



The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

OnlyFans star attacks men who tried to steal \$20 million in crypto she flaunted

world. OnlyFans star Amouranth opened fire on three armed robbers who attempted to steal USD 20 million in cryptocurrency from her at her home, which she boasted about online. Amouranth, whose real name is Kaitlyn Siragusa (31), said the robbers kicked in her bedroom door, struck her face with a pistol and pulled her out of bed, before demanding she give access to her crypto assets, The New York Post reported. In a dramatic video posted by Amouranth on X, the footage shows three men following her into a building, where her husband (not seen in the footage) was waiting with a pistol. Moments later, two gunshots are heard and the robbers flee the spot. "I believe I shot one of them. I'm covered in blood but only some of it is mine," she narrated her Sunday ordeal. In November last year, Amouranth - who has 6.2 million followers on the streaming platform Twitch - posted a screenshot of her Bitcoin and Ethereum balances and asked her followers what she would do with her over USD 20 million in cryptocurrency. The robbers may have learnt of her digital fortune, although an investigation was on. "They beat me before this video and pistol-whipped me. The pummeling felt like it would never end and I protected my head by putting my arms up like I learned how to do in boxing. Blood was streaming down my head and my hands were beaten brown," she said.

"They gave me a phone and said log in with a gun to my head and I tweeted because calling would be a death sentence," she added. Amouranth managed to use the phone and posted "I'm being too robbed at gunpoint" to her X account, following which she led the robbers into a building where her husband, who received the online SOS, was waiting with a gun. The New York Post reported. The social media influencer did not explain how she was able to acquire a handgun and said she heard one of the robbers who got shot, saying, "I am shot, I am shot". The Houston Police Officer's Union confirmed the incident and Amouranth was hospitalised with non-life-threatening injuries. Investigators had launched a manhunt for the suspects, according to The New York Post.

US exempts automakers from new Canada and Mexico tariffs for 1 month

world. President Donald Trump will exempt automakers from his punishing 25 per cent tariffs on Canada and Mexico for one month as long as they comply with an existing free trade agreement, the White House said on Wednesday. Trump is also open to hearing about other products that should be exempted from the tariffs, which took effect Tuesday, the White House said. He also made clear he was not calling off his trade war with Canada and Mexico as he pressured the two countries to deter fentanyl smuggling. After a phone call with Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Trump said he was not convinced the situation had improved. "He said that it's gotten better, but I said, 'That's not good enough,'" Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. "The call ended in a 'somewhat' friendly manner!" Trudeau's office said discussions would continue. Official statistics show a small fraction of fentanyl in the US comes across the Canadian border. The one-month reprieve sparked a rebound in auto stocks, but trade tensions have created unexpected uncertainty for US corporations and sapped consumer confidence, leading to a selloff in stocks in recent days. General Motors shares were up 7 per cent and Ford gained 5.6 per cent on Wednesday, but both companies' shares are still down on the year. Trump's tariffs pose extreme difficulties for automakers, which produce vehicles in all three countries and often ship parts across North American borders multiple times as they get built up into systems and finished vehicles. A one-month exemption for cars and trucks that comply with the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement's complex content rules, as Trump has outlined, would be a boon for Ford, GM and Stellantis. Trump also might eliminate the 10 per cent tariff on Canadian energy imports, such as crude oil and gasoline, which comply with the USMCA rules of origin, a source familiar with the discussions said.

UN to halve Rohingya refugee food aid in Bangladesh next month due to funding crisis

DHAKA. A lack of funds will force rations to be halved for around one million Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh from next month, the United Nations food agency has said. Huge numbers of the persecuted and stateless Rohingya community live in squalid relief camps in Bangladesh, most arriving after having fled from a 2017 military crackdown in neighbouring Myanmar. Successive aid cuts have already caused severe hardship among Rohingya in the overcrowded settlements, who are reliant on aid and suffer from rampant malnutrition. The UN World Food Programme (WFP) said in a letter on Wednesday that "severe funding shortfalls" had forced a cut in monthly food vouchers from \$12.50 to \$6.00 per person. "Unfortunately, we have still not received sufficient funding, and cost-saving measures alone are not enough," the letter said. Md. Shamsud Douza of Bangladesh's refugee agency told AFP that his office would hold a meeting with community leaders next week to discuss the implications of the cuts. Wednesday's letter comes days before a visit by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who is slated to meet Rohingya refugees to mark the annual Muslim Ramadan fast. The 2017 crackdown in Myanmar—now the subject of a UN genocide investigation—sent around 750,000 Rohingya fleeing into neighbouring Bangladesh with harrowing stories of murder, rape and arson. Bangladesh has struggled to support its immense refugee population and the prospects of a wholesale return to Myanmar or resettlement elsewhere are remote.

Pope Francis stable, has resumed some duties: Vatican

In a relatively upbeat health bulletin, the Vatican said Pope Francis, who has been battling double pneumonia for the past three weeks, had carried out some duties and spent much of the day in an armchair.

Vatican City Pope Francis, who has been struggling to overcome double pneumonia for almost three weeks, remained in stable condition throughout the day on Wednesday and has not had any new breathing crises, the Vatican said. The 88-year-old pope was admitted to Rome's Gemelli hospital on February 14 with a severe respiratory infection that has required continuously evolving treatment. In a relatively upbeat health bulletin, the Vatican said the pope had carried out some work and had spent much of the day in an armchair. The last time the

Vatican specified that the pope had been able to work was on February 27. However, his doctors reiterated that his prognosis was "guarded", meaning he was not yet out of danger.

The Vatican also said that Francis would once again be reconnected to non-invasive mechanical ventilation overnight after it was removed during the day, underscoring his continued difficulty in shaking off the dangerous illness. When he is not on mechanical ventilation, which pushes air into the lungs and does not require a patient to be sedated, the pope receives a high-flow of oxygen via a small nasal hose under his nose. For the first time since February 24, the Vatican said the pope had made a call to the Catholic parish in Gaza, which he has done frequently during the Israel-Hamas war. Francis suffered what the Vatican described as two episodes of "acute respiratory insufficiency" on Monday, but has had no repeat of this since then.

OUT OF SIGHT He has not been seen in public since entering hospital, his longest such absence since his papacy started 12

years ago. His doctors have not said how long the treatment might last. His illness has meant that he has already missed a number of Church events,



including a service on Wednesday known as Ash Wednesday, which marks the start of a 40-day period leading to Easter Sunday and which he normally presides over. Instead, Cardinal Angelo De Donatis stood in for him. "We feel deeply united with him at this time," De Donatis told the congregation in a Rome church. "We thank

him for offering his prayers and his sufferings for the good of the entire Church and the whole world," he added.

Christians receive a sign of the cross in ashes on their forehead during the service - a rite intended to remind people of their mortality. Donatis dwelt on the theme in his sermon. "In many ways, we try to banish death from our societies. Death, however, imposes itself as a reality with which we have to reckon, a sign of the precariousness and brevity of our lives," he said, in the homily which had been originally prepared for Francis to deliver. The Vatican said the pope had also taken part in an Ash Wednesday service in his hospital suite. Francis has experienced several bouts of ill health over the last two years and is prone to lung infections because he had pleurisy as a young adult and had part of one lung removed. Double pneumonia is a serious infection in both lungs that can inflame and scar them, making it difficult to breathe.

Elon Musk accuses Biden of delaying SpaceX mission to bring Sunita Williams home

The astronauts are just a few weeks away from finally returning to Earth after nine months in space. The return moved up a couple of weeks thanks to a change in SpaceX capsules.



world. SpaceX Chief Elon Musk reiterated his claim and accused the previous Joe Biden administration of refusing to allow the launch of another Dragon capsule to bring back NASA astronaut Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, who have been in space for nine months. "The astronauts were only supposed to be up there for 8 days and now have been there for 8 months. SpaceX could have sent up another Dragon and brought them home 6 months ago, but the Biden White

House (not NASA) refused to allow it," said Musk replying to a tweet. Elon Musk added that US President Donald Trump asked him to bring them back "as soon as possible" and he is doing so. Earlier, Wilmore refuted claims that politics played a part in his and Williams' return. During a news conference on Tuesday (March 4), Wilmore said that while politics is part of life, it did not play into his and Williams' return. Now, the astronauts are just a few weeks away from finally returning to Earth

after nine months in space. The return moved up a couple of weeks thanks to a change in SpaceX capsules. Wilmore and Williams were expected to be gone just a week or so when they launched last June aboard Boeing's new Starliner capsule, making its crew debut after years of delay. The Starliner had so many problems getting to the space station that NASA ruled it too dangerous to carry anyone and it flew back empty. Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams have to wait until their replacements arrive at the International Space Station next week before they can check out later this month. President Donald Trump and SpaceX's Elon Musk said at the end of January that they wanted to accelerate the astronauts' return, blaming the previous administration.

Rejected by 16 US colleges despite Google job offer, teen sues university

world. A teenage tech genius, who was offered a job at Google when he was still in high school, and his father are taking legal action against 16 US universities alleging he was discriminated against as an Asian-American when a slew of top schools rejected his application in 2023. Stanley Zhong, now 19, and his father, Nan Zhong, filed a lawsuit against the University of California system with SWORD (Students Who Oppose Racial Discrimination) - a group consisting of other students who believe Asian-Americans are discriminated against in the college admission process. In the 291-page lawsuit, the father-son duo claimed that Stanley was offered a PhD level job at Google as a software engineer despite being rejected by multiple top universities in the US, The Daily Mail reported. The Zhongs are seeking compensatory and punitive damages and "such other and further relief" as the court deems proper. Stanley had outstanding grades - a 3.97 GPA and a 4.42 weighted GPA. He was also one of around 2,000 students in high school to have scored 1590 or higher on the SAT, of more than 2 million students who take the test every year, The New York Post reported. Initially, what appeared to be a one-off case, became a normalcy after rejections started rolling in one after the other. "I did hear that Asians seem to be facing a higher bar when it comes to college admissions, but I thought maybe it's an urban legend," Stanley's father, Nan Zhong, told The Post. The teenager was only accepted by the University of Texas in Austin and the University of Maryland. He was rejected by Caltech, Cornell University, MIT, Stanford, UCLA, the University of Wisconsin, the University of Illinois, the University of Michigan, and UC Berkeley, among others. What started with surprise turned into frustration and then finally it turned into anger," Nan Zhong explained. His son intended to study Computer Science, and even managed his own startup while still in high school. Nan Zhong, an immigrant from China who also works as a software engineer, is pursuing the case without any legal representation because various law firms rejected to take up the matter. He used artificial intelligence to help outline the complaints and credited the technology for drafting the lawsuits. The US Supreme Court in 2023 outlawed affirmative action in college admissions, which means it's unconstitutional for a university to consider an applicant's race. However, Nan Zhong has decided to sue universities in states that rejected his son that had pre-existing laws banning racial discrimination in admissions. There's nothing more un-American than this... I don't really think [these schools] give a damn about the damage they're doing to these kids," Nan Zhong told The Post. Affirmative action in college admissions has been banned at public universities in California since 1996, The New York Post reported. So far, the Zhongs have filed lawsuits against the University of California system and the University of Washington. A lawsuit against the University of Michigan is under process, according to The Post. Stanley, meanwhile, took up the Google job offer and has been working at the tech giant since October. He was first offered the job when he was 13, thanks to his stellar coding skills, which made Google think he must be an adult.

US suspends military flights for deportations due to high costs: Report



world. The Donald Trump administration has suspended the use of costly military aircraft to fly migrants who entered the US illegally, The Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday. The report said that the use of US military aircraft to transport some migrants to their home countries or to a military base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, has proved expensive and inefficient. US defence officials told The Wall Street Journal that no flights were scheduled for the coming days, with the last military deportation flight

occurring March 1. They said the pause could be extended or made permanent. DEPORTATION FLIGHT COST MORE THAN FIRST CLASS A report by the news agency Reuters said that a US military deportation flight to Guatemala cost at least \$4,675 per migrant, according to data provided by US and Guatemalan officials. That is more than five times the \$853 cost of a one-way first-class ticket on American Airlines from El Paso, Texas, the departure point for the flight, according to a review of publicly available

Trump administration halts costly military flights for migrants
No new flights scheduled, last was on March 1
Defence officials suggest pause may be extended

airfares. It is also significantly higher than the cost of a commercial charter flight by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). US President Donald Trump was elected on a promise to carry out the biggest deportation "in the history of America". While most of the migrants being targeted for expulsion come from Latin America, some are also being sent back much further across the globe. Trump launched the military deportation flights in January as part of his national emergency declaration on immigration, so far sending six plane-loads of migrants on flights to Latin America.

Why did Democrat congresswomen wear pink for Donald Trump's address?

A large section of women Democratic leaders wore striking pink outfits as a symbol of protest against President Donald Trump's policies during his address to Congress on Tuesday.



UPDATED On Tuesday, several Democrat congresswomen wore pink for Donald Trump's first address to Congress during his second term. The Democratic Women's Caucus used the color as an act of defiance against the U.S. president. The caucus' chair, Leger Fernandez from the state of New Mexico, told Time Magazine that the color was to "signal our protest of Trump's policies, which are negatively impacting women and families." "Pink is a color of power and protest. It's time to rev up the

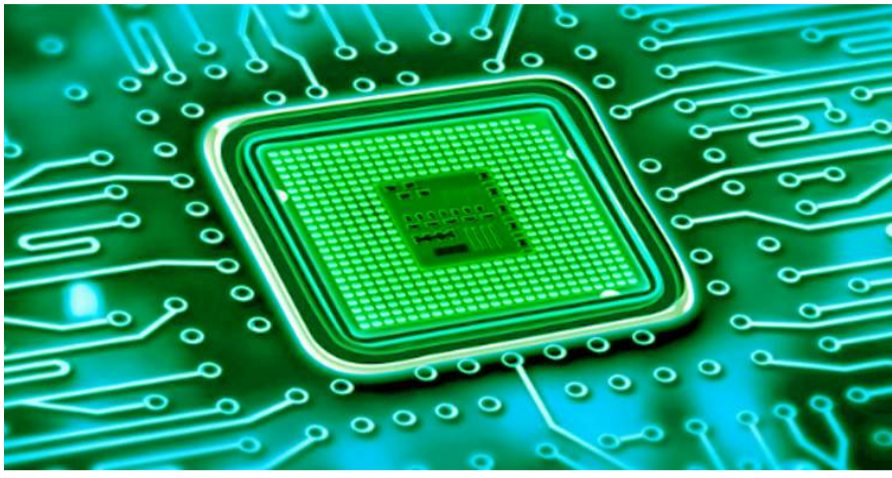
opposition and come at Trump loud and clear," she said. She asserted that the Republican agenda was "devastating" for American women. Caucus vice chair Hillary Scholten highlighted that pink was

the color of the "Women's March." "We're standing together in pink the color of the Women's March, the color of persistence as we continue to fight for our rights. This is a movement by, for, and about women," she

said, as quoted by NBC. The caucus comprises 96 members in the U.S. Capitol. Around 30 members were spotted wearing pink outfits. This is not the first time the Democratic Women's Caucus has chosen a color to express their defiance. In previous years, members have worn white as a symbol of women's rights and reproductive freedom. Democrats Held Up "FALSE" Signs Amid Trump's Speech The Democrats resorted to silent protest throughout Donald Trump's speech. Many members held up small black signs that read "FALSE" or "Save Medicaid." Some walked out midway through the address and revealed shirts with the message, "No Kings Live Here." Other groups of Democratic lawmakers chose different colors as a form of symbolism. The Congressional Black Caucus chose black, while supporters of Ukraine wore blue or yellow, the colors of its national flag.

India Set to Launch First 'Made in India' Semiconductor Chip by Year-End

RNS: India is on track to unveil its first domestically produced semiconductor chip by the end of this year, marking a significant milestone in its growing electronics manufacturing sector. Union Minister for Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw, made the announcement, highlighting the rapid strides India is making in hardware manufacturing, particularly in semiconductors. Traditionally known for its software leadership, India is now establishing itself as a major player in semiconductor production, with five plants under construction. Vaishnaw emphasized that the government's "Make in India" initiative is propelling the country into



the global electronics spotlight.

In his address, Vaishnaw also discussed India's digital and AI advancements, including initiatives to democratize AI access through a new Common Compute facility offering

over 18,000 GPUs at a subsidized rate. This is aimed at supporting startups, researchers, and academia in developing AI applications, including large language models (LLMs) and problem-specific AI solutions. The government is also

curating large-scale anonymized datasets to train AI models and improve their accuracy, particularly in sectors like agriculture and traffic management. India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), comprising platforms like Aadhaar,

UPI, and DigiLocker, has gained global attention for its public-private approach. Vaishnaw noted that AI integration into these platforms has enhanced efficiency in financial transactions and governance, with global interest in replicating India's model, as seen during the G20 Summit. Japan has even granted a patent to India's UPI system, underscoring its scalability. The Minister also pointed to AI-driven innovations at Mahakumbh 2025, where AI tools optimized crowd management, and the multilingual AI chatbot Kumbh SahAI'yak assisted with translations and real-time updates. These efforts set new standards in AI-enabled event management.

Vaishnaw stressed the importance of India's workforce in driving the digital revolution, citing the addition of a Global Capability Center (GCC) every week. The National Education Policy 2020 is also ensuring that university curricula are aligned with emerging technologies like AI, 5G, and semiconductor design. In terms of AI governance, the government is adopting a pragmatic approach, investing in safeguards against cybersecurity threats, deepfakes, and privacy risks while fostering innovation. Vaishnaw reiterated that India aims to use technology for inclusive growth while maintaining a responsible regulatory framework.

Court Fines Rahul Gandhi Rs. 200 for Skipping Hearing in Savarkar Defamation Case



Lucknow: A Lucknow court on Wednesday imposed a fine of Rs. 200 on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for failing to appear in connection with a case regarding his remarks about freedom fighter Veer Savarkar. The Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM) also issued a stern warning, directing Gandhi to appear before the court on April 14, 2025, and stated that further non-compliance could result in legal consequences.

The case stemmed from a complaint by Nripendra Pandey, who took issue with Gandhi's statement during a press conference in Maharashtra on December 17, 2022. Gandhi had allegedly referred to Savarkar as "a servant of the British" and "a pension receiver," remarks that Pandey claimed were inflammatory and could incite public unrest. The complainant further alleged that similar pamphlets were distributed to journalists at the event.

During the hearing, Gandhi's lawyer, Pranshu Agrawal, sought an exemption from his client's appearance, citing a pre-scheduled meeting with a foreign dignitary. Agrawal assured the court that Gandhi was not intentionally avoiding the proceedings and respected the judicial process.

Despite this explanation, the court imposed the fine and insisted on Gandhi's presence at the next hearing. Failure to appear could result in a non-bailable warrant, the court cautioned.

In addition to the Savarkar case, Gandhi is facing another legal challenge related to comments made during an economic survey ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. A complaint filed by Pankaj Pathak, president of the All India Hindu Federation Mandal, alleges that Gandhi's statements regarding wealth distribution offended religious sentiments.

Babul Marandi Appointed Leader of Opposition in Jharkhand Assembly



Ranchi: Babul Marandi has been appointed as the Leader of the Opposition in the Jharkhand Assembly. The state BJP President was elected as the Leader of the Legislative Party on Thursday in the presence of central party observers. BJP MLAs congratulated Marandi on his appointment.

The position of Leader of the Opposition had been vacant since 2020, except for a brief eight-month period in 2024 when Amar Bauri held the post. The vacancy stemmed from legal and procedural delays after Marandi's Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajatantrik) merged with the BJP. Issues surrounding his formal recognition as a BJP MLA had delayed his nomination.

Marandi's appointment marks the end of the long uncertainty surrounding the role, with the BJP now officially entrusting him with the responsibility. The BJP Parliamentary Board had appointed Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav and MP Dr. K. Laxman as central observers for the election.

A veteran in Jharkhand politics, Marandi made history as the first Chief Minister of the state in 2000. After parting ways with the BJP in 2006 and founding his own party, Jharkhand Vikas Morcha, he rejoined the BJP in 2020.

No anticipatory bail if it risks justice in corruption cases: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court recently upheld the denial of anticipatory bail to a public servant accused of demanding a bribe.

It ruled that in serious offenses like corruption, courts must exercise caution while granting anticipatory bail to maintain public confidence in the justice system. The Court emphasized that such bail should only be granted in exceptional cases where there is clear evidence of false implication or politically motivated allegations.

"Over-solicitous homage to the accused's liberty can sometimes defeat the cause of public justice," observed the bench comprising Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice R Mahadevan.

"Make in India, Make for the World": Japanese expansion plans in India with commitment



New Delhi: In a significant step towards deepening economic cooperation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with a 17-member Japanese business delegation in New Delhi, expressing enthusiasm about their expansion plans in India and their commitment to the "Make in India, Make for the World" initiative.

The delegation, led by Tatsuo Yasunaga, Chairman of the Japan-India Business

Cooperation Committee, included senior leaders from major Japanese corporate sectors such as manufacturing, banking, airlines, pharmaceuticals, plant engineering, and logistics.

During the meeting, Yasunaga briefed Prime Minister Modi about the upcoming 48th Joint Meeting of the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee, set to take place in New Delhi on March 6, 2025. The dis-

ussions centered on several key areas, including the potential for high-quality, low-cost manufacturing in India, expanding production for global markets with a particular focus on Africa, and boosting human resource development and exchanges between the two nations.

Prime Minister Modi welcomed the expansion plans of Japanese companies in India, emphasizing their dedication to the "Make in

India, Make for the World" vision. He also highlighted the importance of skill development in enhancing bilateral relations between India and Japan, recognizing it as a crucial pillar for future collaboration. This meeting underscores the growing strategic and economic partnership between the two nations, with Japan continuing to play a vital role in India's economic development.

DPS Bokaro Student Ayush Achieves Landmark Feat in Mathematics; qualifies INMO, IMOTC

Bokaro: Ayush Lachhiramka, a student from DPS Bokaro, has made history by becoming the only student from Bihar and Jharkhand to qualify for both the Indian National Mathematical Olympiad (INMO) and the prestigious International Mathematical Olympiad Training Camp (IMOTC) 2025. The camp will be held at the Chennai Mathematical Institute in May this year. Ayush, competing in Category 'A' (students from



classes VIII to XI), scored an impressive 41 points, well above the 31-point cutoff for IMOTC. Out of thousands of participants, only 69 students qualified

for IMOTC, and 67 were selected for the Asian Pacific Mathematics Olympiad (APMO), highlighting Ayush's exceptional mathematical talent.

The Mathematical Olympiad Programme, organized by the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE) under the Department of Atomic Energy, aims to identify and nurture young mathematical talent across India. DPS Bokaro Principal Dr. A.S. Gangwar congratulated Ayush on his remarkable achievement and wished him success in the next stages of the competition.

Strike Averted SAIL-BSL Management and Union Reach Agreement



Bokaro: The ongoing negotiations between the Krantikari Ispat Mazdoor Sangh (KIMS-Hind Mazdoor Sabha) and the management of SAIL/Bokaro Steel Plant have reached a breakthrough after three days of talks, avoiding a strike scheduled for March 7. The discussions, held with the intervention of the Executive Director (Operations), resulted in an agreement on key issues concerning workers' rights and medical checkups.

Union leader Rajendra Singh announced that the controversial medical checkup policy, which linked workers' medical clearances to their gate passes, has been scrapped. The management has pledged that no worker will lose their job due to medical checkup issues. Additionally, the responsibility for treating workers outside the ESIC coverage will now fall on Bokaro Steel Plant if ESIC fails to extend the coverage limit by March.

Regarding the incentive reward scheme, Singh confirmed that the management has promised to implement a revised version soon. The management also agreed to address other union demands, including gratuity for contract workers, night shift allowances, and grade promotions.

PM Modi conferred with Barbados Award for his leadership during COVID-19



RNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred with the prestigious Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados Award in recognition of his strategic leadership and valuable assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. The award was received by Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita on behalf of Prime Minister Modi in a ceremony held in Bridgetown, Barbados. Pabitra Margherita expressed his gratitude for the recognition and called it a profound honour to accept the prestigious award on behalf of Prime Minister Modi. The award announcement was made by the Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Amor Mottley during a meeting with Prime Minister Modi on 20th November last year, held on the sidelines of the 2nd India-CARICOM Leaders' Summit.

No permission for Holi in AMU ... Hindu Students Approaches PM Modi



Aligarh: Hindu students at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) are planning to write to Prime Minister Narendra Modi after they were denied permission to organize Holi celebrations at the university. The request to hold a Holi Milan event at the Non-Resident Students' Centre (NRSC) Club on March 9 was reportedly turned down.

LLM student Akhil Kaushal, who sought approval from the university's proctor and vice-chancellor, expressed his concerns about the denial, questioning why Holi celebrations were not permitted when other religious festivals like Iftar parties, Muharram processions, and Eid Miladunnabi celebrations were allowed. Kaushal argued that

this constituted religious discrimination, calling for equal treatment of all religious festivals at the university. Professor Mohammad Wasim Ali, the university's proctor, responded by clarifying that there was no official ban on Holi celebrations at AMU. He stated that students have celebrated Holi on campus in previous years without

needing formal permission and that the issue was being blown out of proportion. However, Kaushal and other students remain resolute in raising the matter with PM Modi and the Ministry of Education, demanding that Holi Milan celebrations be allowed if other religious festivals are granted permission at the university.

'If you hold hostages, you are dead..' Trump's 'last warning' to Hamas

RNS: U.S. President Donald Trump has directly engaged in talks with Hamas to negotiate the release of American hostages, issuing a strong warning to the militant group in control of Gaza.

Trump's message was unambiguous: if Hamas does not release the hostages and return the bodies of those killed, the consequences will be severe. On Wednesday, Trump took to social media, demanding, "Release all of the hostages now, not later, and immediately return all of the dead bodies of the people you murdered, or it is OVER for you." This statement followed the confirmation from U.S. officials that talks with Hamas were underway. White House press secretary



Karoline Leavitt stated, "These are ongoing talks and discussions. I am not going to detail them here. There are American lives at stake." Reports indicate that Hamas has been holding 59 hostages since its 2006 siege of Gaza, with only 22 believed to still be alive. The U.S. has been quietly engaging with Hamas over the past weeks in an effort

to negotiate the release of American citizens. This marks the first time the U.S. has directly interacted with Hamas, a group designated as a terrorist organization by the U.S. since 1997. According to Axios, Adam Boehler, the U.S. presidential envoy for hostage affairs, has been leading these discussions in Doha. While the primary goal is to secure the release of

American hostages, talks have also touched on the possibility of a broader deal for the release of all hostages. However, there has been no agreement on a long-term ceasefire as of yet. Though the U.S. had previously discussed with Israel the potential for talks with Hamas, reports indicate that Israel was informed of these discussions through unofficial channels.

U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff had planned to meet with the prime minister of Qatar to discuss ceasefire negotiations but canceled his trip after realizing that Hamas had little interest in pursuing such discussions. As the talks continue, the U.S. is focused on ensuring the safe return of its citizens held by Hamas.

Mamata Banerjee invited for address at Oxford University on March 27

→ Mamata Banerjee to visit Oxford University in UK in this month-end
→ She will deliver address on 'social development: girl child, women's empowerment'
→ According to Kellogg College, Banerjee focussed on healthcare, education



New Delhi. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has been invited for an address at Kellogg College, Oxford University, in the

UK on the topic of 'social development - girl, child and women's empowerment' on March

27. The college's website states that it is delighted to welcome Banerjee for a conversation with College

President, Prof Jonathan Michie, and Bynum Tudor Fellow at Kellogg, Lord Karan Bilimoria.

"It will provide a rare opportunity to talk with one of India's most influential leaders about her remarkable journey in politics, literature, and cultural advocacy," it said. The website mentions that as the West Bengal Chief Minister, Banerjee has focused on improving infrastructure, healthcare, education, and rural development.

Banerjee's Trinamool Congress government introduced several welfare programmes aimed at empowering marginalised communities and women in the state.

Supreme Court bars new cases against Udhayanidhi Stalin on Sanatan Dharma remarks

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed that no further cases be registered against Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin over his remarks on Sanatan Dharma without the court's permission. The order came during a hearing on Stalin's petition, in which he sought the consolidation of multiple FIRs lodged against him across various states.

Udhayanidhi Stalin had sparked outrage with his comments in September 2023, equating Sanatan Dharma with diseases like 'dengue and malaria' and calling for its eradication. Udhayanidhi, son of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, has defended his statement, arguing that he was criticising caste-based discrimination and social injustices rather than targeting any religion.



Senior Advocate AM Singhvi, appearing for Stalin, informed the bench that a fresh complaint had been filed in Bihar, in addition to the existing FIRs in several states. The court responded firmly, stating, "You can't keep filing

new complaints." Singhvi also reminded the court that during the last hearing, it had considered the possibility of transferring the cases to Karnataka if not Tamil Nadu.

Referring to previous Supreme Court rulings in similar cases, including that of Nupur Sharma, Singhvi argued that Stalin's remarks were less offensive in comparison. However, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Maharashtra government, countered this by stating that the remarks were made at a "Sanatan Dharma eradication conference".

He further submitted, "He said it has to be eradicated... please see if the Chief Minister of a different state had said something similar about a different religion, such as eradicating Islam." Mehta also pointed out that just because the community in question had not reacted violently did not make the remarks any less problematic.

MK Stalin urges south states to band together against 'unjust' delimitation

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has called for South Indian states to unite against delimitation. He proposed forming a Joint Action Committee to resist what he called an unfair threat to federalism.



Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin called for a united front among South Indian states against the proposed parliamentary delimitation, announcing plans to form a Joint Action Committee (JAC) to address what he termed as an "unjust" exercise.

The proposal came after an all-party meeting convened by Stalin in Chennai's Namakkal Kavingar Hall, where leaders from 123 political parties reaffirmed Tamil Nadu's opposition to delimitation based solely on population figures from future Censuses. The meeting saw a unanimous rejection of any delimitation process that would reduce the parliamentary representation of Tamil Nadu and other southern states. Participants argued that penalising states for successfully implementing population control measures would be unfair and a direct threat to India's federal structure.

In a series of resolutions, the all-party meeting demanded an extension of the current freeze on delimitation -- based on the 1971 population figures -- beyond its existing deadline of 2026. The leaders also called for immediate engagement with other affected states to build a collective opposition to the delimitation proposal. To strengthen this effort, the meeting resolved to establish a Joint Action Committee with representatives from Tamil Nadu's political parties and extended an invitation to like-minded parties across India. Stalin assured that the state government would take all necessary steps based on the consensus reached at the meeting. In the coming days, Tamil Nadu is set to initiate official outreach to political parties in other South Indian states, seeking their participation in the JAC. The move signals a concerted push to defend the political representation of southern states and reinforce the principles of fairness and federalism in the country's electoral system.

Venkaiah Naidu wants Telugu compulsory in Andhra government affairs, schools

Former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu urged Andhra Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to promote Telugu in governance, making it mandatory in official communications and education. He expressed confidence in Naidu's commitment.

Andhra Pradesh. Former Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has appealed to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to promote and implement Telugu at the government level, emphasising the need to strengthen its use in official duties and education.



Speaking in Visakhapatnam, Venkaiah Naidu expressed confidence that the chief minister would take steps to make Telugu mandatory in

government notices, question papers, and responses. "Until Class 10, or be it official government communications, Telugu should be compulsory," he

said, adding that he was happy to see the chief minister address the importance of the mother tongue.

Venkaiah Naidu noted that both leaders treat each other as brothers and think for the welfare of Andhra Pradesh. He also mentioned that Chandrababu Naidu must present the state's financial reality to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. This comes one week after the neighbouring state, Telangana, made Telugu a compulsory subject for

students from Classes 1 to 10 in all schools operating in the state. The rule, which will be applicable to all board-affiliated schools, including state board, CBSE, ICSE, IB, and others, will come into effect from the 2025-26 academic year. Both the Telugu states are attempting to promote the language amid the row in Tamil Nadu over the Centre's push for National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The DMK has been opposing the move, which it sees as a means of 'Hindi imposition.'

Once a mediator, why is Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann now acting tough on farmers?

Chandigarh. From a breakdown in talks to the detention of hundreds of farmer leaders to then not allowing farmers to reach Chandigarh for a dharna outside the residence of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday, Punjab in the past three days saw a sudden escalation between farmers and the state government. Not long ago, Mann would act as a mediator between farmer leaders and the Centre and sit in the meetings for hours. But things have since changed and the CM has



toughened his stance on farmers, who are protesting him and the Aam Aadmi Party government in the state. Mann time and again slammed the Centre for not allowing

farmers to enter New Delhi. He now faces the same criticism. Things escalated between farmer leaders and the state government when on March 3, the former accused the CM of inappropriate behaviour and walking out of a meeting with Sanyukt Kisan Morcha leaders at the Punjab Bhawan in Chandigarh. Mann allegedly left saying that if the farmers wanted to go ahead with the March 5 dharna in Chandigarh then they could do that.

Devendra Fadnavis says learning Marathi a must after RSS leader's comment sparks row

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis asserted in the assembly that Marathi is the state's official language and must be learnt by all residents. He emphasised its cultural significance, calling it every citizen's duty to learn and respect it.

New Delhi. Amid an ongoing language row in the country, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis firmly asserted in the legislative assembly that Marathi is the official language of the state and that everyone residing in the state should learn it. Emphasising the language's significance, he stated that Marathi is an integral part of the state's culture and identity, making it the duty of every citizen to learn and respect it.



His remarks came after a controversial statement by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leader Bhaiyyaji Joshi, who had recently said that "it is not necessary for everyone to know Marathi".

The senior RSS leader's remarks come at a time when the BJP-led Maharashtra government has made Marathi compulsory in primary and secondary schools affiliated with ICSE and CBSE

boards to promote the local language. Political parties like the Shiv Sena and Raj Thackeray's MNS have been aggressively pushing for the use of Marathi in daily business. His comment sparked a major political debate, with

many questioning the state's language policy and demanding clarity on the government's position. Addressing these concerns, MLA Bhaskar Jadhav sought a response from the government on its stance regarding Marathi.

In a strong rebuttal, Fadnavis made it clear that the state government's position is unwavering-Mumbai and Maharashtra's primary language is Marathi, and there will be no compromise on this.

He also reiterated the government's commitment to respecting and preserving the language as a part of Maharashtra's cultural heritage. He urged citizens to incorporate Marathi into their daily lives and give it the respect it deserves. Following his statement, a heated debate erupted in the assembly between members of the BJP and Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray faction).

India's stern message for host UK over security breach during S Jaishankar visit

→ The government on Thursday strongly reacted to the security breach during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's UK visit, condemning the "provocative activities" of a small group of "separatists and extremists".

New Delhi. The Indian government on Thursday strongly reacted to the security breach during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's UK visit, condemning the "provocative activities" of a small group of "separatists and extremists" and also issued a tough message for the UK. The breach happened when a group of Khalistani extremists, carrying the Indian national flag and loudspeakers, chanted slogans outside the Chatham House in London where Jaishankar engaged in discussions. Later, when he was leaving the venue, a man ran towards his car and tore the Tricolour in front of police officers, as the matter escalated into a security breach. "We have seen the footage of a breach of security during the visit of EAM to the UK. We condemn the provocative activities of this small group of separatists and extremists.



We deplore the misuse of democratic freedoms by such elements. We expect the host government in such cases to fully live up to their diplomatic obligations," the statement by the MEA read.

Videos of the chaos showed Khalistani extremists, waving flags and chanting slogans, outside Chatham House. The man, who tore the Tricolour, was also caught in another video running aggressively towards Jaishankar's convoy. Despite appearing hesitant to act initially, the police present at the spot later took the

man and other extremists away. During his UK visit, which will end on March 9, Jaishankar also met UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy. The two leaders spoke on several topics, including political cooperation, education, mobility, people-to-people exchanges and strategic coordination, among others.

During the discussion at Chatham House, the External Affairs Minister faced a question by a Pakistani journalist, who claimed the same would make Jaishankar a "little nervous". The journalist then accused India of "illegally occupying Kashmir". Furthermore, the journalist claimed Kashmiris are "up in arms", alleging India has stationed "one million troops to control seven million Kashmiris" before asking Prime Minister Narendra Modi could utilise his friendship with US President Donald Trump to resolve the long-standing Kashmir issue.

→ Khalistani extremists protested outside London venue where Jaishankar spoke
→ They chanted slogans, one man tore Indian national flag in front of police
→ MEA said it expects UK to 'fully live up to diplomatic obligations'

Jaishankar firmly dismissed any third-party intervention and defended India's approach to handling the Kashmir issue, stating that decisive measures had already been taken to address the matter independently.

"I think the part we are waiting for is the return of the stolen part of Kashmir, which is under an illegal Pakistani occupation. When that's done, I assure you, Kashmir solved," the External Affairs Minister said.

We are in Zelensky's shoes now

LATE last year, the White House Historical Association added an exhibit to its White House tour for tourists — a full-scale replica of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, located a block away. It includes a tour of spaces barred for the public in the real building, including the Oval Office. Adding the wax figures of President Donald Trump and Vice-President JD Vance arguing with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the Oval Office before the media would complete the exhibit. The 'showdown', as the bare-knuckle scrap is now known, has shocked the entire world, signalling as it does the end of a world order that has prevailed since the end of World War II. The moment deserves to be memorialised.

Several 'nuanced' geopolitical arguments are being forwarded to explain the Trump-Vance attack on Zelenskyy. That Trump wants the war to end, but Zelenskyy wants to drag it out. That Trump's mediation — Zelenskyy is reluctant to sign off on it because it forces him to cede territory to Russia and half of Ukraine's mineral wealth to the US for all time — is a confidence-builder with Vladimir Putin that will prevent further Russian aggression in Europe. That Trump wants to pull Putin out of China's embrace so that the US and Russia can go back to being the two big boys in the West, while China can play in the East. But the jury is out on these interpretations. Some might argue that the Trump-Vance harangue of Zelenskyy has diminished America.

What lessons can India take from this shape-shifting moment? So far, what is most evident is a sense of relief mixed with triumph that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington, at least in the two encounters with the media that the two leaders had together, went off without the treatment that Zelenskyy got. Self-congratulation is also aplenty about how the Indian foreign policy establishment was able to suss out Trump and return home with 'outcomes' on defence cooperation and trade. Zelenskyy is being ridiculed for going into the meeting 'entitled' and 'without preparation' to deal with a new President whose personal relationship with Putin has upended the trans-Atlantic consensus against Russia. What did PM Modi do differently? Unlike Zelenskyy, who demanded a security backstop from the US in return for agreeing to a peace agreement with Russia, Modi did not refuse to do anything that Trump wanted. India took back the undocumented Indian immigrants without a murmur. It also accepted that it was 'US procedure' to shackle them and fly them back in military aircraft. The government reduced some tariff lines before the PM embarked on his first meeting with Trump 2.0 and may 'rationalise' more in the run-up to the first draft of a trade agreement later this year. Delhi back-pedalled on the BRICS de-dollarisation plan after Trump tore into it, despite Modi's advocacy of trade in local currencies at the Kazan summit in October 2024. Modi did not argue with Trump's criticism of Indian tariffs in front of the media. Only time will tell if the Indian side was successful in pushing its case behind closed doors. For India, more important than PM Modi coming out unscathed from his meeting with Trump should be what Beijing has taken away from the Oval Office encounter. Trump has indicated in recent weeks that he is not as passionate about protecting Taiwan as the Biden administration. He has demanded that Taiwan, which Beijing has not ruled out taking over militarily, must pay the US for its defence. He has accused the Taiwan chip-making industry of undermining US chip manufacturers. The treatment to Zelenskyy has raised concerns of an emboldened China making a grab for Taiwan. Closer home are an unsettled border with China, Chinese militarisation along this border, its claims in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, and the recent experience with Chinese territory-slicing tactics. During Modi's visit, India and the US signed a defence cooperation deal in which "the leaders committed to break new ground to support and sustain the overseas deployments of the US and Indian militaries in the Indo-Pacific, including enhanced logistics and intelligence-sharing, as well as arrangements to improve force mobility for joint humanitarian and disaster relief operations along with other exchanges and."

Cricket diplomacy: Can ICC stand up for Afghan women

For a start, the ICC could provide funding that is due to the Afghan women's team in exile in Melbourne.

When the Afghan cricket team defeated England at the ICC Champions Trophy match in Lahore on February 26 by eight runs in a nail-biting finish that went to the last over, cricket lovers the world over applauded this plucky team for their resilience and determination. Since they were admitted to the international cricketing fold in 2017, Afghanistan, with its war-ravaged history of the last five decades, has transmuted this game into a symbol of national identity, hope and unity. This winning streak came to a disappointing end on February 28 when Afghanistan played Australia, the top dogs in the ICC, and put up a fighting score of 273, but the match was abandoned due to rain. The Aussies had already raced to 109 for the loss of one wicket in under 13 overs and the outcome was predictable. But Afghanistan is now a high-calibre cricketing nation and even the Taliban, with its oppressive rule, is aware of the team's popularity.

However, this spotlight on the Afghan cricket team at the ICC and their prowess also draws attention to a tragic tale — that of the Afghan women's cricket team. Their plight is a microcosm of the larger oppression and erasure that the Taliban, currently in power in Kabul since August 2021, has inflicted on the women of Afghanistan.

With the Taliban restricting education for girls, banning all kinds of sports for women and forbidding them from appearing in public spaces, the Afghan women cricketers had to flee the country to escape persecution. In a dramatic journey in late 2021, enabled by three intrepid Australian women — Mel Jones, Emma Staples and Catherine Ordway — a total of 120 people were smuggled out of Afghanistan to Australia via Pakistan and Dubai. An Afghan women's cricket team in exile has been formed in Melbourne and they are seeking both recognition and support from the ICC management, but this has proved elusive. As per the rules, to qualify for full membership of the ICC, a cricketing nation has to field both a men's and a women's team to receive funding and enjoy Test status. Since the Taliban seized power in 2021, this condition regarding a women's team has not been met, but the ICC has chosen to accord the ACB (Afghanistan Cricket Board) full membership with funding and has allowed it to participate in the current championship. The ICC is aware of the plight of the Afghan women's team in exile and Chairman Jay Shah

has noted: "We are committed to supporting cricket development through the Afghanistan Cricket Board while recognising the challenges facing Afghan women's cricket, including the concerns of players living in exile." He added: "Our focus is on constructive dialogue and viable solutions that safeguard the best interests of all Afghan cricketers."

The status of women in Afghanistan since the Taliban



public spaces. The erasure of identity and self-esteem is frightening. The UN Security Council passed an ambitious and lofty Resolution 1325 in October 2000, which demanded that all member states respect and comply with international law related to the rights and protection of women and girls. Afghanistan adopted a NAP (National Action Plan) in 2015 with normative goals to ensure gender equity and protection from sexual violence, but all of this has been jettisoned under the Taliban rule. Post the enormity of 9/11 in September 2001, the US bombed Afghanistan back to the 'stone age' and sought to prise the Al Qaida leader Osama bin Laden from Taliban protection. The Taliban fled Kabul and a fledgling democracy was ushered into Afghanistan but it did not take roots. Twenty years later, the US made a hasty and shambolic withdrawal from Kabul in August 2021 (reminiscent of the American withdrawal from Saigon in April 1975) and the Taliban came back to seize power in Kabul.

Clearly, using force to intimidate the Taliban, that is steeped in patriarchy and male dominance, to conform to a more gender-equitable form of governance is not a viable option. Sociological research related to peace, conflict resolution and women's security dwells on 'patriarchal bargaining' as a means to infuse a degree of malleability in an otherwise inflexible, gender-insensitive hierarchy. Academics and activists have been engaged in valuable research in this area and there is a strong case to evolve a political consensus based on these findings to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table.

India has always had an empathetic relationship with the Afghan people even as that nation was plunged into war and devastation since the Soviet occupation of 1979. In recent months, Delhi has begun a tentative rapprochement with the Taliban and comfort at the official level will slowly evolve. The ICC card provides an option to incentivise bargaining with the Taliban and quiet cricket diplomacy should be explored. For a start, the ICC could provide funding that is due to the women's team in exile in Melbourne after due consultation with the ACB and other steps can follow. The unfortunate girls and women in Afghanistan who remain stoic and resolute despite the Taliban decrees must not be forgotten. Reach out to these sisters in your own manner and let them know that their plight has not been erased from the collective consciousness.

Fertiliser crisis

Its overuse is degrading soil

The sharp rise in urea and di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) consumption across multiple states, particularly Haryana, has raised red flags in the Agriculture Ministry. Haryana's urea usage surged by 18 per cent this rabi season, while some districts saw a 184 per cent increase in DAP consumption. This trend signals both excessive application by farmers and large-scale diversion of subsidised fertilisers. Authorities suspect that subsidised neem-coated urea is being diverted to industries such as plywood, resin and mining explosives, where technical-grade urea is much costlier. Reports indicate that with unscrupulous elements exploiting this price differential, nearly 10 lakh tonnes of urea are misappropriated annually, causing a Rs 6,000-crore subsidy leakage. In response, the government has launched joint operations with state authorities and imposed stricter legal action. Additionally, the Department of Fertilisers is coordinating with various ministries to



monitor supply chains and curb leakages. At the farm level, excessive fertiliser use remains a growing problem. Farmers, often unaware of recommended dosages, apply more urea to boost yields, especially for newer high-nitrogen wheat varieties. The rise of NPK

(sodium, phosphorous, potassium) fertiliser consumption has further increased urea dependency, leading to soil degradation, pest vulnerability and groundwater contamination. Indiscriminate fertiliser use not only affects soil health but also reduces the long-term productivity of farmlands.

Meanwhile, India's heavy reliance on fertiliser imports adds to the financial strain. The country imports around 75 lakh tonnes of urea annually, and rising global prices have pushed fertiliser subsidies beyond Rs 1.75 trillion. If unchecked, the growing fertiliser demand will place immense pressure on the economy. The government must strengthen fertiliser tracking, enforce stricter penalties for diversion and educate farmers on balanced nutrient application. Left unchecked, this crisis will not only burden taxpayers but also strain the economy, damage the environment and jeopardise agricultural sustainability.

Stagnant salaries, soaring costs: The job crunch

It is not just the case of starting salaries. Even middle-rung white-collar staffers with 10-15 years of experience are stuck with minimal pay hikes. Some are being asked to take pay cuts while others are simply being retrenched.

Recently, an acquaintance, who is a senior manager in a big firm, was complaining about GenZ recruits. "They don't want to work for even Rs 25,000 per month," he exclaimed. "I started at just Rs 10,000."

"When was that?" I asked him.

"In 1994," he replied.

I didn't have the heart to tell him that Rs 10,000 back then is the same as Rs 70,000 today. I also didn't want to point to the fact that he probably got huge raises within the first five years. Whereas, freshers today can expect their salaries to rise at just 5-8 per cent per year.

It isn't my friend's fault that he cannot gauge the magnitude of the salary crisis for India's white-collar workers. Most of us do not think of inflation when we compare salaries across generations. That is because psychologically, we as consumers are only used to treat money in nominal terms. So, if Rs 25,000 was a great starting salary 30 years ago, we think it must be good today as well.

I, for instance, reached a salary of Rs 1,00,000 per month in 2004. That was five years into my job. In today's prices, that is equal to Rs 3,75,000. But, if I am interviewing a candidate with similar experience for a job, and they ask for Rs 1,50,000, I consider it too steep.

But we all know from our daily experience that Rs 25,000 doesn't buy you much in a big city. A single room in a decent part of any city will cost at least Rs 15,000. In Gurgaon, where I live, a room with small kitchenette, costs much more.

That leaves a young employee with just Rs 10,000 for all their monthly expenses. Even better paid new joiners don't have more than Rs 25,000 to spend on themselves after they pay their rent and utility bills. Their daily conveyance alone would eat up Rs 3,000-5,000 out of that. A single mid-level restaurant meal would cost Rs 300-500. Four outings with friends in a month can set them back by Rs 1,200-2,000. And, don't tell me that they shouldn't eat out. We all did when we were young —

went to movies with friends, splurged on an occasional fancy meal, bought sneakers and jeans. That is what middle-class life has been about since the mid-1980s.

In fact, 20 years ago, people signed up for car loans as soon as they got a steady white-collar job.

That is why passenger car sales grew at 15 per cent per year between 2001-02 and 2011-12. Since then, there's been a steady slowdown — car sales have grown at just 5 per cent per year, with most of the real increase taking place in multi-utility vehicles for the more affluent. But it is not just the case of starting salaries. Even mid-rung white-collar employees with 10-15 years of experience are stuck with minimal pay hikes. Some are being asked to take pay cuts while others are simply being retrenched. A recent survey showed that 59 per cent of corporate employees do not expect good increments, and people at the middle-management level are most likely to expect low salary hikes. This is happening at a time when actual inflation faced by the urban middle class, who populate white-collar positions in India, has risen sharply. The official urban retail inflation figure, which looks at an average basket of goods and services, underestimates the real increase in costs because it covers the urban poor as well, whose consumption patterns are very different.

Take the cost of housing, for instance. Official urban retail inflation data says that housing costs have risen at an average of 4 per cent per year over the past five years. A recent study in the top seven cities in India shows that rent for a standard two-BHK house has risen at 11 per

cent per year in the same period. That's nearly three times compared to what official numbers show.

Housing accounts for 22 per cent of the total consumption expenditure basket for calculating urban retail inflation.



In reality, for most families living in big cities, it is at least 30 per cent of their total costs. If we readjust the weight for housing and take into account the actual rise in rents, then the average retail inflation faced by such middle class in the past five years rises to 7.7 per cent from 5.7 per cent. A recent study by Quess Corp shows that between 2019 and 2023, salary hikes have averaged just 0.8 per cent in the engineering, manufacturing, process and infrastructure (EMPI) sector, while they

averaged 5.4 per cent in the FMCG sector. Other studies show that salaries in the IT sector have been more or less stagnant for the past 10 years, or have grown at a meagre rate. So, a middle-class mid-rung employee earning Rs

1,00,000 in 2018-19, living in a big city, would have earned about Rs 1,25,000 in 2023-24. If they spent 85 per cent of their salary or Rs 85,000 back then, the real inflation faced by them would have taken their expenses to Rs 1,23,000 in 2023-24. So, if they were saving Rs 15,000 per month in 2018-19, five years later, they were saving virtually nothing. Earlier, they could have saved up to buy gadgets and durables for the home. Now, they simply can't. This has had a huge impact on the demand for goods and services that the middle class has traditionally generated in India. The demand for all kinds of goods — soaps, shampoo, hair oil, detergents, biscuits, razor blades, readymade garments, footwear, refrigerators, passenger cars, etc — has either declined or is stagnant, after a brief spike in the middle of 2021, when the Covid lockdowns ended.

This is a major economic crisis that India's middle class faces today. Short-term solutions, like income tax breaks, cannot help resolve this. The government has been trying to nudge corporates into increasing wages — their profits have quadrupled in the past five years, while their wage bills have remained stagnant. But corporate profits are now shrinking. Big companies saw their profits grow by just 5 per cent in the latest quarter, while small listed companies saw a decline in profits. They are unlikely to give more to their white-collar employees.

खासी मांग है देश के साथ-साथ विदेशों में भी

मेडीकल लैब टैक्नीशियन

मेडीकल लैब टैक्नीशियन, डाक्टरों के निर्देश पर काम करते हैं। उपकरणों के रख-रखाव और कई तरह के काम इनके जिम्मे होता है। लैबोरेटरी में नमूनों की जांच और विश्लेषण में काम आने वाला घोल भी लैब टैक्नीशियन ही बनाते हैं। इन्हें मेडीकल साइंस के साथ-साथ लैब सुरक्षा नियमों और जरूरतों के बारे में पूरा ज्ञान होता है। लैब टैक्नीशियन नमूनों की जांच का काम करते हैं, लेकिन वे इसके परिणामों के विश्लेषण के लिए प्रशिक्षित नहीं होते।

की



नमूनों के परिणामों का विश्लेषण पैथोलॉजिस्ट या लैब टेक्नोलॉजिस्ट ही कर सकता है। जांच के दौरान एमएलटी. कुछ सैम्पलों को आगे की जांच या फिर जरूरत के अनुसार उन्हें सुरक्षित भी रख लेता है। एमएलटी. का काम बहुत ही जिम्मेदारी और चुनौती भरा होता है। इसमें धैर्य और निपुणता की बड़ी आवश्यकता होती है। जमा किए गए डाटा की सुरक्षा और गोपनीयता की भी जिम्मेदारी उसकी होती है। मेडीकल लैब टेक्नोलॉजिस्ट में सर्टीफिकेट डिप्लोमा, डिग्री एवं मास्टर्स के दौरान बेसिक फिजियोलॉजी, बेसिक बायोकैमिस्ट्री एंड ब्लड बैंकिंग, एनाटोमी एंड फिजियोलॉजी,

माइक्रोबायोलॉजी, पैथोलॉजी, एनवायरनमेंट एंड बायोमेडीकल वेस्ट मैनेजमेंट, मेडीकल लैबोरेटरी टेक्नोलॉजी एवं अस्पताल प्रशिक्षण दिया जाता है। सर्टीफिकेट इन मेडीकल लैब टेक्नोलॉजी (सी.एम.एल.टी.) छह महीने का कोर्स है जिसके लिए योग्यता है 10वीं पास। वहीं डिप्लोमा इन मेडीकल लैब



टेक्नोलॉजी के लिए 12वीं पास होना जरूरी है। इस कोर्स की अवधि है एक वर्ष। 12वीं प्रमुख विषय के रूप में फिजिक्स, केमिस्ट्री और बायोलॉजी (पी.सी.बी.) तथा फिजिक्स, केमिस्ट्री या मैथ्स (पी.सी.एम.) के साथ पास होना अनिवार्य है।

बी.एससी. इन एम.एल.टी. के लिए 12वीं विज्ञान विषयों के साथ उत्तीर्ण होना जरूरी है। जिसकी अवधि है 3 वर्ष। एम.एस.सी. इन मेडीकल लैबोरेटरी टेक्नोलॉजिस्ट (एम.एल.टी.) प्रोग्राम में प्रवेश करने के लिए अभ्यर्थी के पास पहले हाई स्कूल डिप्लोमा होना चाहिए, इसके बाद 2 साल का एसोसिएट प्रोग्राम करना होता है। यह प्रोग्राम कम्युनिटी कॉलेज, टैक्नीकल, स्कूल, वोकेशनल स्कूल या विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा कराया जाता है।

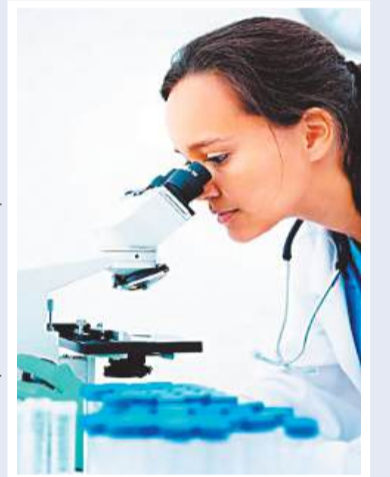
मेडीकल लैबोरेटरी तकनीशियनों को काम में निपुणता और जरूरत के अनुसार प्रशिक्षण की जरूरत पड़ती है।

छात्र इस तरह का प्रशिक्षण लैबोरेटरी कार्यों के दौरान ही साथ ही साथ प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। अधिकतर प्रांतों में मेडीकल लैबोरेटरी तकनीशियनों के लिए कोई प्रमाण पत्र की जरूरत नहीं होती, लेकिन कुछ राज्यों में इन तकनीशियनों के पास काम करने के लिए प्रमाण पत्र होना जरूरी है।

प्रमाण पत्र वाले तकनीशियनों के लिए इस क्षेत्र में बेहतर संभावनाएं होती हैं। आप किसी भी मेडीकल लैबोरेटरी हॉस्पिटल, पैथोलॉजिस्ट के साथ काम कर सकते हैं। ब्लड बैंक में इनकी खासी मांग रहती है। आप बतौर रिसर्चर व कंसल्टेंट के अलावा खुद का क्लिनिक खोल सकते हैं।



सामान्य तौर पर एक एम.एल.टी. का वेतन 10 हजार से शुरू होता है जबकि पैथोलॉजिस्ट को तीस हजार रुपए से चालीस हजार रुपए तक सैलरी मिल जाती है। साथ ही योग्यता और तजुबे के आधार पर उनके वेतन में इजाफा होता चला जाता है। देश के साथ-साथ विदेशों में भी इनकी खासी मांग है।



आधे से ज्यादा लोग अपनी जॉब से रहते हैं नाखुश!



क्या आप जानते हैं कि आधे से ज्यादा लोग अपनी नौकरी से नाखुश रहते हैं और आधे से ज्यादा लोग इस बात को महसूस करते हैं कि वह जिस जॉब को कर रहे हैं, उसमें उनका कोई भविष्य नहीं है या उन्होंने अपनी जिंदगी में गलत करियर चुन लिया। यह बात ब्रिटेन स्टडी में सामने आई है। स्टडी में कहा गया है कि ब्रिटेन में काम करने वाले लोग अपनी जॉब से परेशान हैं और वह मानते हैं कि वह अपने भविष्य को सही जगह नहीं ले गए। इसके साथ ही एक चौथाई लोग अपने आपको गरीब कर्मचारी मानते हैं। वह लोग ऐसा इसलिए समझते हैं, क्योंकि वह अपनी जॉब से खुश नहीं होते। स्टडी के मुताबिक 7 में से 1 कर्मचारी ऐसा भी होता है, जो अपनी जॉब से परेशान होकर उसकी आदर नहीं करते और वह जॉब पर ध्यान नहीं देता। इसके साथ-साथ 49 फीसदी ब्रिटेन के कर्मचारी ऐसे भी हैं, जो जॉब करने के साथ साथ किसी और फिल्ड में भी अपना करियर तलाश करते हैं।

प्रतिद्वंद्वी को अपना अच्छा दोस्त बनाएं



जब दोस्त ईर्ष्या करने लगे

कई बार ऑफिस में प्रमोशन मिलने से आपकी बैस्ट फ्रेंड को भी आपसे ईर्ष्या हो जाती है। ऐसे में अपनी ही दोस्त के बिहेवियर में जलन का भाव देख कर किसी को भी टैंशन होना लाजिमी है, उसे बताएं कि बहुत सी चीजें वक्त के साथ ही संभव हो पाती हैं, कल उसे भी तो प्रमोशन मिल सकता है, बस मेहनत करते रहो। इस प्रकार दो दोस्तों के दिलों में पड़ने वाली दीवार

को समय रहते मिटाया जा सकता है।

शिकायत करने वालों से बचें

ऐसे दोस्तों की भी कमी नहीं जिसे हमेशा आपसे कोई न कोई शिकायत रहती हो। हर बार कमी गिनाने वाले लोग पॉजिटिव सोच वाले नहीं हो सकते। अतः जरूरी है कि उसकी अधिकांश शिकायतों को उसकी आदत जान कर नजरअंदाज करना आरंभ करें। जब भी वह आपसे शिकायत करने लगे तो बात का टॉपिक ही बदल दें, यदि फिर भी वह न समझे, तो उसे साफ-साफ कह दें कि हर समय अपनी कमी सुनना आपको पसंद नहीं और वह भी अपने नैगेटिव थॉट्स छोड़ कर पॉजिटिव बातों की तरफ ध्यान दें।

हमेशा सलाह देने वालों से बचें

कुछ लोगों की आदत होती है कि अपने फ्रेंड्स को परेशान देख कर बिना उसकी परेशानी का सबब जाने ही उसे सलाह देने बैठ जाएंगे, बिना यह जाने कि उसे इसकी जरूरत है भी या नहीं। ऐसे दोस्तों को लगता है कि आप में

किसी प्रकार का फैसला लेने की क्षमता नहीं है और आपकी भलाई हमेशा उन्हें ऐसा करने को प्रेरित करती रहती है।

अब भले ही आपको यह सब बुरा लगे, पर इतनी सी बात पर दोस्ती कोई नहीं तोड़ता। अब की बार जब वह आपको बिन मांगे सलाह देने लगे तो बड़े प्यार से उसे यह समझाएं कि आप उसकी सलाह एवं राय का आदर करती हैं पर आप भी दूसरों की तरह अपनी ही गलतियों से सीखना चाहती हैं। यदि आपको उसकी सलाह की आवश्यकता होगी तो आप स्वयं उससे सलाह मांग लेंगी, तब तक उन्हें खुद ही इसका हल ढूँढने दिया जाए।

खुद करें पहल

दोस्ती एक ऐसा फेवीकोल है जो बिखरते रिश्तों को मजबूती से जोड़ने का काम करता है। यदि आप किसी दूसरे से बेहतर बनना चाहती हैं, तो उसकी दोस्त बन जाएं, फिर आपको उससे प्रतिस्पर्धा करने में तनाव भी नहीं होगा और आपको एक नया दोस्त भी मिल जाएगा, जिससे आप प्रतिदिन कुछ नया सीखेंगी। नए रिश्ते बनाने में पहल किसी को तो करनी ही होती है, तो क्यों न आप ही शुरूआत करें क्योंकि प्रतिद्वंद्वी को ही अपना अच्छा दोस्त बनाने से बेहतर और क्या हो सकता है।

बीती बातों को भुलाना बेहतर

कभी किसी दोस्त के लिए गुस्से में अपशब्द निकल गए हों तो उसे भुला कर उससे माफी मांग लें, क्योंकि बीती बातों को दोहराने का कोई लाभ नहीं। माफी मांग लेने से आप एक अच्छे दोस्त को खोने से बच जाएंगी और साथ ही उसकी नजरों में आपका स्थान और ऊंचा हो जाएगा।

अनुवादक

करियर का बेहतरीन विकल्प

आज दुनिया भर के कई देशों में डिस्कवरी सबसे लोकप्रिय चैनल है। यह चैनल दुनिया के कई देशों में उनकी भाषा में प्रसारण करता है। ऐसा संभव होता है अनुवाद के कारण। अनुवाद एक ऐसा माध्यम है जिसने ग्लोबल दुनिया को एक-दूसरे से जुड़ने में अहम भूमिका निभाई है। दुनिया की कई भाषाओं में अच्छे अनुवादकों की आज भारी मांग है। अच्छे अनुवादकों को अच्छा काम और अच्छा पैसा मिलने की चिंता नहीं करनी पड़ती है। अच्छे अनुवादक की योग्यता- यह ध्यान रखने की बात है कि अनुवाद मूल लेखन से भी मुश्किल है। सबसे पहले आपको अपनी मातृभाषा के अलावा दूसरी भाषा की जानकारी हो। इसके लिए महज फरट से स्पेनिश और फ्रेंच बोलने से काम नहीं चल जाता। अनुवादक का मकसद एक से दूसरे भाषा क्षेत्र में जाना होता है। इसलिए इसके लिए धैर्य, स्थिरता और समय की जरूरत होती है। अनुवाद शुरू करने से लेकर खत्म करने तक में अनुवादकों को कई तरह के प्रयोग करने होते हैं। शब्दों के विकल्पों में से सटीक शब्द चुनना होता है। मूल लेखन और टारगेट रीडर के बीच की दूरी खत्म करनी होती है। यह दूरी जितनी ज्यादा कम हो जाए, अनुवाद उतना सफल होता है। अवसर-शिक्षा और मीडिया से जुड़े लोगों के बीच अनुवाद के काम की बहुत मांग है।

विभिन्न दूतावासों में भी अच्छे अनुवादकों की दरकार होती है। फिल्मों और धारावाहिकों में डबिंग के लिए भी अनुवादक की जरूरत होती है। एक प्रोफेशनल अनुवादक के लिए रोजगार के कई अवसर हैं। आज देश में लगभग पांच करोड़ लोग ऐसे हैं जिन्हें तीन भाषाओं का ज्ञान है। आने वाले समय में यह संख्या बढ़ेगी जिसके कारण रोजगार की संख्या बढ़ेगी। जिन लोगों को दो या तीन भाषाओं की अच्छी जानकारी होती है, वे अनुवादक के रूप में अच्छा करिअर बना सकते हैं। अनुवाद का मानव सभ्यता और संस्कृति के विकास में बहुत बड़ा योगदान है। अनुवाद दरअसल एक सेतु है, जो दो भाषाओं, दो संस्कृतियों और दो सभ्यताओं को आपस में जोड़ता है। भूमंडलीकरण के इस दौर में अनुवादकों की मांग बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ रही है। अनुवाद करने वालों के लिए प्रकाशन गृह में हमेशा स्थान होता है। इसके अलावा फिल्मों में भी विदेशी फिल्मों के सबटाइटल बनाने और

भाषा

संप्रेषण का माध्यम है

लेकिन यदि भाषा पर अधिकार हो तो करिअर बनाने की डगर बहुत आसान हो जाती है। वैसे तो आप किसी भी क्षेत्र में अपना करिअर बनाएँ, दो या दो से अधिक भाषाओं पर अच्छी पकड़ आपको हर क्षेत्र में अच्छा अधिकार अपने आप में एक विशेषता है।

किसी अन्य भाषा में फिल्म की डबिंग करने

के लिए

अनुवादकों की

आवश्यकता होती है।

अखबार और पत्रिकाओं में भी अनुवाद का बहुत काम होता है, इसलिए प्रिंट मीडिया में भी अनुवादकों के लिए अवसर मौजूद होते हैं। निजी क्षेत्र के अलावा शासकीय क्षेत्र में भी अनुवादकों के लिए रोजगार के कई अवसर उपलब्ध होते हैं। शासकीय दूतावासों में अनुवादक की भूमिका बहुत महत्वपूर्ण होती है।

दूतावास में काम करने वाले अनुवादकों को विदेश जाने के अवसर एवं प्रतिष्ठापूर्ण ओहदा मिलता है। कई लोग अनुवाद को केवल हिंदी और अंग्रेजी के साथ जोड़कर ही देखते हैं। जबकि ऐसा नहीं है, अनुवाद के संदर्भ में हिंदी और अंग्रेजी का क्षेत्र बहुत विस्तृत है। लेकिन अन्य भाषाओं में भी अनुवाद के अनेक अवसर उपलब्ध हैं। यदि हम अपने देश के बारे में बात करें तो हिंदी के अलावा गुजराती, मराठी, कन्नड़, तमिल जैसी भाषाओं में भी अनुवादकों के लिए बहुत से अवसर उपलब्ध हैं। यदि अनुवादक के रूप में नौकरी न करना चाहें तो फ्रीलांस अनुवादक के रूप में काम किया जा सकता है। फ्रीलांस अनुवादकों के लिए भी अवसरों की कमी नहीं है। फ्रीलांस अनुवादकों के लिए इंटरनेट बहुत बड़ा अवसरदाता है। कई वेबसाइट अनुवादकों को अवसर मुहैया करवा रही है। इन साइटों पर अनुवादक अपना पंजीयन करवाते हैं।

NEWS BOX

Harry Kane brace puts Bayern on course for last eight against Leverkusen

MUNICH. Harry Kane struck twice as Bayern Munich eased to a 3-0 home win over 10-man Bayer Leverkusen on Wednesday, putting them on track for the Champions League quarter-finals. Unable to beat Leverkusen in six attempts since Xabi Alonso took over in October 2022, Bayern were dominant from start to finish in the first leg of their last-16 tie against the German champions at the Allianz Arena. Kane headed in a lovely Michael Olise cross after nine minutes. Jamal Musiala was in the perfect spot early in the second half to capitalise on a goalkeeping howler from Matej Kovar, the usual backup to Leverkusen captain Lukas Hradecky. Kovar rose high but not high enough, allowing a tame Joshua Kimmich cross to slip through his fingers. The ball fell at the feet of a grateful Musiala, who tapped home. Eight minutes later, centre-back Nordi Mukiele sunk his studs into the calf of Alphonso Davies, picking up a second yellow. Mukiele's replacement Edmond Tapsoba bear-hugged Kane in the box. After the England captain fell to the turf, referee Michael Oliver consulted the VAR screen and pointed to the spot. Kane converted his 30th consecutive penalty since his miss for England against France in the 2022 World



Cup, placing Bayern on course for a victory in the tie and keeping the dream alive of appearing in this season's final in Munich. Cameras showed Alonso, who spoke of the need for cool heads on the European stage before the match, with his head buried in his palms as Kane and Bayern celebrated by the corner flag. Bayern, who were considered outsiders by an array of pundits before the match, roared back into form, sending a reminder of where the balance of power in German football lies. "It was a really big step in the right direction. We've struggled against this side over the last couple of years, but from the first minute on we brought focus and intensity," Kane told DAZN.

Inter Milan's strike force seize control of Champions League last-16 tie

ROTTERDAM. Inter Milan's powerful strike duo of Marcus Thuram and Lautaro Martinez combined to give the Italians a handy 2-0 advantage over Dutch side Feyenoord after an absorbing Champions League last-16 first leg Wednesday. Quality finishes either side of half-time from the French and Argentinian strikers proved the difference between the two teams, who meet again in Milan for Tuesday's second leg, with the winner of the Bayern Munich-Bayer Leverkusen showdown lying in wait. "Their quality is unbelievable," admitted Feyenoord defender David Hancko. "Second half you could see that they were controlling the game and it was more difficult for us to be dangerous," added Hancko. A lively opening quarter in Rotterdam's ever-atmospheric De Kuip saw three-time European champions Inter enjoy most possession but Feyenoord carve out the clearest opportunities. Ibrahim Osman, the



20-year-old Ghana international winger on loan from Premier League side Brighton and Hove Albion, was the main threat for the hosts, twice forcing Josep Martinez into sharp saves.

For the visitors, Thuram found himself with a clear run at goal but decided to pass square rather than shoot and the danger was snuffed out. It was a moment of quality from the French striker that broke the deadlock with just eight minutes until the half-time whistle, latching onto a curling cross from Nicolo Barella to hook it in with the outside of his boot at the far post. The goal, slightly against the run of play, galvanised the Serie A side, who suddenly looked much more dangerous going forward. Feyenoord legend and recently installed manager Robin van Persie would have been glad to get his side into the dressing room just 1-0 down after an entertaining first half. But his side's arrears doubled just five minutes into the second period, as Martinez drilled an unstoppable shot into the top corner, giving the hosts a mountain to climb.

We are still evolving as a team: South Africa coach after another knockout punch

Last year, the Proteas lost the T20 World Cup final to India from a commanding position.



LAHORE. Yet another knockout stage heartbreak at yet another ICC event. But perennial bridesmaid South Africa remains on the right track two years before the ODI World Cup at home, feels the team's head coach Rob Walter after its semifinal exit from the Champions Trophy here. Having topped their group, South Africa came up short in the second semifinal against New Zealand here on Wednesday night and went down by 50 runs in a chase of 362. Walter said there are enough positives to take back home notwithstanding a tough loss. "You know, in the wins, we managed to put some significant partnerships together. We had guys contributing significantly with the bat. From a bowling point of view, I think our biggest development was our accuracy. We were able to be very accurate as a seam unit,"

said Walter in the post-match press conference. "And that's something that we've been working really hard on. Every game we play is a learning opportunity. We just keep trying to take the little lessons. Today is a hard lesson, you feel it a little bit more, because it's the end of a campaign." But we certainly continue to keep learning from things, little bits here and there, that we can do better. We're still evolving as a team; there's no doubt in my mind. Two and a half years to 2027 and that's the eyes on the prize," he added. The 2027 ODI World Cup

will be co-hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Walter was expectedly asked about South Africa going down in a knockout game of another global event. Last year, the Proteas lost the T20 World Cup final to India from a commanding position. "I don't think it was any one particular thing that resulted in the loss, probably a couple. We could have handled the last 10 overs (while bowling) a little bit better. They got away from us a little bit. "There was a period sort of in the middle of the innings where Kane (Williamson) and

Rachin (Ravindra) started to up their rates a bit. And we missed a few opportunities there," he explained. "...when we were batting. We were just starting to get going and that partnership got broken and really slowed us down in the middle and obviously we saw Dave (Miller) play unbelievably well in the end to get a hundred... you know you're just one partnership away from doing something special," said Walter. With Williamson and Ravindra easily manipulating the bowlers, it seemed South Africa ran out of ideas. However, Walter did not agree to that. "No, I don't think that's entirely accurate. We certainly tried to change it up, we tried to change the pace. I think the ball wasn't really gripping at that stage in the early phases, so the ball kept sliding on." "I mean, it just plain to see that it was a pretty good batting wicket. I don't think you can score 360 if it's not a good batting wicket. So no, through no lack of effort, I don't think," he asserted. Walter did admit to lapses in execution of plans "a little bit" but insisted there was nothing lacking in effort. "...certainly you'll never question the effort of the guys and we sort of threw whatever we could at them but unfortunately we couldn't break that partnership which really set them up to push towards the end," he added.

Prague Masters: Aravindh crushes Giri to surge ahead

There are as many as five Indians in top 15 live world rankings and Viswanathan Anand stands at number 15. Aravindh at 14, entered the top fifteen for the first time ever.



PRAGUE. Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram crashed through the defenses of super-solid Anish Giri to jump in to sole lead after the end of the seventh round of Prague Masters chess tournament now underway here. It was Aravindh all the way while R Praggnanandhaa played out a draw with pre-event rating favourite Wei Yi of China. Aravindh took his tally to five points out of a possible seven and now enjoys a half point lead over Praggnanandhaa who needs to catch up. With just two rounds to come, Sam Shankland of United States defeated Quang Leim Le of Vietnam.

Interestingly, both Quang Leim and Giri had drawn the first six games and the axe fell on them at the same time. In the other decisive game, 16-years old Gurel Ediz of Turkey scored over local Nguyen Thai Dai Van to reach a fifty percent score while David Navara of Czech Republic played out a draw with Vincent Keymer of Germany. Aravindh on five and Praggnanandhaa on 4.5 are now followed by Wei Yi, Ediz, Keymer and Shankland on 3.5 points each and these four are a half point adrift of the trio of Giri, Navara and Le. Dai Van is alone at the bottom now with 2.5 points in his kitty. The battle

lines are drawn between the two Indians only. Aravindh is a cool customer in normal positions with a deep eye for tactical complexities and a rare chance against Giri provided him to dismantle the king side and enter record books. There are as many as five Indians in top 15 live world rankings and Viswanathan Anand stands at number 15. Aravindh at 14, entered the top fifteen for the first time ever. It was a Queen's gambit declined wherein Giri overestimated his chances and pushed his king side pawns in trying to secure a space advantage. Aravindh came up with a shocker on his 24th turn when he put his knight in front of a pawn and it was a one-way tide thereon. Black's attack was soon impossible to handle and Aravindh won in 39 moves. Praggnanandhaa started with the English opening against Wei Yi and the game took shape in a Tarrasch defense wherein the Chinese was under some pressure but never really out of the game. The Indian won a pawn to reach a rook and pawns endgame and despite having a passed pawn deep outside the position was technically drawn.

India have real clarity on how they want to operate in Dubai: Kane Williamson

LAHORE. New Zealand batting mainstay Kane Williamson reckons India have "real clarity" on how they want to operate in Dubai, having played all their Champions Trophy games at the same venue. Williamson did not specifically say that India had an advantage of playing at one venue and compared it to New Zealand's familiarity with the conditions in Lahore, where they beat South Africa on Wednesday to set up a final clash against the Rohit Sharma-led side in Dubai on Sunday. New Zealand had played two games in Lahore during the preceding tri-series involving Pakistan and South Africa. "I suppose having played there on a number of occasions; there's real clarity in how they want to operate.

"A little bit like our opportunity here, having played a number of times at this venue as well and I think that's part and parcel in cricket," said Williamson when asked if India go into the final with an advantage of knowing the conditions. Having scored a hundred in the semifinal, Williamson is high on confidence and looking forward to the final.

"It is what it is (India play all games in Dubai).



Our focus is the next match, the location of that match, the opposition, they're all factors. Obviously, we played India once there," he said. "The conditions are different, so it's important that we try and take away some of those positives and be nice and clear in how we're trying to operate come two or three-days' time in the final," he said referring to New Zealand's loss to India in the group stage. Both Williamson and Rachin Ravindra struck hundreds to fashion New Zealand's emphatic win. Williamson called Ravindra, who has score two hundreds in three games, a special talent. "It's a final, so it's exciting. If we go back to Rachin, an incredibly special talent. It's always great to bat with him. He goes out and he puts the team first and he plays with that freedom." "When we were out there batting together, there were moments where there were some good spells and it was a little bit challenging.

Bangladesh's Mushfiqur Rahim retires from ODIs

DHAKA. Veteran Bangladesh wicket-keeper batter Mushfiqur Rahim has retired from ODI cricket with immediate effect. The 37-year-old was part of Bangladesh's squad that exited the Champions Trophy from the group stage. He made the announcement on social media. "I am announcing my retirement from the ODI format as of today. Alhamdulillah (Thank God) for everything. While our achievements may have been limited on a global level, one thing is certain: whenever I stepped onto the field for my country, I gave more than 100% with dedication and honesty," Rahim wrote on his official Facebook page. "The last few weeks have been very challenging for me, and I have come to realize that this is my destiny." Lastly, I



would like to deeply thank my family, friends and my fans for whom I have played cricket for the last 19 years," he added. Rahim made his ODI debut almost 20 years ago and ended up representing the country in 274 ODIs, aggregating 7795 runs at an average of 36.42. Only Tamim Iqbal (8357 runs) has scored more ODI runs than him for Bangladesh. He has also played 94 Tests and 102 T20s. In the team's disappointing Champions Trophy campaign, Rahim failed to score against India before making just two runs against New Zealand. Rahim has already retired from the shortest format but in the longest format, he is on course to become first from his country to play 100 Tests.

David Miller remains 'clutch' as South Africa fail once again in an ICC knockout

South Africa lost to New Zealand by 50 runs in Champions Trophy semis
David Miller's fighting hundred went in vain
New Zealand scored 362 runs in the match

New Delhi. We left too much for them in the end," said a dejected Temba Bavuma in the post-match interview on Wednesday, March 5. South Africa had just crashed out of the Champions Trophy 2025, losing to New Zealand by 50 runs while chasing a mammoth target of 363 runs in Lahore. Bavuma, throughout his speech, blamed himself for not staying there long enough and scoring in triple digits, which

could have given South Africa a chance in this mammoth chase. 363, while improbable, was never out of South Africa's range, given the incredible batting depth that they had. A third-string Australian team had chased down 352 runs against England in the group stage of the tournament with 15 balls to spare, and perhaps the same template could have been followed by South Africa to win the semi-final game. "I do think it was above par. Probably if it was 350, we would have backed ourselves to chase the score. We had one or two partnerships today, but we needed me or Rassie to go on and emulate what two of their batters did. They really put us under pressure from the word go, the way they were able to pierce the off-side at the start and the way they played in the middle overs," Temba Bavuma said after the match on Wednesday. What was the template that Australia followed to bury England's tricky bowling attack? Start strong, have patience in the middle overs, and let it loose in the death overs. In that game, Matt Short and Marnus Labuschagne batted briskly at the top, and



Josh Inglis put in absolute carnage at the death after being patient throughout the middle overs. On Wednesday, in the semifinal of the tournament, South Africa were able to execute only one of those three things. And it was once again the 'clutch' David Miller who shined as the lone bright spot once again for South Africa in an ICC ODI knockout game. When South Africa were crumbling in the middle overs and looking at

a loss by a huge margin, Miller stayed patient and put in an exceptional show at the death, reaching his century in the final ball of the innings. The knock was once again a reminder to his compatriots of the ability he possessed with the bat and what the fortunes could have been for South Africa if he had some support in the final 10 overs of the match. This was Miller's third 50+ score in an ICC ODI knockout game, and his second century in back-to-back semi-final games of an ICC ODI tournament. David Miller in ICC ODI knockouts 56*(51) vs ENG, The Oval, CT 2013 SF 49(18) vs NZ, Auckland, CWC 2015 SF 100*(116) vs AUS, Kolkata, CWC 2023 SF 100*(67) vs NZ, Lahore, CT 2025 SF Bavuma reiterated his earlier comment, agreeing that too much was left for the final batters (Miller and the tail) in the end, and there was no way that South Africa could have chased this down unless one of the top-order batters would have stayed through and hit a hundred.

Janhvi Kapoor

Looks Exhausted As She Returns From Shoot

Janhvi Kapoor is currently busy shooting for her upcoming romantic drama film Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari in Mumbai. The shoot is going on in full swing, and the lead cast, including Janhvi and Varun Dhawan, are often seen taking auto or jetty rides to reach their shooting destination on time. On February 26, the actress was papped at the Versova jetty, leaving for her home after packing up for the day. In a video, shared on Instagram, by the popular paparazzo Viral Bhayani, the Gunjan Saxena actress is seen heading towards her car. Surrounded by the paps, she told them not to push anyone.

As the video progresses, we see a red mark on Janhvi's neck and her hands soaked in colour, which shows that the makers might have shot for a Holi sequence. At the



end, the actress entered her car and greeted the shutterbugs. She was dressed in all-black casual attire, a t-shirt and matching trousers, left her mid-parted long curly hair open and covered her face with a mask.

A few days back, Varun was spotted taking an auto rickshaw after his shoot. He also greeted paps while sitting in the vehicle. Talking about the film, Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari is helmed by Shashank Khaitan and backed by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions. It was earlier slated to hit the big screens on April 18, 2025. However, new reports suggest that the makers have decided to push the release date forward. No new date has been announced as of now. It also features Sanya Malhotra, Rohit Saraf, Maniesh Paul and Akshay Oberoi in significant roles. The film marks Varun and Janhvi's second collaboration after their romantic drama Bawaal.

Apart from this, Janhvi will also be seen in another romantic drama film titled Param Sundari opposite actor Sidharth Malhotra. The actress recently wrapped the Kerala schedule of the film. Directed by Tusshar Jalota, the film will be released in July this year. She also has RC16 with South Superstar Ram Charan in her kitty. Varun, on the other hand, will be seen in Border 2 and No Entry 2.



Debinna Bonnerjee Criticised For Seemingly 'Ignoring' In-Laws In Gurmeet Choudhary's Birthday Vlog



Debinna Bonnerjee, actress and wife of Gurmeet Choudhary, actively shares glimpses of her daily life with her family and kids through her YouTube channel, Debinna Decodes. However, her latest vlog sparked massive social media backlash, as fans felt she seemingly overlooked her in-laws. The video captured moments from Gurmeet's intimate birthday celebration, featuring his parents, wife, and their little angels, Lianna and Divisha. While the Ramayan actor was seen cutting his birthday cake with his loved ones, certain interactions in the clip left some viewers displeased, leading to heated discussions online.

Although it was all a happy, joyous occasion, what caught the user's attention was that Gurmeet's parents were continuously standing next to him throughout the celebration, while Debinna was seated on the sofa along with him. After Gurmeet cut his birthday cake, his mother remarked, "The mother who gave birth to him doesn't get any congratulations." Meanwhile, his friends wished him a "Happy Birthday." Later, as Gurmeet offered a slice of cake to his parents, someone behind the camera reminded him to "take their blessings," prompting him to touch their feet.

As soon as the vlog was uploaded, the comment section was flooded with criticism directed at Debinna for her "behaviour towards Gurmeet's parents." One user wrote, "Old parents are standing for the cake cutting while young, healthy, and dominating Debinna is sitting. Respect karo yaar, your daughters are watching you."

Another commented, "Debinna, you are so full of yourself! No humility, no respect for your in-laws at all! Even their own son behaved like they were just acquaintances. Pathetic to the core! Feeling extremely sad for your parents!" A third user pointed out, "She did not even bother to listen to Gurmeet's mother. Please stop treating these people as your idols."

Sushmita Sen Shares Adorable Photos With Daughters Renee And Alisah, Fans Say 'Just Like Mumma'



Sushmita Sen is one of most loved actresses and has always been very open about her relationships. The actress has recently treated fans with a series of photos featuring her daughters Renee and Alisah. In no time, it went viral and fans were seen reacting to it. They called them elegant and just like Sushmita Sen. Taking to her Instagram handle, Sushmita shared photos in which both Renee and Alisah are seen dressed in traditional attire and looking gorgeous. Even the actress opted for a lavender colour saree. There is no doubt that mother and daughters are looking beautiful. One of the fans wrote, "Pretty pretty girls just like mumma god bless you bachchas." Another wrote, "They too personify a reflection of strength, love, and wisdom—just like their incredible mom."

Sushmita Sen recently interacted with fans during an Instagram Live session, where she candidly spoke about her views on marriage. While answering fan questions, the former Miss Universe revealed that she had attended a wedding in Jaipur. This led one of her followers to ask about her own wedding plans.

In response, Sushmita expressed her desire to get married but spoke about the importance of finding the right partner. She said, "I also want to get married. Milna chahiye na koi shaadi karne layek. Aise thodi hoti hai shaadi. Kehte hai na, bohot romantic way mein toh dil ka rishta hota hai. Dil tak baat toh pahunchni chahiye na. Shaadi bhi kar lenge." (There should be someone worthy of marriage, right? Marriage doesn't just happen like that.)

As they say in a very romantic way, it's a bond of the heart. The feeling should reach the heart, right? Then I'll get married too.)

Sushmita, who has always been vocal about her independent approach to life and relationships, has not publicly reacted to Modi's Valentine's Day post. However, her statement during the Instagram Live session suggests that while she remains open to marriage, she believes it should happen at the right time and with the right person.

Kiara Advani

Wanted To Have A Boy And A Girl With Sidharth Malhotra: '2 Healthy Children God Will Gift'

Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra are expecting their first child together. On Friday, the couple took to Instagram to share a joint post sharing the good news with their fans. While this is Kiara's first pregnancy, she once spoke about becoming a mother and shared that she wants one girl and one boy. Back in 2019, when Kiara Advani was promoting Jugjugg Jeeyo, the actress was asked about her thoughts on pregnancy. As reported by KoiMoi, Kiara confessed she wanted to have babies only so that she could eat without thinking twice. "I only want to get pregnant so that I can eat whatever I want and let go," she admitted.

When she was asked if she would ever want twins and whether she wanted a baby girl or a baby boy, Kiara replied, "I just want two healthy children that God will gift me." She added that she would want to have one boy and one girl. Well, finally, Kiara and Sidharth's 'gift' is here. Today, Kiara and Sidharth shared a picture on Instagram in which they were

seen holding a pair of baby socks. "The greatest gift of our lives (sic)," the caption read.

Kiara and Sidharth's announcement left everyone excited. Soon after the post was shared, several of their industry

colleagues rushed to the comments section to congratulate the couple. "Congrats guys! And bless up, lil one! Safe journey wrote Ishaan Khatter. Sharvari also commented, "Congratulations Congratulations u guys best news ever," Neha Dhupia's comment read. Among others, Huma Qureshi, Rhea Kapoor and Vikram Phadnis also sent wishes to Kiara and Sidharth. Kiara and Sidharth

tied the knot on February 7, 2023, at the Suryagarh Palace in Jaisalmer. It was an intimate ceremony with only family members and close friends in attendance. However, the couple hosted a mega star-studded reception later in Mumbai. Meanwhile, on the work front, Kiara will soon be seen in Don 3 with Ranveer Singh. On the other hand, Sidharth is currently shooting for Param Sundari.

