitions sought to ban the film, starring Annu Kapoor, alleging that it contained offensive content towards Muslims and distorted Quranic teachings. The court, however, found no substance in these allegations.

In its judgment, the High Court emphasized that 'Hamare Baarah' is a 'thought-provoking film' and acknowledged the discernment of the Indian audience, who are not easily influenced."

The court noted that the movie aims to empower women, highlighting a scene where a Maulana misinterprets the Quran and a Muslim character challenges this misinterpretation. According to The Indian Express, the court



stated, "the movie is, in fact, aimed at the empowerment of women."

The court urged citizens to critically evaluate such portrayals rather than blindly accepting the opinions of religious figures. The film's release had previously been delayed to remove objectionable scenes as mandated by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).

Following these revisions, the Supreme Court intervened in response to petitions from the film's opponents, further delaying the release and direct-

ing the Bombay High Court to take appropriate action. The division bench, led by Justices B P Colabawalla and Firdosh Pooniwalla, acknowledged that the initial trailer, which was subsequently removed, sparked controversy. The court also fined the film's producers for releasing the trailer without the necessary CBFC certification. This decision concludes a legal battle that has stirred discussions on artistic freedom and communal sensitivities in Indian cinema.

## Dr. Shyamaprasad Mukherjee Evokes Image of Hindu Leader: Madhu Koda



**RNS I Guu:** The death anniversary of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, the esteemed educationist, thinker, and founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, was observed at the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh Guava Office in East Jharkhand State. The event was chaired by Chief Minister Madhu and led by BJP leaders Shambhu Paswan, R.K. Pradhan, and Sameer Pathak. The program saw the participation of dozens of workers, all united in their devotion and respect for Dr. Mukherjee. Former Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Madhu Koda, paid tribute to Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee alongside BJP and BMS workers. In his address, Koda highlighted Mukherjee's image as a Hindu leader and

his foundational role in the Jana Sangh, which later evolved into the Bharatiya Janata Party. He emphasized Mukherjee's significant contributions to the principles of "one country, one symbol, one constitution, and one leader," and his pivotal role in India's development.

Koda also reflected on the state of the nation before and after independence, noting the dual citizenship imposed by the British. He praised Mukherjee as a true citizen of India who established the Jana Sangh to protect national self-respect. Koda credited the BJP's efforts in changing Article 370, which has led to the elimination of dual policies and ensured that every Indian is now free from such constraints.

## Sheikh Hasina, Modi Announce New Train, Bus Services Between India & Bangladesh



**RNS I New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have announced the launch of a new train service between Rajshahi and Kolkata, as well as a new bus route between Chittagong and Kolkata. Sheikh Hasina was the

first foreign leader to visit India since Narendra Modi took office for his third term. Hasina visited India from June 21 to June 22, following her earlier visit this month to attend Modi's oath-taking ceremony. Modi's return to power

marks a record third term in office after a seven-phased election. This year, Hasina also returned to power in Bangladesh for her fourth consecutive term.

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# Shah launches fast-track immigration for pre-verified Indians, OCIs

**New Delhi:** Union home minister Amit Shah on Saturday launched a special programme to fast-track the immigration process for pre-verified Indian nationals and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders. The system, known as the "Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme" (FTI-TTP), is a "visionary initiative" of the government, thoughtfully designed for Indian nationals and OCI cardholders, Shah said. The FTI-TTP is similar to the Global Entry Programme offered by the United States, which allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travellers upon arrival at select US airports, officials said. The home minister said the initiative would provide more facilities for Indian nationals and OCI passengers coming from other countries. The launch of the programme is one of the key agendas set for "Viksit Bharat by 2047" and reflects the Narendra Modi government's commitment to enhancing travel convenience and efficiency for everyone, he added. The home minister further said the facility would be available free of cost for all passengers. The FTI-TTP will be launched

at 21 major airports in the country. In the first phase, it will be introduced at seven major airports — Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kochi, and Ahmedabad. The programme is designed for faster, smoother, and safer immigration clearance for international travellers. Eligible passengers will be allowed to use e-gates and bypass regular immigration queues for a seamless journey. Passengers will need to apply online and submit their biometrics (fingerprint and facial image), along with other required information as specified in the application form. FTI registration will be valid for a maximum of five years or until the validity of the passport, whichever comes first. Travellers can apply through the government website [www.ftittp.mha.gov.in](http://www.ftittp.mha.gov.in) and provide the required details, which will be verified by the Bureau of Immigration. Approved applicants will receive a message to



schedule an appointment for providing their biometric details. Applicants may provide their biometrics at designated international airports in India or at the nearest Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), according to the prior appointment schedule. Biometrics are compulsory for completing the application process. Applicants should ensure a minimum passport validity of six months while applying for the FTI-TTP. The membership of the programme will be co-terminus with the passport validity. The programme will run on e-gates or

automated border gates, which will minimise human intervention in the immigration clearance process, according to an official statement. The programme will be implemented in two phases. In the first phase, Indian citizens and OCI cardholders will be covered, and in the second phase, foreign travellers will be included.

The objective of the programme is to make international travel easy and secure by developing world-class immigration facilities through an accelerated immigration pathway for international travellers screened through automated gates (e-gates). The FTI-TTP will be implemented through an online portal, and the Bureau of Immigration will be the nodal agency for the fast-track immigration of various categories of travellers under the program. After the necessary verification, a White List of "Trusted Travellers" will be generated and fed for implementation through the e-gates. The biometrics of a "Trusted Traveller" passing through the e-

gates will be captured at the FRRO office or during the passage of the registered traveller through the airport. Under the process, as soon as a "registered passenger" reaches an e-gate, they will scan their boarding pass issued by the airline to get their flight details. The passport will also be scanned, and the biometrics of the passenger authenticated at the e-gate. Once the genuine identity of the passenger is established and the biometric authentication done, the e-gate will open automatically, and immigration clearance will be deemed granted. The programme aims to significantly reduce congestion at airports by offering expedited immigration clearance for pre-verified travellers, both arriving and departing, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) said in a statement. Delhi airport's terminal 3 is equipped with eight electronic gates — four for arrivals and four for departures — to facilitate a seamless experience for the program participants.

The number of counters may increase based on demand, DIAL said. The Union home ministry also shared a support helpdesk email ID: [india.ftittp-boi@mha.gov.in](mailto:india.ftittp-boi@mha.gov.in).

## Modi, Hasina ink 10 pacts to boost bilateral, biz ties

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina signed 10 agreements covering various domains from space cooperation to rail connectivity and maritime collaboration. Among the significant announcements, both nations agreed to start negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (free trade pact) and the renewal of the 1996 Ganga water sharing pact, with a technical team from India set to visit Bangladesh for discussions on the Teesta river waters. India also committed to open an assistant high commission in Rangpur to serve the north-western region of Bangladesh. The bilateral talks underscored a commitment to bolster defence ties, including initiatives for modernising the Bangladesh armed forces and enhancing cooperation in counter-terrorism efforts. Additionally, India announced the introduction of e-medical visas for Bangladeshi citizens seeking medical treatment in India.



Modi highlighted the development of a "Maitri" satellite and emphasised future collaborations in areas such as Green Partnership, Digital Partnership, Blue Economy, and Space. Other important announcements included the commencement of export of 40 MW of power from Nepal to Bangladesh through the Indian

power grid, construction of an Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Sirajganj in Bangladesh under Indian grant assistance, a new train service between Rajshahi and Kolkata, a new bus service between Chittagong and Kolkata, and commencement of goods train services between (border areas) Gede-Darsana and Haldibari-Chilahati upto Dalgao. It was also decided to launch a Muktiyoddha (freedom-fighter) Scheme for medical patients with an upper ceiling of Rs 8 lakh per patient, and also create 350 training slots in India for Bangladeshi police officers. India also decided to further enhance scholarships, training and capacity building for Bangladesh and its people. A Commercial agreement between the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Bangladesh Bank for launch of UPI (Indian digital payment platform). Bangladesh also joined the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.

## Mayawati's nephew Akash Anand reappointed BSP's national coordinator

**Lucknow.** Akash Anand, the nephew of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati, was on Sunday reappointed as the party's national coordinator, weeks after the party suffered a rout in the Lok Sabha elections. On May 7, Mayawati sacked Akash Anand, 28, saying he needed to reach "maturity" before assuming the role of the party's national coordinator. She also said that Anand Kumar, Akash Anand's father, would continue in his role in the party. The decision to reappoint Akash Anand to the post came during a review meeting of the party's dismal performance in the Lok Sabha elections.

The BSP drew a blank in the general elections, its worst-ever performance in the party's history. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the BSP won 10 of 80 parliamentary constituencies in Uttar Pradesh after contesting in alliance with Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party (SP). Sunday's meeting was chaired by Mayawati and attended by Akash Anand, BSP leaders, party coordinators and presidents of district units of Uttar Pradesh. On December 10 last year, Mayawati declared Akash Anand as



her successor. Akash Anand, who has done his MBA in London, was given charge of the party's national coordinator. According to BSP sources, Akash Anand was given the responsibility of reviewing the party's performance. All coordinators will give their review reports to Akash Anand. Earlier, Akash Anand was the BSP's star campaigner while he was in-charge of boosting the party's prospects across the country, excepting Uttar Pradesh. But now, the 28-year-old will be in-charge of Uttar Pradesh, sources said.

It is believed that Akash Anand will take charge of everything from ticket distribution to campaigning in the by-elections to be held in Uttar Pradesh. The party will also contest in all assembly bypolls, according to BSP sources. It is believed that this time Akash Anand's feedback will be the most important during ticket distribution. Sources said Mayawati had already made preparations to appoint Akash Anand as the national coordinator about a week ago. She also told his nephew to be more restrained. On June 16, Akash Anand came to Lucknow where Mayawati discussed all previous issues with him, sources said.

## NEET-PG Exam Row: 'Another Example Of Ruined Education System Under Modi...', Says Rahul Gandhi | Top Updates

**New Delhi:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday over the postponement of NEET-PG exam, calling it "another unfortunate example of how the education system has been ruined." Health Ministry announced on Saturday that it has decided to postpone the NEET-PG entrance examination, which was due to take place on June 23, as a "precautionary measure" in light of recent allegations about the integrity of various competitive exams. Gandhi wrote in Hindi on 'X', "Now NEET PG is also postponed! This is another unfortunate example of the ruined education system under the rule of Narendra Modi. "In BJP rule, students are not forced to 'study' to make their career but are forced to 'fight' with the government to save their future," he said.



biggest threat to the future of students - we must save the future of the country from it. Under the BJP's administration, instead of creating their professions through education, students are obliged to fight the government to secure their future," Gandhi added.

Now it is clear - Modi, who used to silently watch the spectacle every time, is completely helpless in front of the paper leak racket and education mafia, the Congress MP from Rae Bareilly said. Narendra Modi's incompetent government is the

**Lead Probe Against Agency**  
Faced with criticism over alleged malpractices and fraud in competitive exams, the Centre on Saturday removed National Testing Agency (NTA) Director General Subodh Singh and appointed a seven-member panel led by former ISRO chairman K Radhakrishnan to investigate the agency's operations and recommend exam reforms. The June edition of the Joint Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and University Grants Commission National Eligibility Test (CSIR-UGC-NET) was postponed on Friday due to unavoidable circumstances and logistics. UGC-NET was cancelled on Wednesday due to allegations that the exam's integrity had been

jeopardised. Opposition parties have also cited irregularities in the NEET-UG medical entrance exam, the results of which were revealed by the National Testing Agency on June 4. The CBI has been tasked with investigating the suspected anomalies in this examination.

## "Hindus Don't Indulge In Communalism, Only One Religion...": Himanta Sarma

**Himanta Biswa Sarma said minority-dominated areas may have no roads, no electricity, but they have been voting overwhelmingly for Congress and did so again.**

**Guwahati:** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday claimed that members of the Bangladesh-origin minority community overwhelmingly voted for the Congress in this Lok Sabha election, without considering the development work done for them by the BJP-led governments at the Centre and in the state. He also alleged that it is the only community in Assam which indulges in communalism. Speaking at a felicitation programme of winning candidates of the BJP and its allies at the party's state headquarters here, he said the ruling alliance garnered nearly 47 per cent of the votes polled, while Congress and its allies bagged 39 per cent of the votes. The BJP-AGP-UPPL coalition won 11 out of the 14 Lok Sabha seats in the state, with Congress bagging the remaining three.



"If we analyse the 39 per cent votes of the Congress, it is not spread across the state. Fifty per cent of it is concentrated in 21 assembly segments which are minority dominated. In these minority-dominated segments, BJP got 3 per

cent votes," he claimed. "This proves that Hindus do not indulge in communalism. If anyone indulges in communalism in Assam, it is only one community, one religion. No other religion does it," the Chief Minister asserted, without naming any sect.

He said that the minority-dominated areas may have no roads, no electricity, but they have been voting overwhelmingly for Congress and did so again. In contrast, though BJP has been working for the Assamese people and tribals, these communities have not voted 100 per cent for the saffron party, he added. "Except in Karimganj, if we consider the centres with majority Bangladesh-origin people, 99 per cent of votes have gone to Congress," he said.

"They (minority people) may be residing in houses given by (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi, availing electricity and sanitation facilities provided by Modi, but when they go to vote, they vote for Congress," Mr Sarma claimed. He maintained that the Bangladesh-origin community will vote for Congress because they want to "control the state in the next 10 years". Mr Sarma alleged that the

members of the community attacked a police station in Lakhimpur, a village in Kokrajhar and tried to encroach land in Kokrajhar when the BJP government was "inactive" since the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) was in place.

When BJP government will not be there, one can only imagine how many such attacks will happen," he added. The Chief Minister said the BJP and its allies had won 92 out of 126 assembly segments in this Lok Sabha election, which was the highest ever for any ruling alliance in the state. "This time, we got 47 per cent votes. Our target will be to get 50 per cent of the votes in 2026 state polls," the BJP leader added. Mr Sarma asserted that BJP is into politics for nation building and will continue to work for development of all parts, irrespective of whether its candidate had won or not from those areas.



## Service before self makes a difference

OUR Prime Minister, who is easily the most popular individual in the country even after the setback his party suffered in the Lok Sabha elections, often advocates a positive approach to men and matters. In this article, I shall attempt to do just that. Before the elections were announced, a serving member of the IPS, Haryana DGP Shatruijeet Kapur, sent me the manuscript of his book. He wanted me to read it and send my comments, part of which he intended to use in the blurb of the yet-to-be-published book, titled *Wired for Success*. But the book is not about his experiences in the police but about his three-year stint as the Chairman and Managing Director of two Haryana power distribution companies, a job traditionally handled by IAS officers.

There are numerous lessons in the book for those in high offices in the administration and the police. I dare say that the corporate world would also benefit since management principles were fully in play during Shatruijeet's tenure.

He is a product of the IIT, like many IAS and IPS officers in the past few decades. He was identified by a discerning Chief Minister as a man of integrity, competence and dedication to the job at hand. There are many such men and women in the IAS and the IPS, but politicians whose only goal is power often overlook them for more 'committed' officers who are willing to help them further their political careers, something that Sardar Patel had warned against. Officers with a conscience should not lose heart when they are overlooked for crucial appointments and preference is given to 'committed' officers. A time comes when sycophancy does not work. Those in power then go looking for the honest and the competent to sort out the mess. Then those whose commitment is not to their political masters but to the people at large are in demand.

I was delighted to learn from Shatruijeet's book that then Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had put the people's interests above his own. PM Narendra Modi has included him in the Union Cabinet. This is a wise choice. Both power distribution companies had been reporting massive financial losses year after year. The debts incurred by them had hit the roof, forcing the state Finance Minister to "tear out his hair" and the people to bear larger tariff costs, irregular electric supply and frequent breakdowns.

The IAS fraternity was not happy when the job was entrusted to an IPS colleague. They demonstrated their displeasure in myriad ways, which are listed in the book, but the CM stood firm. Rivalry and jealousy are normal human failings. Wise officers should shun such feelings and tendencies. Politicians take advantage of officers' rivalries to perpetuate their hold on power. The people, for whose betterment both politicians and government officials are supposed to work, do not care to know who is senior to whom. They are interested in work being done. They instinctively know which officer is working for their welfare and who is working to satisfy his own ego or, more often, for his financial prosperity. When he took over the reins of the discoms, Shatruijeet met his entire staff, including workers on the ground, during his tours. He clearly spelt out his priorities and methods to achieve goals to each of them. He listened to those who offered sage advice, their ranks notwithstanding. He took over the entire gamut of promotions and transfers, the main cause of dissatisfaction in all government services. Those who performed and met goals were rewarded with cutting-edge postings that mattered. A whole army of favoured ones revelling in political or other patronage, who managed their postings as a matter of entitlement, were left out in the cold. The principles of participative management and just and impartial treatment in the matter of rewards and punishments got every employee, big or small, on board. They began working as a team, a goal which all good leaders strive for. It was clear to me that the two discoms were turned round from loss-making to profit-making companies because of the quality of leadership introduced into managing them by Shatruijeet. I felt a surge of pride that a serving member of my tribe had succeeded where the marginally more brainy lot had failed. Personal integrity and a solid value system proved crucial for success.

## The many lows of India's higher education system

The absence of knowledge creation seems to be having a cascading effect across the entire realm of education in India.

TODAY, a college/university degree is a primary requirement for most well-paying professions. Some might even say that a degree is also good for one's izzat (honour), much like a permanent sarkari naukri. Little wonder that anyone with a modicum of desire and opportunity makes an effort to get a degree.

Yet, in India, despite so many young ones eager to acquire a degree and willing to pay for it, we have neither been able to create infrastructure to educate them nor succeeded in ensuring that the existing infrastructure has quality.

All that we have been able to do successfully is to increase the stress on young Indians by subjecting them to unnecessary and seemingly unfair screening tests of the sort that the National Testing Agency is currently administering. The only object of those tests is to reject aspirants who have already been tested by a school board or a university. Often, students going abroad is linked to the lack of job opportunities in India. That would be a misunderstanding of the problem. The malady is deep-rooted. Few realise that Indians spend six to nine times the size of the Union Budget on higher education to study abroad. At the last count, the Ministry of External Affairs reported that there were over 1.5 million Indians studying abroad. With each of them spending at least

Rs 20 lakh annually on tuition fee and living expenses, the total money taken out of India merely to study abroad each year amounts to at least Rs 3 lakh crore. It could be as high as Rs 4.5 lakh crore if we make a more realistic estimate of what these students actually spend. In contrast, the allocation for higher education in the Interim Budget of 2024-25 was this is a drain of wealth which we have allowed by creating a misshapen system of higher education. Even this system yields considerable results for those who stick to it. Even this bit of higher education that is imparted in India leads to a considerable jump in the earning capacity for those who partake of it. So much so that despite not earning anything while studying, those with educational qualifications earn far more over a lifetime than those without. Using the Periodic Labour Force Survey data for 2022-23, it is estimated that the cumulative earnings of a person who invests four years in college education after completing higher secondary education would be more than that of someone who was merely HSC (higher secondary certificate)-qualified, by the ninth year. This would translate into something as follows: overall, a graduate earns over Rs 26 lakh more in a lifetime as compared to someone whose highest qualification was higher secondary; for the postgraduate, it turns out that earnings over a lifetime would be more than Rs 54 lakh as compared to someone with HSC as the highest qualification; for a PhD holder, this difference is even greater at Rs 69 lakh over a lifetime.



However, and this is an interesting bit of detail that has often been ignored, even this educational qualification is not sufficient for Indians to get a job abroad. It may get them a visa for further studies in Canada, the US, UK or Australia — the four preferred destinations for Indian youth — but not a job. For that, they have to invest anything from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 40 lakh per annum for at least two years. Essentially, a degree from India is useless outside the country. Most Indian institutions, too, do not consider these degrees of any value beyond a basic minimum. Indians with degrees have to undertake fresh entrance examinations for entry to a higher level of education or for a job. Recruiters across the job market complain that a degree in India is not a guarantor of relevant knowledge any more.

Worse still, even in the realm of creating new knowledge, the Indian higher education sector is lacking considerably. Please do not confuse knowledge generation with the number of PhDs or the number of books and scientific papers being published. Look at the reception of research in Indian higher education institutions in the world of knowledge. The Times Higher Education Rankings is one of the hundred-odd ranking systems that have emerged in the past two decades. One

of the metrics that it reports is 'research quality'. This includes a combination of citation impact, research strength, research excellence and research influence examined over the past five years. On this metric, the top 50 universities of the world have a score of 90-plus. Among the institutions of higher education in India, only the IISc (Indian Institute of Science) features in this decile with a score of 96. This is a small institution with less than 10,000 students. The next set of institutions, including Jamia Millia Islamia, IIT-Patna, IIIT Hyderabad, Jamia Hamdard, NIT-Silchar, Delhi Technological University and Anna University — have scores in the 70s. After these come Panjab University (67.9), Mahatma Gandhi University (62.3), Alagappa University (64.8), Aligarh Muslim University (61.6) and Banaras Hindu University (66.4). Jawaharlal Nehru University, which is presumed to be among the top universities of the country, scored a dismal 51.4, while Manipal University, one of the few private universities to feature in the rankings, has a score of 46. Other universities of India have far worse scores

The absence of knowledge creation seems to be having a cascading effect across the entire realm of education in India.

## Pariksha pe charcha

UGC-NET cancellation a huge letdown

THE cancellation of the University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET) examination a day after it was conducted comes as a huge embarrassment for the Centre and a big letdown for the over nine lakh candidates. The shock cancellation has been attributed to inputs that the integrity of the examination may have been compromised. One reason for the swift action could be to avoid a repeat of the raging controversy over the alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG examination. After this, a sense of betrayal in the public consciousness is inevitable. After the twin botch-ups in quick succession, the National Testing Agency (NTA) finds itself in a worsening crisis of credibility. The Central Bureau of Investigation has been tasked with conducting the probe. This reflects the seriousness being attached to the matter, but the damage has already been done.



The NTA has been holding the UGC-NET examination in a computer-based format since 2018. It had gone back to the

pen-and-paper version this year. The Education Minister has spoken of setting up a high-level committee to recommend an overhaul of the examination processes. Wide-ranging discussions among domain experts — 'pariksha pe charcha' in its true sense — would be expected. Unilateral imposition of new guidelines and patterns may not be a pragmatic solution when faced with a trust deficit. Conducted twice a year, UGC-NET is the first examination to be scrapped after the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act was passed in February. This law provides for three to five years in prison and a fine of up to Rs 10 lakh for resorting to unfair means. It will take time to gauge how effective the legislation proves to be as a deterrent. Cancellation can take a heavy toll on the mental and emotional wellbeing of candidates. A zero-error system has to be the end goal.

## China's moves Down Under have strategic lessons

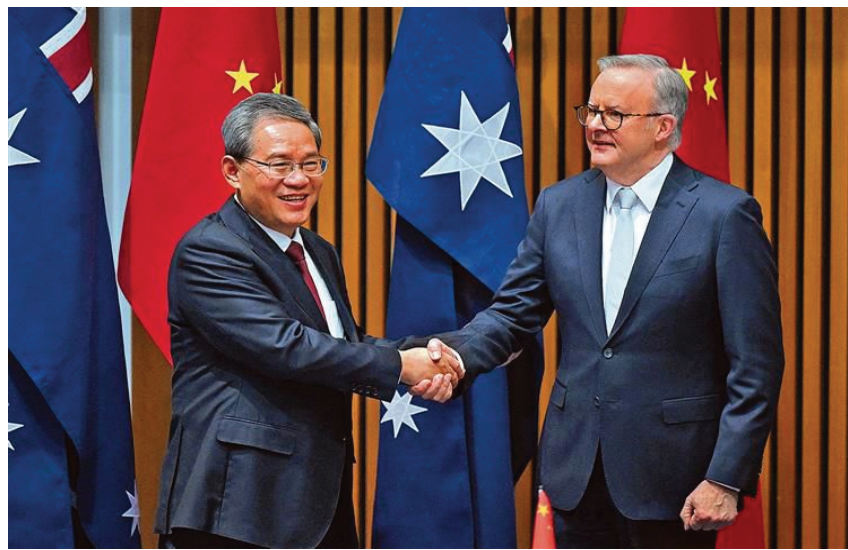
It is the competition for Australia's rare earths, which are important for electric vehicles and renewable energy, which draws the most Chinese interest.

EVEN as a US Congressional delegation has ruled China by meeting the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala, Australia and New Zealand are engaging with Beijing on the trade front. Chinese Premier Li Qiang visited New Zealand last week and Australia earlier this week. Then Premier Li Keqiang had toured Australia in 2017. The prospect of Australia's re-engagement with China has been evident since 2022, when the Labour government was re-elected. PM Anthony Albanese visited Beijing in November last year to unfreeze the relationship. Evidently, China's economic strictures were hurting Australia. China had taken umbrage at Australia seeking an inquiry into the origin of the Covid-19 pandemic. Thereafter, Australia adopted a more strategic approach to China, expressing concern over covert foreign interference in Australian politics, excluding Chinese telecommunications companies like Huawei from the 5G network and the recent clashes between naval ships in the South China Sea and the Yellow Sea. With New Zealand, the strategic concerns are less direct. Both Australia and New Zealand feel the heat of the Chinese challenge in the South Pacific. During Li Qiang's visit, both countries sought to manage their differences with China, revive economic ties and draw benefits from more trade and investment while nudging compliance with their strategic priorities.

New Zealand was the first Western country to have a free trade agreement with China since 2008. It was the first to recognise China as a market economy and sign an agreement under the Belt and Road Initiative. China is its largest export destination for milk and agricultural products. New Zealand has a bilateral trade of \$23 billion which, though not large, is significant for it. The Australia-China trade is to the tune of \$216 billion. Australia, China and New Zealand are all part of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. And now, China is wooing them to enter into the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. New Zealand PM Christopher

Luxon aims to balance the relationship from a focus on economic opportunity to greater resilience and de-risking. New Zealand is painfully aware of cyberattacks on its Parliament website, but it cannot ignore its essential focus on trade. Since January this year, New Zealand dairy products have entered China free of duties and quotas.

New Zealand also benefits from the footfall of Chinese tourists. In April this year, 10 per cent of the 2,25,000 tourists in New Zealand were Chinese, ranking second behind those from the neighbouring Australia, which saw 5,35,000 Chinese tourists in 2023. China, in a classic case of 'relaxed coercion' diplomacy, promises to include New Zealand among the countries for which visa exemptions would be granted. In return, New Zealand would be more flexible in granting visas for the Chinese. Australia is by far the bigger catch for China, which has been its single largest trading partner for both exports and imports since 2009. In 2023, their trade increased by 4 per cent. Australian investment in China grew by 11.7 per cent over 2022. The number of Australian companies in China has increased by 40 per cent. In April, Australia concluded its anti-dumping measures against Chinese windmill towers after it lost its case in the World Trade Organisation against Chinese steel products. China reduced its anti-dumping measures on Australian wine and barley and lifted restrictions on many Australian exporters of beef and lamb. Australian analysts struggle to justify this, saying, "How do you cut off your biggest customer? Will Australian friends make up for the lost income and investment?" Australia China Business Council president David Olsson expects China's ban on Australian seafood to be lifted as well and hopes for



better mutual grant of visas. In return, China wants its foreign direct investment in Australia to face lesser scrutiny. Australia is China's top supplier of iron ore. But it is the competition for Australia's rare earths, which are important for electric vehicles and renewable energy, which draws the most Chinese interest.

China already has investments in lithium factories in Australia, but subsequent efforts have been thwarted as Australia took a more strategic view.

At present, critical minerals and rare earths are the focus of the new great game, and everybody is seeking these from known sources. Some African countries have got significant Chinese, and now Korean, interest. Australia, a Quad member, should be working with the US, Japan and India for greater collaboration on this front. The idea that Japanese technology, Australian rare earths and

Indian manufacturing could come together under a Quad initiative facilitated by the India-Australia-Japan Supply Chain Resilience Initiative is attractive but nascent.

With Australia's rare earths at the core, the prospect of engaging it more robustly by non-Chinese partners emerges from Canberra's more determined partnership with Quad. It was also pushed by the Chinese trade restrictions, which were curtailing Australian economic activity. When India and Australia signed the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement in 2022, it was evidently a strategic effort to create complementarities. What will happen to these slow efforts, given the revival of Australia's China trade and economic partnership? At the time of Quad 1.0, it was the Australian turnabout on China that slowed down Quad. What about Quad 2.0? Will Australian interest in it

diminish? Australian statements seem to indicate that they know what they are doing. They are cognisant of their responsibilities to the Quad and AUKUS (the alliance between Australia, UK and US), which will augment their nuclear submarine capacity, whose target is the Chinese. The Aussie-Kiwi tie-up with China does not draw strategic lessons from what China is doing in the East Asia Sea with Japan, in the South China Sea (particularly with the Philippines), and with India in the Indian Ocean Region. The trade-first approach of Australia, therefore, needs cautious understanding. While India is aware that since the Covid-19 pandemic, all its Quad partners and ASEAN have all done record-breaking trade with China, it is Beijing's diplomatic manoeuvring to reduce economic pressures on individual partners that should worry the others.







# ज्वेलरी मेकिंग

अपना करियर खुद कीजिए डिजाइन

अभी

शादी-विवाह का मौसम समाप्त हुआ है। बारिश का मौसम शुरू हो गया है पर ज्वेलरी 12 महिनो तक उनकी मांग बनी रही है। आज के दौर में ज्वेलरी मेकिंग सिर्फ सुनारों का ही खानदानी काम नहीं रहा। आप भी गहने बनाने के काम में अपना भविष्य बना सकते हैं। शुरू में थोड़े इन्वेस्टमेंट के साथ आप अपना काम भी शुरू कर सकते हैं। कैसे, इस बारे में बता रहे हैं... जिस तरह ज्वेलरी अब सिर्फ सोने-चांदी का नाम नहीं है, ठीक वैसे ही यह काम अब केवल सुनारों का नहीं रह गया है। ज्वेलरी की बढ़ती डिमांड और बाजार में प्रतिस्पर्धा के चलते अब इस क्षेत्र में पढ़े-लिखे डिग्रीधारी प्रोफेशनल्स को काम करने का मौका मिलने लगा है।

## ललागत

इस काम को करने में कम से कम पांच लाख रुपए का खर्च आता है। आप जितना बड़ा काम करना चाहेंगे, लागत भी उतनी ही अधिक आएगी। अगर आप केवल टांका लगाने का काम करते हैं या तार खींचने का काम या लड़ी जोड़ने यानी पिराने का काम करना चाहते हैं तो आपको काम बीस-तीस हजार रुपए में शुरू हो सकता है। जगह का खर्च आपको अलग से वहन करना पड़ेगा।

## लहैंड्स

हैंड्स यानी सहयोग, मतलब आपको इस काम को करने के लिए कम से कम कितने वर्कर्स की आवश्यकता पड़ेगी तो आपको बता दें कि पांच लाख की लागत लगा कर काम शुरू करने पर आपको कम से कम 15 लोगों की आवश्यकता पड़ेगी। अगर आप काउंटर लगाकर काम शुरू करते हैं तो आपको किसी अन्य व्यक्ति की सहायता की जरूरत नहीं पड़ेगी या काम के हिसाब से आप करीगर रख सकते हैं।

## लयोग्यता

ज्वेलरी मेकर बनने के लिए डिप्लोमा या सर्टिफिकेट कोर्स करना आवश्यक है। इसके लिए आपकी न्यूनतम शैक्षणिक योग्यता बारहवीं होनी चाहिए। कुछ प्राइवेट संस्थान दसवीं पास छात्रों को भी

प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करते हैं। बड़े संस्थान लिखित परीक्षा और साक्षात्कार के आधार पर प्रवेश देते हैं।

## लकोर्स की अवधि

ज्वेलरी मेकिंग के कोर्स की अवधि तीन माह से लेकर दो साल तक है। इसमें तीन से छः माह के सर्टिफिकेट कोर्स होते हैं, जबकि एक से दो साल में डिप्लोमा कोर्स कराए जाते हैं। आजकल कुछ संस्थान सामाहिक कोर्स भी कराते हैं, जिनमें टांका लगाना, ज्वेलरी साफ करना, तार खिंचाई, लड़ी जोड़ना सिखाया जाता है।

## लथलुक्

ज्वेलरी मेकिंग के कोर्स का शुल्क प्रशिक्षण अवधि, कोर्स और संस्थान पर निर्भर करता है। इस काम को सिखाने वाले संस्थान 10 हजार रुपए से दो लाख रुपए तक चार्ज करते हैं। जो संस्थान सिर्फ टांका आदि लगाना सिखाते हैं, वे एक हजार से पांच हजार तक वसूलते हैं।

## लआमदनी

ज्वेलरी मेकिंग का काम एक ऐसा काम है, जिसमें आपकी आमदनी अच्छी होने के साथ बढ़ती ही रहती है। इस काम में सोने-चांदी का 15 प्रतिशत हिस्सा अलॉय यानी दो-तीन धातुओं के मिश्रण में और 5 प्रतिशत हिस्सा दलाई में मिलता है। मोटे

तौर पर कहें तो कुल मिला कर अलग-अलग जगहों के हिसाब से 14, 15, 18 या 23 प्रतिशत हिस्सा बनाने वाले को मिलता है और बनवाई अलग से मिलती है। अन्य धातुओं से ज्वेलरी बनाने में केवल बनवाई मिलती है। शुद्ध आमदनी की अगर बात की जाए तो पांच लाख रुपए की लागत से शुरू किए गए काम से आप लाखों रुपए महीने तक कमा सकते हैं, जबकि आर्टिफिशियल या कॉस्ट्यूम ज्वेलरी बनाने में कुछ कम आमदनी होती है। आपका काम जितने बड़े स्तर का होगा या बढ़ेगा, उसी हिसाब से आमदनी भी बढ़ेगी।

## ललोन

ज्वेलरी मेकिंग का काम शुरू करने के लिए अगर आपके पास पर्याप्त पैसा नहीं है तो आप लोन भी ले सकते हैं। इसके लिए आपके पास दो रास्ते हैं। एक निजी स्तर पर सीधे बैंक से लोन लेना का और दूसरा सरकारी संस्थान के सर्टिफिकेट पर ग्रामीण या शहरी स्वरोजगार योजना की स्क्रीमों के अंतर्गत लोन लेकर काम शुरू करने का। दोनों ही तरह से आपको जरूरी दस्तावेज जमा कराने होंगे। इन दस्तावेजों में प्रोजेक्ट रिपोर्ट, जगह के कागज, बैंक या स्क्रीम के मुताबिक सिक्वोरिटी मनी, शिक्षा के प्रमाण-पत्र, आईडी प्रूफ, पासपोर्ट साइज फोटो आदि शामिल हैं। इसके अलावा आपको दो गवाह भी चाहिए। लोन की राशि आपकी प्रोजेक्ट रिपोर्ट, कार्य का आकार-प्रकार और जगह की वैन्यू पर निर्भर करेगी।



भारत रत्न विज्ञान केंद्र के निदेशक एपी सिंह ने बताया कि 'ज्वेलरी मेकिंग में भारत दुनिया भर में सबसे आगे हो चुका है। यहां सस्ते और अच्छे कारीगर मिलने की वजह से विश्व का ध्यान भारत की ओर टिका हुआ है।' अब वह दौर भी धीरे-धीरे जा रहा है, जब लोग ज्वेलरी को आवश्यकता की चीज यानी इन्वेस्टमेंट की नजर से ज्यादा और साज-सज्जा यानी श्रृंगार की सोच से कम खरीदा करते थे। आजकल लोग इन्वेस्टमेंट के साथ इस बात पर विशेष ध्यान देने लगे हैं कि वे जिस आभूषण को खरीद रहे हैं, उसका डिजाइन कैसा है और वह पहनने पर कैसा लगेगा। डिजाइन अच्छा होगा तो उसे पहनने वाले की सुंदरता में भी चार चांद लगेगा। लोगों की इसी सोच के चलते अब सोने-चांदी के अलावा आर्टिफिशियल और कॉस्ट्यूम ज्वेलरी की भी बाजार में काफी डिमांड है। खैर, ज्वेलरी चाहे सोने-चांदी की हो या आर्टिफिशियल या कॉस्ट्यूम, दोनों को तैयार करने वालों को प्रशिक्षण एक ही तरह का दिया जाता है। आजकल के बदलते ट्रेंड और इस क्षेत्र में करियर के उम्दा चांस मिलने के चलते युवा इस ओर खूब रुख कर रहे हैं। इस क्षेत्र में पैसे की भी कोई कमी नहीं है।

## ज्वेलरी मेकर्स का काम

इस क्षेत्र में काम करने वालों को आभूषण बनाना, उन्हें मॉडिफाई करना, डिजाइन करना आदि के अलावा जैमोलॉजी की बेसिक जानकारी तथा कार्टिंग टेक्नोलॉजी, ज्वेलरी का इतिहास, स्टोन कटिंग एंड इनेबलिंग यानी नक्काशी, रत्नों की शुद्धता मापना, रत्नों का चुनाव, मूल्य, सेंटींग, पॉलिशिंग, सोडिंग एवं सोल्डरिंग, फेब्रिकेशन, रिपेरिंग, रत्नों के अलावा टेराकोटा मोतियों और हाथी दांत व सीपियों का प्रयोग करना सिखाया जाता है। अगर आप कला में रुचि रखते हैं। दसवीं या बारहवीं पास हैं और अपना काम करना चाहते हैं या आपको नौकरी उतनी अच्छी नहीं मिल रही है अथवा आप परीक्षाओं में अच्छे अंक नहीं ला पाए हैं तो आप ज्वेलरी मेकिंग का काम सीख कर इस क्षेत्र में बहुत अच्छा पैसा कमा सकते हैं। कैसे, आइए जानें- ज्वेलरी मेकिंग या डिजाइनिंग के लिए कम से कम 10 फुट चौड़े और 12 फुट लंबाई वाले कमरे की जरूरत होती है। बड़ा काम करने के लिए उसी हिसाब से जगह की ज्यादा जरूरत होती है।

## हमेशा ऊंचाइयों पर कैसे रहें?

यदि आप चाहते हैं कि आप ऊंचाई पर हों और प्रसन्न रहें तो उसका एक ही तरीका है, हमेशा दूसरों को प्रसन्न रखें। दूसरों की सहायता करने में कोई हर्ज नहीं है, किंतु यदि आप इसे अपनी प्राथमिकताओं, वचनबद्धता व जरूरतों की कीमत पर करते हैं तो आप हमेशा अप्रसन्न महसूस करेंगे। आपको इस बात का भी अहसास होगा कि आप अपने वांछित लक्ष्यों, इच्छाओं व उद्देश्यों को हासिल नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। इसके साथ ही आपको सुनिश्चित समय-अंतराल के साथ, सुनिश्चित लक्ष्यों की भी जानकारी होनी चाहिए। आपकी वचनबद्धता के स्तर, उत्साह व प्रेरणा में मेल होना भी जरूरी है। बड़े लक्ष्य पाने हैं तो बड़े कदम उठाने होंगे। आपके भीतर पथ में आने वाली हर बाधा पर हावी होने, उसका सामना करने व उस पर विजय पाने का साहस होना चाहिए।

## पराजितों से दूर रहें

ऊंचाइयों पर रहने का एक तरीका यह भी है कि आप पराजित व नकारात्मक लोगों का साथ छोड़ दें, क्योंकि वे हमेशा यही बताने की कोशिश में रहते हैं कि आप कोई काम क्यों नहीं कर सकते या अपने लक्ष्य क्यों नहीं पा सकते। इन पराजितों के दम का हिस्सा न बनने, क्योंकि इनमें से कुछ को बदल पाना नामुमकिन होता है। यदि आप उनके साथ रहेंगे तो नकारात्मकता की चपेट में आते देर नहीं लगेगी।

## प्रेरणा का स्रोत ऊंचा रखें

प्रेरणा का स्तर इतना ऊंचा हो कि आप हमेशा एक से दूसरे लक्ष्य तक जाने के लिए प्रेरित रहें। आपको अहसास हो कि सफलता की राह में अड़चनें भी होती हैं और आप उन बाधाओं व अड़चनों के बावजूद यात्रा को अधूरा नहीं छोड़ने वाले।

## केवल आज में ही जीएं

प्रसन्न रहने का एक तरीका यह भी है कि बीते दिन की बुरी यादों को साथ न लाएं और न ही आने वाले कल की चिंता करें। प्रायः हम जिस दुर्भाग्य की कल्पना कर लेते हैं, वह घटित नहीं होती। यदि कोई संकट या परेशानी सामने आ जाए तो याद रखें कि वह भी बीत जाएगा। दिमाग में किसी भी चिंता का बोझ न डालें। हम आज का भार तो सह सकते हैं, किंतु कल व आने वाले कल की परेशानी का भार नहीं सह सकते। मनुष्य का स्वभाव भी बड़ा विचित्र होता है, वह एक शेर को तो चकमा दे सकता है, लेकिन किसी मच्छर या मक्खी को नहीं उड़ा पाता। ऊंचाई पर रहने का सबसे बेहतर तरीका यही है कि आने वाले कल की उन चिंताओं पर विचार न करें, जो संभवतः कभी घटित ही न हों। मिशेल डी मॉइज़ ने कहा है- "मेरा जीवन ऐसे भयानक दुर्भाग्यों से भरपूर रहा है, जिनमें से ज्यादातर ऐसे हैं, जो कभी घटित ही नहीं हुए।

## थैंक्यू... प्लीज... आई एम सॉरी...

इनका प्रयोग अक्सर कम्युनिकेशन के दौरान होता है। कम्युनिकेशन अपने आप में काफी बड़ा, विस्तृत और आकर्षक विषय है। समाज में विभिन्न स्तरों पर संवाद की जरूरत और किस प्रकार का संवाद होना चाहिए, इस पर कई बातें निर्भर करती हैं।

कॉर्पोरेट वर्ल्ड में भी कम्युनिकेशन पर काफी ध्यान दिया जाता है। कम्युनिकेशन में सकारात्मकता आपको घर से लेकर आपके ऑफिस में सहायक सिद्ध होगी। घर पर अगर आप परिवार के किसी सदस्य के साथ बातचीत कर रहे हैं और उसमें कोई बात आपको अच्छी नहीं लगी तब आप तत्काल उस पर प्रतिक्रिया देते हैं और टोक देते हैं। खासतौर पर जब बात युवा साथी की हो तब उसे टोकना जरूरी भी है ताकि वह अपने कम्युनिकेशन में बदलाव लाए, पर यहां भी बात सकारात्मकता की लागू होती है। अगर आपने डांट कर अपनी बात मनाने के लिए कोई बात कही तब कुछ भी नहीं होने वाला और हो सकता है कि अगली बार आप संवाद स्थापित करने का मौका ही छोड़ दें। अगर बात कॉर्पोरेट वर्ल्ड की है तब कार्यालयों में यह देखा जाता है, अगर कोई कर्मचारी समय पर नहीं आता है तब छुट्टी से लेकर नोटिस देने जैसे कितने ही कार्य होते हैं। एक कंपनी में तो देरी से आने वाले को सभी स्टाफ के सामने डांटने जैसी परंपरा ही थी, परंतु इससे क्या व्यवस्थाओं में परिवर्तन लाया जा सकता है क्या? या फिर कम्युनिकेशन इसमें किस तरह का हो सकता है, इस बारे में विचार किया जाए। पॉजिटिव कम्युनिकेशन की बात की जाए तब कार्यालय में देरी से आने वाले कर्मचारी को इस बात के लिए प्रेरित किया जाए कि चलिए आज कोई समस्या होगी बावजूद इसके आप थोड़ा ही देर से आए। आप कल और जल्दी आ सकते हैं। हो सकता है कि इससे कर्मचारी के मन पर थोड़ा असर पड़े और वह जल्दी आने के लिए प्रेरित हो, जबकि दूसरी ओर अगर आपने उसे डांट है तब उसका नकारात्मक असर ही पड़ेगा। वह ऑफिस में जल्दी जरूरी आएगा, पर अपना आउटपुट जैसा चाहिए वैसा नहीं देगा। घर पर भी युवाओं या किशोरों से बातचीत के दौरान या सामान्य रूप से बातचीत के दौरान भी अगर आप

# कम्युनिकेशन पर दें अधिक ध्यान



किसी विवाद को समाप्त करना चाहते हैं तब बातचीत की शुरुआत जिन मुद्दों पर सहमत है उनसे न करके जिन बातों पर सहमत है, उससे करेंगे तब बात बनेगी जरूर। कॉर्पोरेट वर्ल्ड में किसी भी उत्पाद या किसी अन्य कंपनी से डील करते वक्त इस बात का ध्यान रखा जाता है। दोनों साझा रूप से किन बातों पर सहमत है। एक बार हॉ

की मुहर लग जाने के बाद अन्य बातें करने में आसानी हो जाती है। थैंक्यू... प्लीज... आई एम सॉरी का उपयोग कहां, कब और कितना करना यह भी जानना जरूरी है। कॉर्पोरेट वर्ल्ड में भावनाओं की कद्र थोड़ी कम ही होती है और खासतौर पर सेल्स के क्षेत्र में कंपनियों को टारगेट पूर्ण होने से मतलब होता है।

इस कारण सॉरी की बात ही न करें, बल्कि तर्क के सहारे अपनी बात रखें। जब घर की बात हो तब यही सॉरी सबकुछ हो जाता है। माता-पिता के सामने अगर आपने गलत बात बोल दी है और आपको सही मायने में पछतावा हो रहा है तब एक सॉरी से काफी बात बन सकती है, पर ऐसा नहीं है कि आप बार-बार सॉरी कहते रहें और गलतियां करते रहें।



NEWS BOX

**AUS vs AFG: Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran stitch record 100 partnership in T20 World Cup 2024**

New Delhi. Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran equalled the all-time record of most 100 run partnerships in the history of T20 World Cups. The Afghanistan pair achieved the feat in Afghanistan's Super 8 match against Mitchell Marsh's Australia on Saturday, June 22 (Sunday, June 23 in India) at the Arnos Vale Ground in Kingstown, St Vincent. The duo put on a huge partnership of 118 runs for the opening wicket off 15.5 overs on a difficult pitch to bat on.

With their 3rd 100 partnership in the T20 World Cups, Gurbaz and Ibrahim equalled the record of the Pakistani pair of Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan. In the ongoing mega event, while the Afghan duo has crossed the 100-run mark thrice, no other pair has put on a century stand. Gurbaz and Zadran also notched the second-highest opening stand against Australia in the T20 World Cups. As a pair, they have scored 408 runs from 6 matches at an average of 68. After being asked to bat first, the Afghans put up a decent score of 148 for the loss of 6 wickets. Gurbaz scored quickly as he made 60 runs off 49 balls with the help of 4 fours and as many sixes. Zadran was effective as well, scoring 51 runs. Even as Gurbaz got out to Marcus Stoinis, Adam Zampa accounted for the wicket of Ibrahim.

Back on June 3, Gurbaz and Ibrahim put on 154 runs for the opening wicket against Uganda at the Providence Stadium in Guyana. Thereafter, they stitched together a 103-run partnership against New Zealand at the same venue. The duo went from strength to strength and carried their form against the Aussies.

**AUS vs AFG: Pat Cummins creates history, gets 2nd hat-trick in T20 World Cup**

New Delhi. Pat Cummins made history on June 23, Sunday as he became first player to pick up 2 hat-tricks in T20 World Cups during the Super 8 clash between Australia and Afghanistan in St. Vincent. Cummins picked up the wickets of Rashid Khan, Karim Janat and Gulbadin Naib to achieve the feat. Cummins had picked up a hat-trick during Australia's first Super match against Bangladesh as well. During the match against Afghanistan, Cummins had picked up a wicket in the form of Rashid with the last ball of the 18th over and he was given the job to close out the innings. The pacer would dismiss Janat and Naib off the first two deliveries of the 20th over to become the first player to pick up 2 hat-tricks in T20 World Cups. This was the 5th hat-trick by an Australian player in T20Is and the third one in the World Cup.

**What Cummins said about his historic hat-trick?**

Cummins joked that he had remembered about his hat-trick this time around and said it was crazy to get two hat-tricks in a row. Yeah I remembered that one (hat-trick). Crazy. Played 100-odd games for Australia, (now) got two in a row. Afghanistan put on a total of 148 for 6 on a challenging track. They looked set for an even bigger total before Cummins and Co pegged them back. Cummins said it was a decent bowling effort in the end. "I thought they batted well. But I also thought we restricted the boundaries. They obviously ran well. Overall, decent bowling effort. Not our tidiest day in the field. Happy with the total," said Cummins. Australia need a win to ensure they and India qualify for the semi-finals.

**T20 World Cup: Harry Brooks hopes to give USA a 'battering' as England eyes semi-final**

New Delhi. England's Harry Brook has set his sights on delivering a decisive victory against the United States, aiming to secure England's place in the semi-finals of the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup 2024. Brook, who fell just short of clinching a win in a nail-biting encounter against South Africa, expressed his determination to ensure England dominates their next match. Brook's valiant effort of 53 runs in the final over wasn't enough to secure victory in the tightly contested match against South Africa, which ended in a seven-run defeat. As England transitioned from St Lucia to Barbados for their third game in just five days, Brook emphasized the importance of winning to stay in contention for the knockout stages.

"We've got to win and that's the main thing," Brook stated. "Let's see how we are on net run-rate after that, but the main thing is to definitely get that win. We've played in Barbados quite a lot in the last six months or so. We know the conditions, we know the wind and the pitch as well, so hopefully we can go out there and give them a good battering."

England's familiarity with the conditions in Barbados could prove advantageous, as Brook and his teammates look to exploit their knowledge of the pitch and weather patterns to their benefit. Brook's determination reflects the team's overall focus on not just winning, but doing so convincingly to improve their net run-rate, a crucial factor in progressing to the semi-finals.

Reflecting on the team's recent experiences, Brook shared a glimpse into the squad's mindset. "I watched (Australia v Scotland) in a bar in Antigua but we were all knackered. I watched the first half then went to bed and watched the second half," he recounted.

**Azhar Mahmood to take legal action against 'false allegations' after Pakistan's T20 WC exit**

**Azhar Mahmood slammed false allegations and said that will take legal action against the wrongdoers. Earlier, Pakistan failed to advance to the T20 World Cup 2024 Super 8.**

New Delhi. Pakistan men's assistant coach Azhar Mahmood hit out at 'false allegations' after Pakistan's disastrous campaign in the T20 World Cup 2024. Babar Azam's men failed to make their way

through to the Super 8 of the mega event after initially losing to the United States and India. Expectations were high from them after they finished as the runners-up last time around in Australia. However, the Men in Green flattered to deceive big time and slumped to back-to-back defeats. Although they beat Canada and Ireland, it was all too late for them. In the meantime, after Pakistan's exit, reports of PCB paying for the trips of cricketers, their families and support staff to the USA circulated. But Mahmood dismissed the allegations as false and baseless. The former Pakistan all-rounder said that he would be taking legal action against the people who are responsible for circulating the 'unacceptable' rumours on social media platforms. "I have heard some false allegations and narratives circulating on social media and other media platforms. I



categorically state that these allegations are entirely baseless and false, and it is extremely upsetting to hear them," Mahmood wrote on 'X'. This culture of falsely accusing and misleading people to believe a false narrative is now getting ridiculous and dangerous. Speaking without evidence and misconstruing facts is a criminal offence, and those engaging in such behaviour will

be dealt with through legal action." "Pursuing an increase in followers and media attention by spreading falsehoods is downright unacceptable. I will be pursuing legal advice against those responsible for making these false allegations towards me and my family, and strict action will be taken accordingly. We will not be discussing this matter further on social media," Mahmood wrote. "I urge everyone to avoid engaging with or entertaining these harmful narratives as it is essential to put an end to such behaviour in our media culture," he added.

Earlier, reports also suggested that skipper Babar Azam would take legal action against former cricketers and YouTubers, who accused him of misconduct during the mega event in the West Indies and the USA. Earlier this year, prior to Pakistan's T20I series against New Zealand, Babar had replaced Shaheen Shah Afridi as the white-ball skipper, but the decision hasn't worked out well until now going by the results.

**Not a dead rubber: Deepti Sharma refuses to relax before 3rd ODI vs South Africa**

New Delhi. Deepti Sharma said that India would not be approaching their last ODI against South Africa as a dead rubber. Harmanpreet Kaur and Co. have already claimed the 3-match series after winning the second ODI on June 19 by 4 runs at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. The match went down to the wire where Pooja Vastrakar held his nerves to take India home. Prior to the third game of the series, Deepti said that it is important for India to carry the momentum into the one-off Test to be held from June 28 at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. Yes, we have won the series but we will not approach this match as one of academic interest. We look to learn from whatever opportunities we get, as we will be going into the one-off Test (in Chennai) later this



week," Deepti said in the pre-match press conference.

**Love to tackle pressure**

Deepti, herself, has been in decent form as she is the leading wicket-taker of the ODI series. The off-break is currently the joint-highest wicket-taker in the series along with Asha Sobhana with 4 wickets to her

name. "I love to tackle pressure situations. My thought process is very clear. I always want to make the team win or place the team in a winning position, whether it is with my batting or bowling," she said.

Deepti also lauded the Indian batters for understanding the conditions well and moulding their game as per that. Their opener Smriti Mandhana has looked in red-hot form after racking up back-to-back hundreds. "The openers played as per the conditions. The ball was moving around a little bit in the initial overs, and they played within themselves. They adapted well. After 10-12 overs, we built some good partnerships. They used every scoring opportunity in that area and that's a positive for us - the way we capitalised later on," Deepti added.

**T20 World Cup: Finch impressed as Kuldeep Yadav trumps Rishad Hossain in IND vs BAN**

New Delhi. India spinner Kuldeep Yadav took 3 wickets against Bangladesh in India's Super 8 match at the T20 World Cup 2024. Kuldeep bamboozled the Bangladesh batters with his spin off the pitch. The spinner choked out the opposition in the middle overs and bowled in tandem with Jasprit Bumrah, who was once again superb on the day. Former Australia captain Aaron Finch lauded Kuldeep's ability to outfox the batters and said that the spinner's redemption arc was beautiful to look at. Kuldeep Yadav was dropped from the Indian team due to criticism over his lack of pace. The spinner strengthened his body and came back with vengeance in 2022 and since then, has been a permanent fixture with the Indian team.



So what did he do? He went away and he got stronger, physically stronger so he could sustain himself for longer, and he certainly showed that right throughout," Finch said on Star Sports.

Now his ability to set batsman up with going pace on or quicker through the air, turning it a bit each way and then using the subtle changes of slower paces to deceive as well. It's wonderful bowling. It's beautiful to watch, especially when guys are unsure which way it's turning," Finch

further added. Kuldeep was in battle with Bangladesh's Rishad Hossain in the match as both spinners found turn and bounce from the Antigua pitch.

Kuldeep, however, was much more miser than Rishad, giving away just 19 runs. Veteran Sunil Gavaskar hailed Kuldeep for his subtle variations. "Kuldeep really bowled well. That wrong one that he bowled to get the dangerous looking Tanzid out, that was very well bowled.

And then again, getting the batters out with that slightly tossed up delivery, he varied his pace well, using the crease, not too much this time around, he uses the crease quite nicely, but this time around he hardly use the crease. You are only looking for variation in the air and off the surface and you got three wickets for that," Gavaskar said. "Three wickets for 19 for a wrist spinner in four overs is outstanding, simply outstanding," concluded the legendary cricketer.

**Shakib Al Hasan concedes Bangladesh's campaign over: No chance to play in semis**

New Delhi. Shakib Al Hasan threw in the towel and conceded that Bangladesh's campaign in T20 World Cup 2024 is as good as over. On Saturday, June 22, the Tigers lost to India by 50 runs in the Super 8 match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua. With the defeat, Najmul Hossain and Co. kept languishing at the bottom of the table in Group 2 with a net run rate of -2.489. Bangladesh lost to Australia, after which they failed to put up much of a fight against Rohit Sharma's men. Their last and final Super 8 clash is against Rashid Khan's Afghanistan at the Arnos Vale Ground in Kingstown, St Vincent. Shakib said that the Tigers would want to finish off on a positive note with a clinical showing against their Asian rivals.

"To be honest, I don't think we have a chance to play the semi-final anymore after today's loss. But having said that, the next game will be an opportunity for us to get a win on our belt before we finish up this tournament. We'd love to finish this tournament on a high. We have to face Afghanistan, which is a very good side. So, we have to be at our best to be able to win against them," Shakib said in the post-match press conference. Shakib said that Bangladesh were not able to create enough pressure on the opposition. After opting to field first, the Tigers conceded 197, a total Shakib felt was a tad above par. Thereafter, Shanto's men finished with 146 for 8 and fell way short of the target.

"Well obviously, when you are playing against a team like Australia and India, you have to bring your A game. I think we are lacking in those skill and strength areas. Also, I would say we couldn't do the basic thing longer enough to be able to create any sort of pressure. And throughout this World Cup, as a batting unit, I don't think we did justify to ourselves. I think we had the potential to score big runs. The last two games we played here was very good. Wicket probably 175-185 is the par score," Shakib added. Shakib, himself, did not have the best of outings by any means. Although he got the wicket of Rohit, he did not finish his quota after finishing with figures of 3-0-37-1. With the bat, Shakib scored 11 runs off 7 balls before Kuldeep Yadav accounted for his wicket.

**India vs Bangladesh: Life comes full circle for Hardik Pandya in T20 World Cup**

New Delhi. Vice-captain Hardik Pandya delivered a near-perfect performance during a crucial Super Eight clash against Bangladesh to help India inch closer to a semi-final spot in the T20 World Cup 2024. Hardik looked like finding his old spark during his near-perfect all-round performance (unbeaten 50 off 27 balls and a wicket) in India's comprehensive 50-run victory at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua. As Hardik said 'it felt like god had planned this comeback' as his fortunes went downhill after a significant injury setback during an ODI World Cup match against Bangladesh. Incidentally, it is also against Bangladesh, albeit in a different World Cup format, Hardik seemed to have found his 'power-hitting mojo'. Mind you, Hardik's journey back to form wasn't easy. After consecutive injuries sidelined him for

four months, his return to the MI was fraught with many challenges. As captain, he struggled to inspire his team and was trolled by fans across the country, further denting his confidence. Hardik's big-hitting prowess, once feared by bowlers worldwide, seemed to be fading.

However, a return to India colours during the T20 World Cup 2024 marked a turning point for Pandya. During the Super Eight match vs Bangladesh, Hardik's aggressive batting in the slog overs was a sight to behold. With India teetering after Rishabh Pant's dismissal in the 12th over, Pandya stepped up along with Shivam Dube, blasting 62 runs in the final five overs and steering India to a formidable total of 196. His innings, studded with four boundaries



and three towering sixes, silenced his critics and reminded every one of his destructive capabilities.

The climax of Pandya's innings came in the final over bowled by Mustafizur Rahman. Displaying finesse and power, Pandya edged the first ball to the boundary and sliced another to the third man. When Rahman tried

to outsmart him with a full ball outside off, Pandya elegantly pinged it to the third-man boundary again, reaching his half-century in style. India's bowlers, inspired by Pandya's knock, performed admirably. Kuldeep Yadav's spell was particularly noteworthy, as he spun a web around the Bangladeshi batters, claiming three crucial wickets including that of Shakib Al Hasan. Bangladesh crumbled under the pressure, unable to chase down India's challenging total. After the match, Indian captain Rohit Sharma praised Pandya's impact. "Hardik being Hardik, we know what he is capable of. He is a very important player for us. If he can keep doing that, it will put us in good positions. Everyone adapted well with our bowling plans and executed them perfectly," Rohit said during the post-match presentation.





# Malavika Mohanan

## Gives A Refreshing Spin To Ethnic Style In Chikankari Saree

South actress Malavika Mohanan has been ruling the hearts of fans and followers with her fashion and style regularly. But, her recent photo dump on her Instagram account is an eye-catcher. Actresses across industries Bollywood and Tollywood love chikankari and so they should. Malavika has adorned a chikankari saree in all her flair and looks drop-dead gorgeous. The white chikankari saree with pearls and embroidery suits her beautifully. But that's not it, the fact is that she looks ravishing and breathtaking all at once with this look. Something about her in white and saree is magical. The look comprises a delicate sleeveless blouse that has a plunging v-neckline that accentuates her bodily charm. The saree flows graciously over her pristine silhouette making it a solid fashion inspiration for girls. The back of the blouse is a sleek strap adorned with pearls adding to the extravagance of this whole attire. The saree comes from the shelves of a Hyderabad-based design label, Sawan Gandhi and he has made a habit of creating such fashion moments.

Malavika has a real knack for her acting and the volume of work she is doing at present is proof. She is doing films in Malayalam, Telugu and Tamil languages. She is the female lead paired alongside Prabhas, in an upcoming film, The Raja Saab, which is in Telugu and is due for release in 2025. The film is directed by Maruthi and is being anticipated and awaited by audiences because Prabhas and Malavika are coming together. And, if that's not enough excitement, the genre of the film is a horror comedy which is also amongst the audiences' favourites. The film will have Prabhas romancing dream girl Malavika and has stirred up enthusiasm as no one saw this pair before sharing screen space. Her performance in the blockbuster action thriller Maaran, paired alongside Dhanush in 2022, deserves appreciation. This political thriller had fans raving about the film doing good business at the box office.



## Sonakshi Sinha's Brothers Luv and Kush SKIP Her Pre-Wedding Festivities Amid Rift Rumours? Know Here



Sonakshi Sinha is all set to get married to her longtime boyfriend Zaheer Iqbal on June 23. Well, the marriage has been the talk of the town after it was reported that there has been an ongoing family feud. However, last night all rumours were put to rest after veteran actor and father of bride-to-be Shatrughan Sinha made his first public appearance with Zaheer Iqbal. But looks like Sonakshi Sinha's brother Luv and Kush were missing. The photos that have gone viral on social media suggest so. In the photos, we can see everyone including Sonakshi Sinha, her mother, Shatrughan Sinha, Zaheer Iqbal's family and others. But both brothers cannot be seen. This has once again raised speculations. Well, a couple of weeks ago Luv Sinha has dropped a cryptic post on his official Instagram account ahead of his sister's wedding. He has shared a throwback photo of himself on his social media account alongside a cryptic caption. Posting the pic, he wrote, "What side will you embrace today? #twoface #duotone #duality #throwback #portrait." Earlier, Luv Sinha shared a throwback photo from his trip to Baku on his Instagram handle. Interestingly, Luv doesn't follow Sonakshi on Instagram (at the time of writing this article). Sharing the throwback photo, Luv wrote, "The problem with time is, that we never have enough of it. #Memories #Baku #Throwback #Streetphotography #Christmas #Nightlife #A7R5." On Thursday, Sonakshi was spotted by paparazzi in Mumbai's Bandra area. The actress was clicked wearing an all-white ensemble. She refused to pose for the shutterbugs and looked very caught up. Interestingly, her father was also papped arriving in Bandra. For the unversed, Sonakshi's wedding reception will take place at Shilpa Shetty's restaurant Bastian in Bandra. Meanwhile, Shatrughan addressed the rumours surrounding Sonakshi's wedding and called out those who are spreading "fake news". "Tell me, whose life is it anyway? It's just the life of my only daughter Sonakshi, whom I'm very proud of and immensely fond of," Shatrughan told Times Now.com/Zoom. "She calls me the pillar of her strength. I will be there at the wedding, certainly. Why shouldn't I and why won't I?"

## Munjya Box Office Day 14: Sharvari Wagh, Abhay Verma's Film Continues To Grow, Mints Rs 71 Crores



Sharvari Wagh and Abhay Verma starrer "Munjya" hit theatres on June 7 and impressed everyone. On its opening day, the film received a positive response from the audience and earned close to Rs 4 crore. By its first Sunday, the film had minted over Rs 8 crore. Now, on its second Sunday, the collections have surpassed expectations, earning Rs 8.5 crore. With this, the overall collection of the film stands at Rs 53.8 Cr, officially entering the Rs 50 Crore mark in India! On Friday, the film has an overall collection of over Rs. 71 Crores. Trade analyst Taran Adarsh took to his Twitter handle and shared, #Munjya is having a DREAM RUN... Week 2 is almost at par with Week 1, which speaks of its incredible run. Continues its dominance in mass pockets, which should act as an eye-opener for film-makers / Studios who greenlight films targeting a handful of metros, ignoring the mass pockets. An all-round, universal acceptability is a MUST. [Week 2] Fri 3.75 cr, Sat 6.75 cr, Sun 8.75 cr, Mon 5.50 cr [#Eid], Tue 3.50 cr, Wed 3.25 cr, Thu 3 cr. Total: ? 71 cr. #India biz. #Boxoffice #Munjya biz at a glance... Week 1: ? 36.50 cr, Week 2: ? 34.50 cr, Total: ? 71 cr, #India biz. #Boxoffice According to a report in Sacknilk, The film saw an overall occupancy of 15.82% percent in the Hindi belts on Friday. While the morning shows had an occupancy of 10.35% percent, it increased to over 16.86 percent and 18.68 percent, respectively, during the evening and night shows. Munjya is a horror-comedy which is based in Pune and the Konkan region. Besides Sharvari and Abhay, the film also stars Mona Singh in a key role. It follows the story of the eponymous mythical creature who wreaks havoc in the life of Bittu, played by Abhay. The film gained majorly positive reviews. News18 Showsha gave Munjya a 3-star rating. "Munjya beautifully draws inspiration by blending elements of horror and cultural depth to weave a story that is both enthralling and deeply rooted in Indian mythology. The movie delivers a good cinematic experience owing to its good writing and the gripping folklore."

# Kriti Sanon

## Is A Bundle Of Sunshine As She Shares Postcard Perfect Photos From London

Kriti Sanon is currently basking in the success of her recently released film, Crew. She enjoys a massive fan following and is often seen sharing fun moments and happy snippets on her Instagram handle. Having said that, she recently dropped a bundle of postcard-perfect photos from her London vacay. Kriti looked the prettiest as she basked under the sunlight. She donned one of her brightest smiles. She pouted and showed a heart sign for her fans, acknowledging her love for them. She also winked for the second picture. She was a complete vision to behold.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Kriti Sanon will soon be seen in the crime thriller Do Patti with Kajol. The teaser has already left everyone excited, and fans are eagerly waiting for its release. The teaser opens with an aerial view of Manali, and Kajol is seen as a cop riding a bike. Her voice can be heard in the background throughout the video. She is talking about the right and wrong situations in life. Kriti Sanon's character is also shown as a glamorous one. She is seen in a grey shade. It looks like it is a murder mystery, but still, nothing is clear. The film will surely keep you on the edge of your seat. Last year, Kriti Sanon announced her first film as a producer. She took to her Instagram handle to share the first photo featuring her, Kajol, along with others.

Taking to her Instagram handle, the actress shared the photo featuring Kajol and wrote, "Thrilled to announce DO PATTI! Alongside three very strong-headed, inspiring, and immensely talented women, Monica, we couldn't have found a better platform than Netflix to tell this story! @netflix\_in Superr duperr excited to reunite with Kajol ma'am after 8 years! @kajol. Kanika - I've always loved your writing, and I'm so happy to be co-producing my first with you! Ufff, this is a special one! @kanika.d @kathhappictures. This one is going to be a thrilling game with a lot of heart! A first for Blue Butterfly Films, @bluebutterflyfilmsofficial" Do Patti marks the debut of writer Kanika Dhillon. She said, "Do Patti is a very special project, and there is no greater satisfaction than delivering a great story to your audience that is thrilling and interesting. You will be enthralled to see Kriti Sanon in a never-before-seen avatar, and having Kajol, who is such a legendary actor, was such a great pleasure as a writer-producer."

