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14 questions: President Droupadi Murmu seeks SC opinion on Bill assent deadlines under Article 143

New Delhi (Agency): In a rare move, she referred 14 questions to the Supreme Court, raising key concerns on the judiciary's power to set timelines for presidential and gubernatorial approval of State Bills. President Droupadi Murmu has referred 14 questions to the Supreme Court, seeking its opinion on whether the top court could invoke its inherent powers under Article 142 to set timelines or dictate the procedure for the President and Governors, when handling State Bills submitted for assent or reserved for consideration.

The reference, made to the Supreme Court under Article 143 of the Constitution, seeks clarification on the constitutional choices available to a Governor when a Bill is presented for assent under Article 200. Article 143 is rarely invoked, as it is reserved for matters of profound constitutional or national importance.

The President's decision to

seek the Supreme Court's opinion stems from an April 8 ruling by a Bench comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan. The judgment came in response to a petition filed by the Tamil Nadu government, which challenged the Governor's prolonged delay in granting assent to 10 Bills that had been re-passed by the State Assembly, as well as his subsequent move to reserve them for Presidential consideration. In its ruling, the Court deemed the Governor's actions unconstitutional and, in an invocation of Article 142, established timelines for the President and Governors to act on State legislation.

The court urged the President to decide within three months of receiving a Bill from a Governor as it laid down such a timeline for the first time. It asked that the President's office convey reasons to the concerned state if there is any delay beyond this period.

The referral, a rare exercise

of presidential prerogative, seeks the Court's advisory opinion on matters of profound constitutional significance, particularly the judiciary's authority to prescribe timelines for the President's actions.

President Murmu has listed a series of 14 questions for the Supreme Court to consider and give an opinion under Article 143. However, this is not the first time such a reference was made. In the 'Delhi Laws Act Case' (1951), the President had sought clarification over the extent of legislative powers of the Central government.

Similarly, the 'Kesavananda Bharati Case' (1973), while not a direct Article 143 referral, did reference the advisory mechanism in discussions on judicial limits.

In the 'Cauvery Water Dispute' (1993), the President had sought the Court's opinion on

implementing tribunal awards.

In the '2G Spectrum Case' (2012), President Pratibha Patil had also exercised this power in relation to the 2G spectrum allocation case. She posed eight questions



to the Court, addressing key issues, such as the extent of judicial intervention in policy decisions and whether public resources must be allocated exclusively through auctions.

In 2016, the then-President Pranab Mukherjee referred a query to the Supreme Court, seeking its opinion on whether

the government could classify the Goods and Services Tax (GST) as a Money Bill, thereby bypassing the Rajya Sabha.

What were the 14 questions that President Murmu referred to the Supreme Court?

1. What are the constitutional options before a Governor when a Bill is presented to him under Article 200 of the Constitution of India?

2. Is the Governor bound by the aid & advice tendered by the Council of Ministers while exercising all the options available with him when a Bill is presented before him under Article 200 of the Constitution of India?

3. Is the exercise of constitutional discretion by the Governor under Article 200 of the Constitution of India justifiable?

4. Is Article 361 of the Constitution of India an absolute bar to the judicial review in relation to the actions of a Governor under

Article 200 of the Constitution of India?

5. In the absence of a constitutionally prescribed time limit, and the manner of exercise of powers by the Governor, can timelines be imposed and the manner of exercise be prescribed through judicial orders for the exercise of all powers under Article 200 of the Constitution of India by the Governor?

6. Is the exercise of constitutional discretion by the President under Article 201 of the Constitution of India justifiable?

7. In the absence of a constitutionally prescribed timeline and the manner of exercise of powers by the President, can timelines be imposed and the manner of exercise be prescribed through judicial orders for the exercise of discretion by the President under Article 201 of the Constitution of India?

8. In light of the constitutional scheme governing the powers of the President, is the President required to seek ad-

vice of the Supreme Court by way of a reference under Article 143 of the Constitution of India and take the opinion of the Supreme Court when the Governor reserves a Bill for the President's assent or otherwise?

9. Are the decisions of the Governor and the President under Article 200 and Article 201 of the Constitution of India, respectively, justiciable at a stage anterior into the law coming into force? Is it permissible for the Courts to undertake judicial adjudication over the contents of a Bill, in any manner, before it becomes law?

10. Can the exercise of constitutional powers and the orders of/by the President/Governor be substituted in any manner under Article 142 of the Constitution of India?

11. Is a law made by the State legislature a law in force without the assent of the Governor granted under Article 200 of the Constitution of India?

12. In view of the proviso to

Article 145(3) of the Constitution of India, is it not mandatory for any bench of this Hon'ble Court to first decide as to whether the question involved in the proceedings before it is of such a nature which involves substantial questions of law as to the interpretation of constitution and to refer it to a bench of minimum five Judges?

13. Do the powers of the Supreme Court under Article 142 of the Constitution of India limited to matters of procedural law or Article 142 of the Constitution of India extends to issuing directions/passing orders which are contrary to or inconsistent with existing substantive or procedural provisions of the Constitution or law in force?

14. Does the Constitution bar any other jurisdiction of the Supreme Court to resolve disputes between the Union Government and the State Governments except by way of a suit under Article 131 of the Constitution of India?

India's dealings with Pakistan will be strictly bilateral: Jaishankar

EAM says Indus Waters Treaty will continue to be held in abeyance until Pakistan stops its support for cross-border terrorism

New Delhi (Agency): External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday reiterated that India's dealings with Pakistan would be "strictly bilateral" and there was no change in the national consensus. "That is a national consensus for many years, and there is absolutely no change in that consensus that dealings with Pakistan will be bilateral," Jaishankar said while interacting with reporters on the sidelines of an event in Delhi. He noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made it clear that any talks with Pakistan will be only on terrorism.

"...Pakistan has a list of ter-

rorists, who need to be handed over.

They have to shut down terrorist infrastructure, they know what to do," the minister said. Jaishankar asserted that the Indus Waters Treaty would continue to be held in abeyance until Pakistan stopped its support for cross-border terrorism. "I re-emphasise, the Cabinet Committee on Security was very clear that the Indus Waters Treaty is held in abeyance and will continue to be held in abeyance until Pakistan 'credibly and irrevocably'" stops its support for cross-border terrorism," the EAM said.

Jaishankar also reiterated New Delhi's stand on Kashmir, saying the only thing that remains to be discussed is the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. "Again, the only thing that remains to be discussed on Kashmir, is vacation of illegally occupied Indian territory in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, we are open to discuss it with Pakistan. I want to spell out our position very clearly...the government's position is very, very clear," he said. India suspended the water treaty a day after the Pahalgal terrorist attack as New Delhi launched a slew of punitive measures against Islamabad.

Samajwadi Party MP Stirs Controversy After Referring To Castes Of IAF's Vyomika Singh, AK Bharti

Samajwadi Party MP Ram Gopal Yadav said Wing Commander Vyomika Singh and Air Marshall AK Bharti would have been abused if their castes were known

New Delhi: Samajwadi Party's Lok Sabha parliamentarian from Sambhal Ram Gopal Yadav stoked fresh controversy on Thursday talking about the caste of Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, who became the face of Operation Sindoor and Air Marshall AK Bharti, the Director General of Operations in the Indian Air Force. Both of them caught national attention with their crisp press briefings and for their debunking of Pakistan propaganda. However, Yadav's remarks on their caste

have led many to raise questions on social media regarding why these officers of the Indian Army are seen through a casteist lens. "They didn't even know who Vyomika Singh was or what her caste is, nor did they know about Air Marshal AK Bharti. Otherwise, they would've hurled abuses at them too. Let me tell you - Vyomika Singh is a 'Jatav Chamar' from Haryana, and Air Marshal AK Bharti is a Yadav from Purnia. All three were from the PDA segment. One was abused because they thought she was Muslim, one was thought to be Rajput, so nothing was said, and about the other, they have no information," Yadav said. The remarks come days after Madhya Pradesh Tribal Affairs Minister Vijay Shah made controversial remarks regarding another face of Operation Sindoor - Colonel Sofiya Qureshi.

Rahul Gandhi ramps up caste plank in poll-bound Bihar

Cong reached out to the socially deprived sections in his fifth visit to the state this year

Patna (Agency): As Rahul Gandhi makes one more trip to election-bound Bihar, the Congress leader is solidly picking up issues related to backward

or rallies, collectively laying down organisational foundation and gearing up on the narrative front. "He is very much focused on Bihar," a state unit leader said,



castes, charting a clear political trajectory for the state leadership. Gandhi has already visited the state four times this year, each trip comprising of meetings

"that has been communicated to all in the leadership hierarchy." Assembly polls in Bihar are due later this year. In his speech in Bihar's Gaya on Thursday, he

appealed to the socially deprived sections, saying, "Whatever is in my heart, I should tell you and whatever is in your heart, you should tell me. The government tried completely to stop me, they put up barricades but I came to you from the back door."

Pointing towards Dalits, backward classes, and tribals, he said, "there is oppression against you twenty hours a day in this country. You are suppressed, you are stopped in the education system. Papers are leaked and everything is done to stop your career, to ruin it." Gandhi added the Congress has made three demands, and the primary one is a caste census, and going forth its implementation in Telangana.

Rajnath Singh tears into Pakistan; asks if nuclear weapons are safe in the hands of such a 'rouge nation'

New Delhi (Agency): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who is in Kashmir for a day-long visit, urges the International Atomic Energy Agency to take control of Pakistan's nuclear weapons

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who arrived in Srinagar on Thursday for a day-long visit to review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir following Operation Sindoor, called Pakistan a "rouge nation" and sought to know if nuclear weapons are safe in the hands of such an irresponsible country.

Singh said the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) should take charge of Pakistan's nuclear weapons. India has made it clear to the whole world that we can go to any extent against terrorism, the defence minister said and added that terrorists and their masters hiding in Pakistan are now targets of Indian forces. He also praised the people of Kashmir saying, "After Pahalgalam attack, the manner in which the people of Jammu and Kashmir expressed their anger against Pakistan and terrorists...I am here to feel that energy which destroyed the enemies."

Thanking the armed forces, he said he has come to interact with them not just as the defence

minister, but as a messenger. "I am here with the best wishes, prayers and thankfulness of the entire country. In a way, I have come to you as a postman and brought to you the message of the entire world-that we are proud of our armed forces."

The defence minister's visit is being seen as a strong show



of support for the armed forces and a reaffirmation of the government's zero-tolerance policy towards cross-border terrorism.

Singh paid tribute to the soldiers who laid down their lives while fighting terrorism and terrorists. "I also pay respect to the innocent civilians who were killed in Pahalgalam. I also salute the valour of the injured soldiers and pray to God that they may recover at the earliest."

Singh, accompanied by

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, is visiting the region after India and Pakistan agreed to a ceasefire. The agreement came after hostilities flared between the two countries in the wake of the airstrikes.

During the four days of heightened tension, India targeted several Pakistan Air Force bases, damaging infrastructure and some aircraft. Pakistan has admitted to losing 11 soldiers and five PAF personnel, including a squadron leader. Meanwhile, five Indian soldiers and 25 civilians were killed due to heavy shelling by Pakistan along the Line of Control (Loc) and the International Border.

This is the first visit by a senior Union minister to Kashmir since the end of the recent military confrontation. The Defence Minister is expected to return to New Delhi later in the evening after completing his engagements. Since the recent terror attack in Pahalgalam, security forces have intensified anti-terror operations in Kashmir. On Tuesday, three Lashkar-e-Toiba militants were killed in an encounter at Keller in Shopian. Earlier this morning, one militant was killed in a gunfight in Tral, Pulwama, according to the latest reports.

IN A FIRST S Jaishankar speaks to Taliban Foreign Minister, scripts history

New Delhi (Agency): S Jaishankar's call to Mr Muttaqi comes days after the Taliban, which New Delhi is yet to officially recognise, condemned the Pahalgalam terror attack, in which 26 civilians, all tourists, were killed by Pakistan-linked terrorists in a religiously-motivated attack in Jammu and Kashmir

New Delhi: Scripting a new chapter in regional dynamics, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday spoke with the Taliban's acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi over an official phone call. The call assumes significance as it is the first ministerial-level outreach by India to Afghanistan's Taliban administration. Dr Jaishankar's call to Mr Muttaqi comes days after Afghanistan's Taliban regime, which New Delhi is yet to officially recognise, condemned the Pahalgalam terror attack, in which 26 civilians, all tourists, were killed by Pakistan-linked terrorists in a religiously-motivated attack in Jammu and Kashmir.

'MINISTERIAL-LEVEL TALKS - A FIRST WITH TALIBAN': In a post on social media platform X shortly after the phone call, Dr Jaishankar

wrote, "Good conversation with Acting Afghan Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi this evening. Deeply appreciate his condemnation of the Pahalgalam terrorist attack." He added that during the discussion he "underlined our (India's) traditional friendship with the Afghan people and continuing support for their development needs. Discussed ways and means of taking cooperation forward."

'A REBUTTAL TO PAKISTAN': Countering Pakistan's false narrative of linking the Taliban to the incidents in Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Jaishankar wrote that he welcomed Mr Muttaqi's "firm rejection of recent attempts to create distrust between India and Afghanistan through false and baseless reports" in the Pakistani media. Good conversation with Acting Afghan Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi this evening. Deeply appreciate his condemnation of the Pahalgalam terrorist attack. Welcomed his firm rejection of recent attempts to create distrust between India and Afghanistan through false and...- Dr. S. Jaishankar

'IMPORTANCE OF IRAN'S

CHABAHAH PORT': According to Taliban's Director of Communication Hafiz Zia Ahmad, during the call, Mr Muttaqi asked Dr Jaishankar to provide more visas to Afghan nationals, es-

remained cut-off by Pakistan-occupied Kashmir or PoK since 1947. The only other option for trade is via the Chabahar Port in Iran.

FOSTERING TIES WITH



pecially to those seeking medical attention. He mentioned that talks regarding trade and development of the Chabahar Port in Iran were also discussed. This assumes importance at a time when India and Pakistan have completely ended all trade ties and closed its border posts in the wake of the Pahalgalam terror attack. Being a land-locked country, Afghanistan feels the impact, as it depends on land routes via Pakistan to reach India. India and Afghanistan share a land border too, but that has

THE TALIBAN': India and the Taliban administration have been taking steps to strengthen ties since August 2021, when the regime came to power after US' withdrawal from Afghanistan. Over the years, a series of meetings between Indian diplomats and Taliban officials have worked towards broader cooperation between the two countries which have shared historic ties. Though ties have not yet normalised, India's policy towards Afghanistan under the Taliban regime has been focused

on providing humanitarian aid and the well-being of Afghan citizens. Diplomatic initiatives have also been ongoing towards bringing normalcy to ties.

As recently as April 27 this year, days after the Pahalgalam terror attack, senior Indian diplomat Anand Prakash visited Kabul as tensions peaked between New Delhi and Islamabad over "cross-border terror links". Mr Prakash held a meeting with Mr Muttaqi during the visit.

'DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENTS': Other key visits by senior Indian diplomats include those by Mr JP Singh, who visited Afghanistan twice last year - in March to meet acting foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, and in November to meet the acting defence minister Mohammad Yaqub Mujahid. Both meetings happened in Kabul.

Besides the meetings in Afghanistan, a high-level meeting also took place in Dubai in January this year, when foreign secretary Vikram Misri, along with an Indian delegation met Taliban's acting foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi and an Afghan delegation. The two leaders held wide-ranging bilateral talks, including the Chabahar Port.

BRIEFS

Electrical work under transmission should be started soon: DM



Staff Reporter
Banda. District Magistrate J.Ribha on Thursday inspected the under-construction electricity substation Khairada and Kasturba Gandhi Girls School Mahokhar and Kasturba Gandhi Girls School Digwahi. First of all, he inspected the electricity sub-station Khairada under construction by the Electricity Department and directed the officials of the Electricity Department to start the electrical work under transmission soon. He directed that the construction work of the electricity sub-station should be done with quality within the stipulated time frame, there should not be any kind of deficiency in this work and the work should be completed as soon as possible at a fast pace.

District Magistrate inspected the under construction sub station Khairada

After this, the District Magistrate inspected the Kasturba Gandhi Girls School Mahokhar. While inspecting the school, he inspected the children's classrooms, living rooms, hostels and food preparation rooms etc. and instructed the teachers present to get the internet system in the school corrected. He also instructed the Chief Warden to provide sports material kits and other facilities to the girls of the school to participate in sports. While inspecting the Kasturba Gandhi Girls School Digwahi, he saw the construction work of the academic block and hostel under construction. He directed the officials of the working agency CNDs to complete the work with quality within the stipulated time limit as per the standards and there should not be any kind of deficiency in the work otherwise action will be taken against the concerned officer and contractor. During the inspection, the District Basic Education Officer and the officials of the concerned working agency were present.

Kamaluddin Khan became Advocate Association President unopposed, wave of happiness in Palani



Staff Reporter
Jaspura. There was an atmosphere of joy among the advocates after senior advocate Kamaluddin Khan was elected unopposed to the post of president in the elections of Tehsil Palani Advocates Association. This is the first time that an advocate from the Muslim community has been elected as the president of the Palani Bar Association. The advocates described his selection as an example of harmony and unity. No one else filed nomination for the post of president in the elections, due to which Advocate Kamaluddin Khan was sure to become the president. After the unopposed election, he assured the advocates of all possible support. On this occasion, there was an atmosphere of happiness in the association office premises and the advocates gave him a grand welcome with flowers and garlands. A large number of advocates including former president Brijbhushan Singh, Virendra Pal Singh, Kamta Prasad Verma, Hanuman Das Tiwari, Jameel Khan, Sakil Khan, Jhandu Singh, Rudradutt Mishra, Abhay Nishad were present in the program. Many were also elected unopposed to other posts of the association. Abhay Kumar Nishad was elected unopposed. Shravan Kumar Gupta has been elected unopposed for the post of treasurer, senior vice president Ramprakash Khengar, general vice president Ramnaresh Tripathi, joint secretary (library) etc. Voting for the post of general secretary of the association will be held on May 22, in which a direct contest will be seen between Gayaprasad Nishad and Vishnudutt Dwivedi. Senior advocates have expressed hope for active and transparent functioning of the Advocates Association under the leadership of Kamaluddin Khan.

Retired teacher is giving the message of environmental protection by planting a garden

Staff Reporter
Sumerpur. A retired teacher living near the PWD store in the town has turned his house into a garden. His garden has many kinds of medicinal plants along with fruits. Retired teacher Dr. Devidin Avinashi, who lives near the PWD store, is an environment lover. He is also active in an organization working for environmental protection in the town. Apart from this, he has turned his house into a garden. This garden has many medicinal plants besides mango, grapes, oranges. He takes care of these trees from morning to evening. He told that due to the garden, many birds like peacock, parrot, sparrow etc. stay inside the house day and night. Seeing them gives a different feeling of joy. He told that he has dedicated his life to the care of these trees and plants.

Uncontrolled car overturned on the road, two injured

Staff Reporter
Sumerpur. A speeding car lost control near the factory area on the national highway at 10 am and hit a house on the side of the highway and overturned in a ditch. Two people in the car were injured in this accident. The factory area police post in-charge pulled out the two youths trapped in the car with the help of passersby. On Thursday morning, Shahbaz Khan, 35, a resident of Marathipura, Mahoba, was going to Kanpur by car with his servant Israr, a resident of Mahoba. Near the old Shikha Hotel, the speeding car suddenly went out of control and hit the pillar of Hemant Yadav's house built on the side of the highway and overturned. In this accident, both the youths in the car got stuck in the car. Factory Area Police Station in-charge Rajveer Singh, who was passing by the spot, took out the two youths trapped in the car with the help of passersby and took them to the Primary Health Center for treatment. The car was badly shattered in this accident.

Health and blood donation camp was organized in St. Mary's Senior Secondary School

Teachers donated blood along with giving health related information to children

Staff Reporter
Banda. A health camp and blood donation camp was organized on Thursday at St. Mary's Senior Secondary School under the aegis of the organization Savers of Life. In this camp, Dr. Himanshu Singh (brain specialist) Rani Durgavati Medical College, Dr. Namra Siraj DGO, Dr. Mohd. Masjoor ophthalmologist, Mohd. Aqib Farooqui MD gave all kinds of information related to health to all the children and exchanged essential tips about how to keep your eyes, brain and the whole body healthy. The eye specialist



told you how much light you should study in while studying and also told about the eye related tests. The children were examined by all the doctors and were motivated to keep health related things in mind. Savers of Life, an organisation which has been donating blood to the needy every day for the past eight years, organised a blood donation camp in which the teachers of St. Mary's Senior

Secondary School did the work of humanity by donating blood. Savers of Life's chairman Salman Khan, advisor/media Sunil Saxena, executive member Asif Ansari, Blood Bank's PRO Pramod Dwivedi, Pramod Yadav along with blood bank staff, teachers of St. Mary's Senior Secondary School and the entire staff were present in the said blood donation camp and provided their services.

Sainik organization made serious allegations against the executive officer

Staff Reporter
Hamirpur. The workers of Sainik Sangathan have handed over a memorandum to the District Magistrate accusing the Nagar Panchayat EO of making a road by breaking the pillars and sewer tank of the house of a soldier deployed in Air Defense of Operation Sindoor. In the memorandum given under the leadership of Veer Bhoomi Bundelkhand Ex-Serviceman Welfare Committee President Raj Bahadur Singh Parihar, it was told that Shivbaran Sahu, resident of Chand Thok Dharmeshwar Baba of Sumerpur, was put on security duty in Kupwada of Jammu Kashmir regarding Operation Sindoor.

Demand to dismiss the minister who made indecent remarks on Colonel Sofia

Congressmen demonstrated by raising slogans at Gandhi statue

Staff Reporter
Atarra. Congressmen raised slogans and protested at the Gandhi statue and demanded the dismissal of the minister over the indecent remarks made by Madhya Pradesh government minister Vijay Shah on the country's military officer Colonel Sofia Qureshi, the City Congress Committee on Thursday attacked the BJP government by sloganeering and protesting at Gandhi Chowk. In the program, Congress District President Rajesh Dixit directly criticized the BJP government and said that the BJP governments sitting in the Centre and the state are

making fun of the valor and sacrifice of the country's army. The Congress President



said that Qureshi is India's daughter, India's mother and honour; the mentality of people making such comments shows that they

want to divide the country in the name of religion and want to destroy the peace of the

District President of Congress, Saket Bihari Mishra demanded that the minister who made such indecent comments be sent to jail. Congress Women District President Seema Khan, Sankata Prasad Tripathi, Ramesh Chandra Kori, Suraj Bajpai, Kaluram Jatav said that the Bharatiya Janata Party wants to divide the country in the name of religion and is not respecting the service of the country. During this, the Congressmen raised the slogans of Qureshi, Hindustan will not tolerate

this insult of yours and expressed their anger. During this, Congress leaders Satya Prakash Dwivedi, Bilal Verma, Santosh Dwivedi, Sunil Dutt Pandey, Jagdish Gupta, Vicky, Ramsanchi Gautam, Arjun Mishra, Gauri Shankar Gupta, Mohammad Naseem, Ashish Gupta, Babulal Jatav, Ashraf Ullah Rampa, Baba Din Soni, Mohammad Raja, Umashankar Bajpai, Mata Badal Sonkar, Ambika Sengar, Jesus Faiz Khan, Kuldeep, Dharmendra etc were present.

The young man committed suicide by hanging himself for unknown reasons

Staff Reporter
Maudha. A young man who went to another village from his village to get tent material committed suicide by hanging himself from an acacia tree. Police reached the spot on receiving the information and after filling the Panchnama of the dead body, started further proceedings. Nisuwa Yadav (30) son of Shivram Yadav, resident of village Parehta of Sisoler police station area, hanged himself from an acacia tree in the field of Maula son Ghasi outside Kiswahi by putting a noose. Due to which he died. When the villagers saw it in the morning, there was a stir. In a hurry, Sisoler

police reached the spot and after filling the Panchnama of the dead body, started further proceedings. At the same time, the villagers say that three four people along with him had come to Kiswahi from Parehta in the evening with a tractor trolley to get tent material, but those people left and at night the deceased kept roaming in the village after drinking alcohol and in the morning he was found hanging. This incident at home has created an uproar among the family members and the family members are in a bad state due to crying. At present, the reasons for the youth committing suicide are not known. It could not happen.

A gang involved in robbery and pickpocketing was arrested



Staff Reporter
Maudha. Police has arrested four people including two women of Bahelia caste who used to commit incidents of snatching and pickpocketing in the town's Galla Mandi, around banks and e-rickshaws etc. Cash and jewellery have been recovered from their possession. Four days ago, while going to Bhamaura from the main square of the town, the snatchers had snatched more than eight thousand rupees from Jagat

Singh, a resident of Bhamaura, after which the police had registered a case and started searching for the accused. In the same connection, four people including two women of Bahelia tribe of Chhatarpur area of Madhya Pradesh have been arrested and cash, jewellery and two bikes have been recovered. Let us tell you that the said people, by forming an organized gang, carry out incidents like snatching, pickpocketing and theft with the help of other works including cleaning jewellery in the town and around it. Not only this, women with innocent children are also included in the gang of the said people, due to which no one suspects them easily. However, people have heaved a sigh of relief with this action of the police.

Teenage girl hanged herself from a tree and died

Staff Reporter
Rath. A 17-year-old girl committed suicide in Kulhanda village of Majhgawan police station area of the tehsil. The girl named Neelta hanged herself with a dupatta on a neem tree in her sugarcane field on Wednesday. The girl's father Shatrughan Rajput is a farmer. He has 5 bighas of agricultural land, which provides livelihood to the family. When the family and villagers saw the girl hanging from the tree, they immediately informed the police. According to the Majhgawan police station in-charge, the Panchnama of the body was filled on Thursday and sent for postmortem. The entire family, including the deceased's sister Krishna and brother Nikhil, is crying inconsolably. The police is investigating the matter.

Get all drains cleaned before the rainy season: Additional Director

➤ Additional Director did a field inspection of the works of the municipality

➤ Instructions given to officers in review meeting

Staff Reporter
Banda. In the order of instructions received from the government, Dr. Aslam Ansari, Additional Director, Urban Bodies Directorate, in view of the upcoming rainy season, during his visit to the district, conducted a field inspection and review meeting of various schemes being run by the government, including the supply of pure drinking water and cleaning of drains by the urban bodies of Chitrakootdham Mandal. On the second day of the two-day proposed program, Dharmendra Kumar Satsangi, General Manager, Jal Sansthan, Chitrakootdham Mandal and Executive Officer, Municipal Council Shrichandra ji, conducted a field inspection of the drain cleaning campaign being done by machines at Sattan Chauraha located in Ward No. 28 Aliganj North of Municipal Council Banda and Nimninala located on Naraini Road at 8.30 am and directed to dispose of the silt being removed directly through garbage vehicles at a safe place. Thereafter, a review meeting was held at the Circuit House from 10 am with the executive officers of eight bodies located in the district and four bodies of Chitrakoot district. During the meeting, the Additional Director directed all the Executive Officers that as per the instructions of the Government, before the next



rainy season, by 20th May, the cleaning work of 46 big drains, 104 medium drains, 68 small drains of district Banda and 36 big drains, 33 medium drains and 46 small drains of district Chitrakoot should be completed and it should be ensured that water logging does not occur anywhere in the city. During the review of pure drinking water supply, it was told by GM Jal Kal that in district Banda, drinking water has been arranged through a total of 62 tube wells and 1833 India Mark II hand pumps, besides, if required, water supply is also ensured through tankers available at Nagar Palika and Jal Sansthan. Instructions were given to spread straw on the tin shed to protect the cows kept in permanent and temporary cowsheds located in the district from the sun, to ensure availability of straw and fodder for the cows, concrete troughs for drinking water etc. At the end of the meeting, instructions were given to complete the various government schemes running in the bodies on time. In the review

meeting, Deputy District Magistrate, Irfan Ullah Khan, Deputy District Magistrate Atarra Rahul Dwivedi, Deputy District Magistrate Tindwari Ankit Verma, Deputy District Magistrate/ Executive Officer Baberu Narendra Kumar Yadav, General Manager Water Institute Chitrakootdham Mandal, Executive Officer Municipal Council Shrichandra, Executive Officer Mataundh Brajkishore Singh, Executive Officer Oran Anil Kumar, Executive Officer Chitrakootdham Lal Ji Yadav, Executive Officer Mau and Rajapur Balkrishna Gautam, Executive Officer Manikpur Bharat Singh, District Program Manager Swachh Bharat Mission Banda Abhishek Khare, District Program Manager Swachh Bharat Mission Chitrakoot Shiva Kumar, Sanitation and Food Inspector Devendra Kumar and Hemant Prasad, Senior Clerk N.P. Mataundh Raghavendra Prasad Pandey, Senior Clerk N.P. Naraini Shubham Dwivedi were present.

In race to build Google Chrome rival, why Perplexity’s fresh funding is crucial



New Delhi (Agency): Generative artificial intelligence (AI) firm Perplexity is said to be in the process of closing a \$500 million funding round, which would value the start-up north of \$14 billion, and possibly cement its place as one of the most promising AI firms that has the potential to disrupt Internet search. Perplexity aims to break Google’s decades-long dominance on Internet search, and is currently in the process of launching its own browser—called Comet—to rival Google’s Chrome. It has attracted intense interest from investors, having previously raised funding from the likes of Nvidia, SoftBank’s Vision Fund 2, and tech pioneers including Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, OpenAI co-founder Andrej Karpathy, Google AI executive Jeff Dean and Meta’s Yann LeCun. The firm’s meteoric rise comes as Google fights its own battles – most prominently, an anticompetitive challenge against the company, where regulators in the United States have been pushing for breaking up the search giant. It is expected that the fresh funding would go towards fueling the firm’s browser ambitions. “Perplexity will be launching Comet, a new agentic browser, very soon! This is a pretty serious engineering undertaking. Please join us to help build the future of internet browsing, with AIs doing deep research and tasks for us,” the firm’s founder Aravind Srinivas had said in a LinkedIn post earlier this year. The browser is likely to include agentic AI capabilities and the ability to automate certain tasks. According to a screenshot shared by the firm’s founder Aravind Srinivas on social media platform X, the browser could send automated responses to a post on X through Comet. Perplexity’s current AI offering, a platform which wraps around other large language models like OpenAI’s ChatGPT and China’s DeepSeek with its own fine-tuning of responses, is considered by many to be a credible way to search the Internet.

Tata Motors profit down 51.18%, to pay Rs 6 dividend

Mumbai (Agency): Tata Motors Ltd has posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 8,556 crore in the fourth quarter of financial year ended March 2025, registering a decline of 51.18 per cent from last year’s Q4 net profit of Rs 17,528 crore. The company has also declared a dividend of Rs 6 per share for FY25. The automaker declared total income of Rs 1,21,012 crore in Q4 FY25 as against Rs 1,20,431 crore in the corresponding quarter of previous financial year. “Tariffs and related geo-political actions are making

the operating environment uncertain and challenging. The global premium luxury segment and Indian domestic markets are expected to weather this relatively better,” the company said. The company said its multi-powertrain strategy and strong commitment to sustainable mobility enabled it to increase the share of CNG and electric vehicles to 36 per cent of its overall portfolio. “We also celebrated two significant milestones in FY25: surpassing 6 million cumulative passenger vehicle sales and achieving

over two lakh cumulative EV sales,” it said. “Drawing strength from our

serving our customers better, and maintaining a heightened vigil on costs and



healthy business fundamentals, we remain focused on executing our growth strategy flawlessly,

cashflows whilst continuing to invest in our future,” it said. PB Balaji, Group Chief Financial Officer, Tata

Motors, said: “Despite external headwinds, Tata Motors sustained its strong performance in FY25, delivering its highest ever revenues and PBT. On a consolidated basis the automotive business is now debt-free, reducing interest costs.” “With the shareholders also approving the demerger, we are on track to realise the full potential of each of the businesses,” he said. In Q4, the passenger vehicle segment volumes were at 147.0K units (-5.5 per cent year-on-year). On full-year basis, the PV business revenue declined by

7.5 per cent. The decline in revenues was primarily on account of decline in hatchback volume. JLR continued its trend of consistent performance, delivering record full year and quarterly profits in a decade. Revenue for the quarter was 7.7 billion pounds, down 1.7% YoY, while full-year revenue at 29.0 billion pounds was flat YoY. PBT in Q4 FY25 was 875 million pounds, up from 661 million pounds in Q4 FY24. The company said it has welcomed the positive announcement of a US-UK trade deal.

Yes Bank deal: Will Sumitomo get management control and more stake?

Mumbai (Agency): The acquisition of a 20 per cent stake in Yes Bank by Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) is being considered as a mutually beneficial deal for both the Japanese banking giant and the Indian banks led by State Bank of India (SBI). While SBI and seven other Indian private banks are expected to gain from the sale of equity, SMBC is likely to eventually take control of Yes Bank. SMBC agreed to purchase 13.19 per cent stake from SBI at a cost of Rs 8,889 crore and 6.81 per cent from other bank shareholders including Axis Bank, Bandhan Bank, Federal Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, IDFC First Bank and

Kotak Mahindra Bank at a price of Rs 21.50 per share. Indications are that SMBC’s ultimate goal is to assume management control of Yes Bank. This would mark the second instance of a foreign bank taking over an Indian bank in recent times, following DBS Bank’s acquisition and merger of Lakshmi Vikas Bank in 2020. SMBC is expected to increase its stake in Yes Bank with the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) approval, potentially up to 51 per cent. However, the RBI is likely to restrict voting rights to 26 per cent or even less. “SMBC taking up management control is a strong possibility. Much will depend on what the RBI will

decide about it. Sumitomo would be keen,” said a person involved in the deal. “Considering the reputation of SMBC, the RBI can allow them to take the management control. The RBI will go by merit,” said another person familiar with the matter. When the SMBC stake crosses 25 per cent, the Japanese bank will be required to make an open offer for an additional 26 per cent under SEBI guidelines. SBI is expected to sell the remaining 10 per cent stake in the open offer. Foreign investors CA Basque holds 6.84 per cent stake and Verventa Holdings 9.2 per cent stake. LIC holds 3.98 per cent, according to exchange data.

Yes Bank CEO Prashant Kumar’s term will end in October 2025. It is to be seen whether the next CEO will be a nominee of SMBC. Sumitomo Mitsui group is active in India through its NBFC arm SMFG India Credit (formerly Fullerton India). As part of the agreement, SMBC will secure two board seats in Yes Bank. The deal’s specifics will be closely watched, as it may have significant implications for Yes Bank’s future direction and the Indian banking landscape as a whole. If SMBC gets 51 per cent in Yes Bank through the open offer, it will involve a total fund injection of over Rs 30,000 crore.

Retail inflation rate eases to near six-year low of 3.16% in April



New Delhi (Agency): Retail inflation rate slipped to a 69-month or near six-year low of 3.16 per cent in April, primarily due to moderation in prices of food items including vegetables, pulses, cereals, meat and fish, data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) showed. This marked the sixth month of a downward trajectory in retail inflation, the lowest inflation level after July 2019 and the third successive month of inflation rate remaining below the Reserve Bank of India’s band of 4+/- 2 per cent for medium-term inflation targeting.

Food inflation, based on the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), moderated for the sixth consecutive month, easing to a 42-month low of 1.78 per cent in April from 2.69 per cent a month ago and 8.7 per cent in April 2024. Vegetables recorded a deflation of 10.98 per cent in April, the sharpest pace of decline since February 2023, while pulses also recorded a deflation of 5.23 per cent in April as against a deflation of 2.73 per cent in the previous month, marking the fastest fall in prices over six years. The meat and fish segment registered a fall in prices to (-) 0.35 per cent after a gap of 22 months in April 2025, while the cereals inflation slipped to a 35-month low of 5.3 per cent due to better kharif output. “The easing of food inflation would help in bringing relief to households and the consumption demand as we begin the new fiscal,” Paras Jasrai, Associate Director, India Ratings and Research said.

Going ahead, a favourable monsoon should help keep inflation in control, raising expectations of a rate cut by the RBI in the upcoming June monetary policy review meeting. “A record rabi harvest and robust pulses output indicated by the Union Ministry of Agriculture’s Second Advance Estimates, and the forecast of a favourable monsoon for the upcoming kharif season should keep food inflation in check this fiscal. Given the current inflation trajectory, a further 25-basis point rate cut is expected in the Reserve Bank of India’s monetary policy review in June,” a CRISIL report said.

While the overall inflation in FY26 is seen below 4 per cent, the cumulative rate cut in FY26 would depend on the pace of decline in inflation and evolving inflation-growth dynamics, economists said.

The decline in retail inflation was sharper in rural areas than urban areas, which is expected to increase the recovering rural demand.

After announcing resumption, Air India, IndiGo cancel today’s flights at various airports

New Delhi (Agency): Within hours of announcing a progressive resumption of flights at airports that were reopened Monday after being shut for nearly a week due to Operation Sindoor, Air India and IndiGo have cancelled their flights scheduled for Tuesday (May 13) to some of these airports. The airlines said that the flight cancellations were in view of “the latest developments” and keeping passenger safety in mind, without elaborating further. Notably, the cancellations were announced after precautionary blackouts were enforced in parts of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir on Monday night following suspected drone activity. So far, the airlines have announced flight cancellations for Tuesday,

and have not commented on whether these will be in place on Wednesday or beyond. Air India’s low-cost airline arm Air India Express, which had also announced resumption of flights on a few of its affected routes from Tuesday, has so far not announced any change. Budget carrier Spicejet had said that its teams were “actively working to resume normal flight operations at the earliest” but no specific flight resumption was announced. Following the ceasefire understanding between India and Pakistan, New Delhi on Monday cancelled the temporary closure of 32 airports in parts of northern and western India, making them available for regular civil flight operations. Amid the major escalation in tensions with Pakistan last week, these airports—close

to the India-Pakistan border or housed at key Indian Air Force bases—were shut for civil aircraft operations till 5:29 am on May 15



(Thursday). The closure of these airports was leading to cancellation of over 300 flights a day, industry sources indicated. Over 160 flights a day of the country’s largest airline IndiGo alone were cancelled due to these airport closures. The affected airports included Srinagar,

Jammu, Leh, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Ambala, Ludhiana, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jaialmer, Uttarlai, Rajkot, Bhuj, Jamnagar,

Dharamshala, Bathinda, Patiala, Pathankot, Shimla, Kishangarh, Hindon, Porbandar, Mundra, and Kandla, among others. Barring a few, the majority of these airports are located at defence airfields, with some seeing only a handful commercial flights a day.

Amid the military conflict between India and Pakistan, the 32 airports were closed in order to keep civilian air traffic away from potential harm. “In view of the latest developments and keeping your safety in mind, flights to and from Jammu, Leh, Jodhpur, Amritsar, Bhuj, Jamnagar, Chandigarh and Rajkot are cancelled for Tuesday, 13th May. We are monitoring the situation and will keep you updated,” Tata group airline Air India said in a travel advisory in the wee hours on Tuesday. Late Monday, the airline had announced that it will “progressively resume flights” to and from these airports and Srinagar “starting Tuesday”. Notably, Srinagar is not on the list of airports where Air India has cancelled flights, which

indicates that the airline could operate flights to and from J&K’s summer capital on Tuesday. India’s largest airline IndiGo late Monday announced the cancellation of Tuesday’s flights to and from Jammu, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Leh, Srinagar, and Rajkot “in light of latest developments” and with passenger’s “safety” as priority. Initially, it had announced the resumption of Delhi-Chandigarh, Delhi-Jammu and Delhi-Amritsar flights from Monday evening. While the Delhi-Jammu and Delhi-Chandigarh flights operated without a hiccup, the airline’s Delhi-Amritsar flight turned back to the Capital midway after a precautionary blackout was enforced in Amritsar and a few other areas of Punjab, it is learnt.

Donald Trump’s new pharma order could increase pressure on India to hike drug prices, stocks tank on margin worries

New Delhi (Agency): Global pharma companies could ramp up pressure on India to raise the prices of drugs in India and other developing markets, as US President Donald Trump’s new executive order is set to force companies to align US drug costs with cheapest ones abroad. Trump said he would introduce a “most favoured nation” (MFN) policy whereby the US pays “the same price as the nation that pays the lowest price anywhere in the World”. “Prescription drug and pharmaceutical prices will be reduced, almost immediately, by 30 per cent to 80 per cent. Prices will rise throughout the world in order to equalise and, for the first time in many years, bring fairness to America. I will be instituting a Most Favoured Nation’s policy, whereby the United States will pay the same price as the nation that pays the lowest price anywhere in the world,” Trump said in a social media post. “For many years, the world has wondered why prescription drugs and pharmaceuticals in the United States are so much higher in price than in any other



nation—sometimes being five to ten times more expensive than the same drug, manufactured in the exact same laboratory or plant, by the same company,” Trump said. International trade experts said Trump’s executive order may offer immediate relief to American patients, but it is likely to trigger a global price recalibration—with pharmaceutical giants intensifying pressure on lower-cost markets like India to raise their prices as the low cost markets would determine prices in the lucrative US market. India’s generic drug industry, which is not only a source of low-cost medicines in India but also in the US and UK, has long been a bone of contention for large pharma companies in developed countries. These companies argue that weak intellectual property rights in India leave them uncompetitive. Trump’s executive order follows the US placing the Indian patent regime on its “Priority Watch List” for intellectual property rights (IPR), which has a significant bearing on drug manufacturing.

Developed nations push for patents in drugs

Head of think tank Global Trade and Research Initiative (GTRI), Ajay Srivastava, said that Trump’s MFN pricing policy should be a wake-up call, as pharmaceutical companies facing tighter price controls in the West will be forced to redouble their efforts to raise prices in markets like India. “The battleground is no longer just legal—it has moved to trade negotiations. India must respond with strategic clarity and unyielding resolve. As global pharmaceutical firms turn to free trade agreements (FTAs) to extract Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)-plus commitments, India must hold the line on its patent regime—one that enables affordable access, prevents monopolistic extensions, and safeguards public health,” Srivastava said. India’s pharmaceutical laws fully comply with the WTO’s Agreement on TRIPS. However, India has long resisted pressure to adopt “TRIPS-plus” provisions—additional patent protections often pushed by developed countries through Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). These include data exclusivity, automatic patent term extensions, patent linkage, broader patentability criteria, and evergreening practices, Srivastava said.

Margins of distributors could face pressure

“If I sell at, say, \$1, the actual cost paid by the pharmacy is \$9–10. Around \$8 is taken by the distributors. In the generic space, if he really wants to do something and bring down the price, he needs to attend to this supply chain lobby—then definitely that will help American patients,” the Indian pharma executive told this paper on condition of anonymity. The executive further explained that out of the \$670 billion US pharma market, only 21 per cent is generics, while the remaining 79 per cent or so are patented drugs. “In generics, price erosion has already happened. In the generics space, there is only one big gap. If it is addressed, that would be good for our country also. What is happening is that over five or six distributors are ruling the entire US market in generics. They are also keeping their profit out of the US,” the executive said. In generics, the money is hidden in the supply chain, which Trump has to attend to. The problem for the US is that currently, these patented drug manufacturers are keeping their head offices mostly outside the US—in Ireland, Europe, etc.—and they are getting exorbitant profits mainly in the US, which they are keeping out, the person quoted above said. The comments triggered a sell-off in pharmaceutical stocks on Monday amid concerns that profits could be hit if firms have to cut prices in the US. In India too, pharma stocks tanked.

Trump said he would introduce a “most favoured nation” (MFN) policy whereby the US pays “the same price as the nation that pays the lowest price anywhere in the World”.

EDITORIAL

Tariff Truce


The recent agreement between the United States and China to suspend a majority of their aggressive tariff measures signals a rare moment of economic pragmatism amid escalating hostility. For 90 days, both nations will reduce tariffs imposed during their bitter trade war ~ a move that has already buoyed global markets and offered some relief to industries and consumers alike. But while this gesture may appear conciliatory on the surface, it raises deeper questions about the nature of global trade, the limits of protectionism, and whether this is a fleeting pause or the beginning of a long-overdue recalibration. This thaw in tensions arrives not as a product of goodwill, but of necessity. Both economies have felt the sting of their own strategies. In the United States, soaring import tariffs had begun to ripple through the supply chain, raising costs for manufacturers and driving up prices for consumers. China's export-dependent sectors, meanwhile, were visibly fraying under the strain, with slowed factory output and job losses. Neither side could afford to continue down a path that began to resemble economic self-sabotage more than strategic negotiation.



This brief window also presents a unique opportunity for smaller economies to reassert their roles in global trade. As the giants recalibrate, emerging markets can position themselves as stabilising partners, benefiting from diversified trade flows and reduced geopolitical volatility. The reality is that trade wars have no victors ~ only degrees of damage. While tariffs can be an effective short-term lever to correct imbalances or penalise unfair practices, they are a blunt instrument. When wielded too aggressively, they become tools of mutual destruction. The initial rhetoric, rooted in restoring balance and protecting domestic industries, has collided with the practical truth that modern economies are too interdependent to disentangle without severe consequences. Still, this 90-day reprieve is not a resolution. It is a tactical pause, likely designed to avoid further damage while keeping pressure on the negotiating table. The structural issues remain unresolved: intellectual property disputes, concerns over state subsidies, and the broad ambition of reshoring supply chains. These challenges demand nuanced diplomacy, not economic brinkmanship. Perhaps the most significant takeaway from this episode is a quiet acknowledgement from both capitals ~ however reluctant ~ that decoupling is neither feasible nor desirable. Global trade is not a zero-sum game, and attempts to unilaterally dictate its terms rarely end well. Cooperation, even amid competition, is essential. Going forward, a stable and rules-based trade framework will require more than temporary truces. It demands trust, transparency, and willingness to compromise ~ values that have been in short supply in recent years. The coming months will test whether this pause is merely a cooling-off period or the first step toward rebuilding a global economic order based on mutual respect and shared prosperity. For the sake of the world economy, one hopes it is the latter.

Assertive Clarity

In a turbulent week of military standoff and international conjecture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation has done more than just clarify India's position ~ it has recalibrated the narrative. By rejecting the prospect of talks with Pakistan and reaffirming the principle that "talks and terror cannot go hand in hand," Mr Modi not only pushed back against speculative diplomacy from Washington but reasserted the line India has consistently held on Kashmir and national security. This was not a speech meant for nuance ~ it was an unmistakable message, directed as much at international interlocutors as at a domestic audience frustrated with mixed signals. Coming after a flurry of statements from the US President suggesting a brokered ceasefire and the potential for dialogue, Mr Modi's words were a course correction. His declaration that India inflicted deep strategic losses on Pakistan and compelled them to seek restraint was calculated to project strength, intent, and clarity. Operation Sindoor, as detailed by the Prime Minister, signals a shift in India's response matrix. Unlike past episodes of cross-border attacks that were met with symbolic or delayed reprisals, this time the response was swift, extensive, and accompanied by an information campaign led from the top. It is evident that New Delhi does not want ambiguity ~ not in battlefield doctrine, nor in messaging. And that's a change the region must now reckon with. It is also telling that Mr Modi explicitly dismissed the notion of "nuclear blackmail."



In doing so, he stripped away one of Islamabad's recurring deterrents ~ the threat of escalation ~ and reframed the deterrence calculus. A red line has been drawn, but unlike before, it is India asserting what it will no longer tolerate, nor react to what might happen. More importantly, the speech signals a domestic consolidation. Amid the anger and confusion among Mr Modi's support base following reports of a ceasefire linked to US pressure, his address served as reassurance. His government, he implied, had not backed down ~ it had, instead, called Pakistan's bluff, imposed a cost, and defined new rules for engagement. For a leader who built much of his legitimacy on national security, this restoration of narrative control was crucial. There is also a deeper strategic play at work. By framing any future dialogue as conditional on the dismantling of Pakistan's terror infrastructure and limited only to issues like Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Mr Modi sought to pre-empt international attempts to widen the conversation. He was also putting the burden of peace squarely on Islamabad, while keeping India's posture aggressive but contained. This moment underscores something vital: India's desire to shape its own destiny, unmediated by foreign power brokers. In a region fraught with volatility, clarity is currency ~ and for now, Mr Modi has in unequivocal terms reasserted control over both the script and the stage. Washington, Islamabad and others around the world must get the message. India will not brook interference in writing its security scrip.

During Operation Sindoor, let's not forget about digital warfare

Ramvilas Sharma

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As conventional and digital battlespaces increasingly converge, India's national security depends not just on military readiness but also on information resilience and cybersecurity preparedness



On May 9, India's Ministry of Defence issued an advisory through its official X handle, urging media channels, digital platforms, and individuals to refrain from live coverage or real-time reporting of defence operations and security forces movements. Around the same time, the Press Information Bureau (PIB) emphasised the importance of sharing only official advisories, helplines, and verified updates to combat fake news. These timely messages came in response to the flood of unverified information ~ often AI-generated ~ following the launch of Operation Sindoor by the Indian Armed Forces on May 7, which targeted Pakistani terrorist installations after the Pahalgam terrorist attack of April 22. A striking example occurred on May 8, when false reports about India's aircraft carrier INS Vikrant attacking Pakistani ports spread rapidly across social media and television networks, causing widespread alarm. This misinformation originated from a fraudulent X profile impersonating INS Vikrant with a fake verification badge, which lent it unwarranted credibility. Media outlets in India broadcasted the unverified story as breaking news, fuelling panic while Pakistan amplified this with fake news of widespread destruction.

Modern conflicts have evolved significantly, incorporating digital dimensions alongside conventional warfare. Research from King's College London in 2020 highlighted that contemporary conflicts are increasingly "hybrid", blending traditional military operations with sophisticated information campaigns. States now routinely leverage both traditional and social media platforms for "perception management" ~ manipulating public opinion to maintain legitimacy or destabilise opponents. Several factors contribute to the rapid proliferation of misinformation during conflicts. Newsrooms, under immense pressure to break stories first, often bypass rigorous fact-checking procedures. Meanwhile, citizens anxious for updates readily share unverified content. Social media algorithms, designed to maximise engagement, tend to prioritise sensational content regardless of its veracity, creating perfect conditions for misinformation to thrive. Beyond information warfare, sophisticated cyber attacks on computer networks ~ particularly critical infrastructure ~ represent another crucial dimension of digital warfare. Since tensions escalated after the Pahalgam terrorist attack, and India vowed to bring the terrorists to justice, networks in India have experienced numerous cyber attacks originating from Pakistani and other spoofed networks. These digital tactics have become inseparable companions to physical warfare, creating multi-domain battle spaces where information control and network disruption prove as crucial as territorial gains. Recent international conflicts illustrate cyber warfare's evolution. Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine involved devastating cyber attacks against Ukrainian infrastructure and communications, with Ukrainian hackers retaliating against Russian state media and financial systems. Similarly, following Hamas's October 2023 terrorist attack, Israeli networks faced massive DDoS assaults while social media became flooded with disinformation campaigns featuring AI-generated imagery. Digital battlegrounds present unique challenges compared to conventional warfare. Cyber operations can be executed remotely, making attribution exceptionally difficult. Attackers employ sophisticated techniques to mask their identities, using proxy servers and compromised systems. This ambiguity complicates diplomatic responses and challenges existing international legal frameworks. Should conflict escalate further, India would likely face increased cyber attacks targeting its infrastructure, military communications, and financial systems alongside conventional military threats. How can India prepare for such scenarios? A comprehensive approach combining legal, diplomatic, and technological strategies is essential.

The 1970s

The happenings of a particular decade, be it a war or any milestone in geopolitics, a spectacular scientific discovery or a technological breakthrough, can never be attributed to that particular span of ten years.

Ramvilas Sharma

The happenings of a particular decade, be it a war or any milestone in geopolitics, a spectacular scientific discovery or a technological breakthrough, can never be attributed to that particular span of ten years. Every major development is normally preceded by a process of evolution through many decades and gets a definitive shape over subsequent decades. Yet, the human mind has a tendency to perceive every milestone of development, good or bad, in the context of a specific period ~ a decade, a century.

By that logic, three decades of the last century had the most far reaching impact in the present global scenario ~ the 1940s, the 70s and the 90s. The 40s witnessed the rise of the Fascist powers in Europe, the Holocaust, the Second World War, first application of nuclear bombs in war, decline of Europe vis-à-vis emergence of USA in geopolitical importance, consolidation of the Communist nations, fall of colonialism in the new world order, beginning of the Cold War and formation of the United Nations. The 90s witnessed fall of Communism in east Europe and erstwhile Soviet Union, rise of Jihadi Terrorism, emergence of China and other South-east Asian nations as the new economic powerhouses of the world, communication revolution in the form of internet and mobile telephony and spectacular technological development in medical treatment. In India, the 40s witnessed the worst of the famines, rise of communal politics leading to partitioning of the sub-continent and indepen-

dence.

In the 90s, India witnessed the rise of coalition politics and liberalisation of the economy. In between came the 1970s which according to many writers was the turning point in geopolitics, in science and technology and in culture and sports. Interestingly, the books and the telefilms that came out on the events and personalities of the Seventies were mostly UScentric. "The Seventies; The Great Shift in American Culture, Politics and Society" by American historian Schulman B.J. (2001) highlighted the political, cultural and social transformation of American society in that decade. "The Seventies in America", the Volume edited by Super, J.C. (2005) was a kind of encyclopaedia with 672 essays that examined the issues and moments of the decade, iconic personalities and is an important source of reliable information for anyone interested in US history.

"The 1970s: A New Global History from Civil Rights to Economic Inequality" by Borstelmann, Thomas (2013) showed how the decade "wrought irrevocable transformations upon American society and the broader wor ~ ld that continue to resonate to ~ day". However, "A History of the Seventies" by Dia nda, B. (2019) is perhaps the first attempt to explain the "indepth and complete look at the Seventies" ~ the political, cultural, social and economic developments that shaped the modern world. "The SEVENTIES: Turbulence to Transition", a book edited by Nandi, Sayantan and Deb, Indrani

(2025), brought out by an initiative of the Thinkers' Club, is a recent addition on the subject. Besides historical, political and social perspectives of the land-

change focus from global to South-Asi ~ an issues: historicizing images of Mother and Motherland right from the days of the Bengal Partition to

neyn of the spacecraft which started in the 1970s and is still communicating with earth. The essay "What the 1970s meant for Physical and Biological Sci-



mark events of the 70s, the book dwells upon important breakthroughs of science and technology, women's journey towards equality, critical perspectives in the happenings of the cultural world, performative arts and sports. In all, twentyseven essays in the book covered such different aspects of life which had a remarkable turn in the 70s to shape the subsequent decades. The book starts with the essay that provided an insight into how the decade saw a "decline of the 'normal' Left and the conservative liberal to a more nationalistic populism fuelled by free market ideologies".

Then there are pieces on the role of the US in the emergence of China as an economic powerhouse, the oil crisis and its far-reaching aftershocks, and the intellectual origin of subaltern studies. Subsequent essays

liberation of Bang ~ la desh, the war of 1971 ~ when a fe ~ male leader fought ~ and the Bangla ~ desh Liberation War from the perspective of North-eastern India.

The essay on the Kesavananda Bharati case and the landmark judgement of the Apex Court of India (1973) traced how "a constant battle to decide how far the legislature could use its power of amendment, and what part of the Constitution was sacrosanct" finally came to terms in India in the 70s. The article on "Dijkstra ~ The Un-hyped hero of Computing" traces out how the fingerprints of this genius are "visible all through the state-of-the-art in the science of computing of today".

The article on Voyager-I, "Where no one has gone before" records the amazing jour-

nes" traces the landmark dev ~ elopments which contributed to shaping the technology-driven society of today. The essay on the book "Sexual Politics" by Millett, Kate (1970) reveals how this book influenced the women's movement in the 70s all over the wor ~ ld and contributed to cultural transition. At the national level, the article on the report (Tow ~ ards Equality, 1975) of the Committee set up by the Government of India on the Status of Women explains how it acted "as a founding text, a historic document, as a milestone in Indian Women's ongoing journey towards equality" In the section on culture, there is an essay on "thematic centrality of anger" in the cinema of the 70s, mostly using ex ~ am ples from Indian and Hollywood films.

The piece exposes the "dis-

tinctive nature of anger (in the movies of Seventies) which differentiates it from earlier and later personifications". The essay "The Total Revolution of Total Football" reveals the game changing transition of football which happened in the 70s. At the regional level, the piece on Badal Sarkar's plays of the 1970s gives an insight to "in ~ novative changes in the world of theatre, both in form and content". The essay on "Changing landscape of Bengali kitchen" explains how in the 70s, the "kitchen (was) being shaped by new economic changes, cultural tastes and the rising popularity of advertising". The essay on the book "Pe ~ dagogy of the Oppressed" by Freire Paulo originally came out in Portuguese in 1968 (English version first came out in 1970) explained how it shook the roots of the education system which was in vogue all over the world. Also, there is an essay on architecture which explains how the decade witnessed a paradigm shift in modern architecture.

Two articles: one relating to a struggle of a reputed English daily from Calcutta to retain its moral centre during the Emergency days and the other gleaned from a Bengali daily explored the Naxalite period from the lens of a contemporary observer. Besides, the book has a few pieces which are based on personal reflections on the decade by eminent academicians and bureaucrats. "The SEVENTIES: Turbulence to Transition" can be a source of reference for anyone interested in the history of that period.



Zila Udyog Bandhu meet held under DM

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur, A meeting of the district level industry brothers was convened in the Collectorate Auditorium under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjana. Chief Development Officer Vishal Kumar, Additional Superintendent of Police Nitesh Singh, Joint Commissioner Industry Virendra Kumar, Executive Officer Municipality Mirzapur Goa Lal and concerned department officials and entrepreneurs were present in the meeting. Stay In the meeting, the District Magistrate expressed strong displeasure over the construction of Chunar Udit Nagar Badagaon, which connects about 10 units located three kilometers ahead of Chunar, and directed the Executive

Engineer Public Works Department Khand-2 to take necessary action as per rules. It was told about fixing the pits dug for the arrangement of peejaal in the urban area that the road from Ranganj



District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjana gives instructions to the concerned by meeting with district level industries

Ilya Hotel to the railway stationBad, Anagarh Mahavir Road, Parasia Tola and Sabri railway gate road etc. have not been corrected. On which the District Magistrate directed the

Imambara Chetganj, Gosai Tola, Putlegar, Lohia pond was crooked in the city, so that there was any accident.Can The District Magistrate directed the Executive Engineer

Electricity and said that the crooked power polo should be corrected at the earliest. In the review of the Investment Mitra Yojana, a total of 270 applications were received, in which 193 approved, 15 canceled, pending investigation 06 and 55 are pending under time. Similarly, in 2025-26, the Dots of MYSY, ODOP carpet/brass, CM youth etc. run by the Department of Industries in 2025-26 Necessary guidelines were given in detailed reviews. Under the District Magistrate CM Youth Scheme, the banks expressed strong displeasure over the pending application and directed to conduct an inquiry. Manager of the manager lead bank and the bank manager of the concerned banks should be present in the meeting.

Addl Commissioner (Judicial) Ashish Mishra received additional charge of post of Dy Commr of Food and Civil Supplies

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur, Additional Commissioner (Judicial) Ashish Kumar Mishra has been given additional charge of Deputy Commissioner Food and Rashad in Vindhyachal Mandal Mirzapur. According to the information received in this regardIn compliance, Additional Charge is given to Ashish Kumar Mishra Additional Commissioner (Judicial) Vindhyachal Mandal Mirzapur in



Additional Commissioner Ashish Mishra taking additional charge of the post of Deputy Commissioner Food and Rashad

compliance till the post of Deputy Commissioner (Food) Vindhyachal Mandal Mirzapur or till regular appointment is done. While issuing this order, the Divisional Commissioner Balakrishna Tripathi has issued. The order states that the order given to the Additional Commissioner (Judicial) should be implemented immediately. Commissioner issued order Instructions have been given to be

implemented with immediate effect. In this regard, Additional Commissioner (Judicial) Ashish Kumar Mishra has taken over the charge of Deputy Commissioner of Food and Rashad on Thursday. Additional Commissioner (Judicial) Shri Mishra said that complete compliance with the order of the Government and Commissioner Vindhyachal Mandal will be ensured.

DavaIndia's E - Pharmacy now in Varanasi

Staff Reporter
Varanasi: In a milestone initiative aimed at empowering quality affordable healthcare, DavaIndia, India's largest private Generic pharmacy retail chain, has unveiled its e-commerce platform for Varanasi. The platform aims to strengthen its core mission of making affordable generic medicines accessible, with promises of 60-minute delivery, tech enabled ordering and a user-friendly experience in 14 regional languages, radically altering the landscape of healthcare delivery across the country. Commenting on the launch Dr. Sujit Paul, Group CEO of Zota Healthcare Ltd. said "At DavaIndia we are rewriting the playbook for healthcare in India by

leading with high quality generic medicines alongside technology, speed and inclusiveness, we are making healthcare more



democratic and affordable. Unveiling in Varanasi is one step to making India a healthier country, enabling every family in India, regardless of income or ability to speak the language, access safe, effective and affordable treatment, at the time they need it the most."

DavaIndia's strong presence across Uttar Pradesh with its 180+ company-owned (COCO) and 150+ franchisee-owned (FOFO) stores includes 3 COCO and 4 FOFO stores in Varanasi alone. At the heart of the launch is the DavaIndia Generic Pharmacy app, India's 1st pharmacy platform with full regional language capability for ordering. DavaIndia's app offers over 2,000+ products, strongly featuring generic medicines, and offering affordable substitutes to the branded medicines without compromising on quality. Customers can now have the choice of searching for medicines by brand, composition, or category, uploading a prescription, and get the delivery done in 60 minutes or pick up from the store in 10 minutes.

Overall development and study of students need of the hour: Dr. Dharmajit Singh

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur, Babu Uparodh Inter College Lalganj, established by freedom fighter Pt Shivamurthy Dubey, a seminar on community participation at the school was organized under the chairmanship of Principal Dr. Dharmajit Singh in the school premises, in which, in the overall development and study of students, in the development of qualitativenss The participation and encouragement of the community was discussed in the community to advise the parents of various religion and caste and to give motivational to the students from their level and suggestions were sought from the parents present, the presence of these people in this seminar was conducted by teacher Jagdish Prasad Singh. At the conclusion of the program, the gratitude was given by Associate Spokesperson, Kamalnayan Dubey. Babu upstairs inter on the occasion Dr. Dharamjit Singh, Principal

SP traffic distributed energy drink to police personnel handling traffic at 40 degree temperature



Staff Reporter
Bareilly, Due to the scorching heat, the mercury has reached above 40 degrees. In this summer, the traffic police personnel working

in the sun should not be able to get sick, SP Traffic Mo. Akmal Khan has distributed energy drinks and ORS kits to save traffic policemen doing duty from heat.

Touched kit to avoid dehydration

For the past several days, the condition of the people is suffering due to the scorching heat in the district. In the afternoon, people are making arrangements before leaving their homes to avoid dehydration in temperatures above 40 degrees in the afternoon. In such a situation, SP Traffic Akmal Khan is taking special care of his traffic police personnel and the traffic police personnel doing duty in the strong sun are knowing the hall and distributing ORS drinks to save them from dehydration.



School family organizing a community participation seminar at Babu Uparodh Inter College

of Mediate College Lalganj, said that the first school is his family to make the future of the child bright, followed by school. The parents of the students will be aware and if the rites of the family are positive, then their first step of development is strengthened by their foundation of future construction. He said that if parents want to make the future of their children effective, then their They will have to monitor themselves only then their child will have a positive construction of the future. On the occasion, Shailendra Kumar Singh, Prahlad

Singh, Santosh Kumar Tripathi, Dashraj Ram, Satya Prakash Tripathi, Shiv Sagar Jaisai, Rajesh Kumar Mishra, Rajiv Ranjan Dubey, Ram Kumar Hemlata, Rita Singh, Ram Tawankal, Chandramouli Pandey, Mrs. Aruna Tiwari etc. were present. On the other hand, daily golden in the representative of minority parentsThe journalists of the world Mohammad Amin Sheikh, Jalaluddin, Naseem Ahmed, Village Head Hafiz Ahmed, Feroz Khan, Karimullah Khan, Mansoor Ahmed, Khushbuiddin etc. have also expressed their views.

Energy Task Force meet: Objection raised by Sangharsh Samiti over agenda

Contrary to the principle of transparency connivance with corporate houses, work to rule continues

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur, For privatization of Purvanchal Electricity Distribution Corporation and Dakshinchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam, on May 16 at 11:00 am, Energy Task Force should be done at 11:00 amOn the agenda of the meeting, the Electricity Employees' Joint Conflict Committee, UP has filed a deep objection and demanded that the Energy Task Force should not accept the bidding document of the consultant and the ongoing process of privatization should be canceled. The work to rule movement started from yesterday on the call of the Sangharsh Samiti continued even today. Electricity workers during the work to rule movement from 10 am to 05 pm only during the prescribed duty periodAre working Electrical engineers

collectively boycotted the video conferencing done by the Power Corporation management today at 05 am. The Sangharsh Samiti has said that the management will be boycotted after duty hours during the work to rule. Common consumers will not be allowed to have any problem. The Sangharsh Samiti has registered objections on two points on the agenda of the Energy Task Force meeting tomorrow.The first objection of the Sangharsh Samiti is that the Strategy Paper/ Bidding Document is to be presented by the illegal transaction consultant Grant Thornton at the Energy Task Force meeting. The Sangharsh Samiti said that after the false affidavit given by Grant Thoron, it has admitted that he had given a false affidavit. Along with this, he has also accepted that on himPenalty was installed in America. After accepting both these allegations, the Engineer of the Contract on the letter has recommended that the order of appointment of Grant Thorton as a

consultant should be canceled. For the last one month, the chairman of Power Corporation has been pressing this file and has not



Electrical engineers and employees demonstrating on the privatization proposal of the Electricity Department

been taking any decision. In such a situation, the Energy Task Force by the illegally appointed transaction consultantIt is completely illegal to present the strategy paper/ bidding document in front of them. The second objection of the Sangharsh Samiti is about the draft standard bidding document issued by the Ministry of Power, Government of India on 09 April 2025. The Sangharsh Samiti said that

the alleged draft of 09 April 2025 is not on the website of the Ministry of Electricity, Government of India and also in public domainNot

Dakshinchal ElectricityIt would be completely wrong to finalize the distribution corporation's bidding document. The Conflict Committee said that the Draft Standard Bidding Document of 2020 has been cited in the RFP document issued at the time of appointment of the consultant. In such a situation, it would be completely wrong to present the alleged draft standard bidding document of 09 April 2025 in the Energy Task Force meeting. Conflict CommitteeTata Power Managing Director Praveer Sinha has expressed strong objection to the statement released from Mumbai today. According to the news published in the Times of India, the MD of Tata Power has said that a bidding document has been prepared on the basis of our discount and Tata Power is ready to participate in the bidding of Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam. The Sangharsh Samiti said that this statement of Tata Power

Managing Director PowerThe corporate chairman and corporate houses fully exposed the collusion. The Sangharsh Samiti said that there is heavy corruption behind the privatization of Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam and Dakshinchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam. Surprisingly, the chairman is intent on privatizing the policy of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath of zero tolerance on corruption. Work to rule on the call of Sangharsh SamitiThe movement continued today on the second day. Today there was a protest meeting on all the districts and projects of the state. The protest meeting held on Thursday concluded in front of the Chief Engineer's Office. In which engineers Deepak Singh, Vinay Kumar Gupta, Pawan Kumar, Jitesh Kumar, Shiv Shankar Singh, Ram Janma, Sunil Kumar, Dilip Kumar, Vinod Kumar, Pankaj Kumar, Ram Singh, Ramesh Kumar Baishya, Pramod Kumar, Brijesh Kumar etc. were present.

BRIEFS

BKU celebrated 14th death anniv of Chaudhary Mahendra Singh Tikait



Union officials and farmer leaders celebrating the death anniversary of Chaudhary Mahendra Singh Tikait, the founder of BKU

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur, The 14th death anniversary of Chaudhary Mahendra Singh Tikait, the founder of Bhakiyu, the 14th death anniversary of the Indian Kisan Union District Mirzapur, as the district president Kanchan Singh Fauji as the 14th death anniversary of the farmers of Bhakiyu, Chaudhary Mahendra Singh Tikait. The residence was celebrated at village Deoria Bungalow, Adalhat, which was conducted by Virendra Singh General Secretary. While remembering the statue of Mahatma Tikait, all the people paid tribute to him, Mahatma Tikait ji continued to struggle for the rights of the farmers and the governments kept their interests strongly with the governments. Tikait Saheb worked to awaken the agricultural laborers and farmers of the country. Speakers Highlight the life of Tikait ji and for the expansion of the organization, all the officials should work to add at least 25 members to get active membership and add to the organization and people will be made aware to walk in the National Thinking Camp Haridwar in the month of June. At present, Indians on the success of Mission Sindoor, paying true tribute to the soldiers who were martyred during the war between India and Pakistan at the present timeCongratulations were sent by the Kisan Union. State Vice President Siddhnath Singh, Divisional President Anil Singh, District President Kanchan Singh Fauji, District General Secretary Virendra Singh, Chaudhary Ramesh Singh Annadar Manch, Parashuram Maurya Mandal Vice President, District Treasurer Swamy Dayal Singh, Pancham Singh District Secretary, Ram Sundar Singh Purvanchal Member, Dharmendra Singh Media in-charge, Rambriksha Singh Tehsil, Chunar, Rampyare Singh Block President Jamalpur, Jagdish Singh former head, Ramjatan ji and others were present.

Rajat Dalal's culinary debut on COLORS'



Staff Reporter
Varanasi: Just when you think the kitchen's hot enough, COLORS' 'Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment' turns up the flame! The show never misses a chance to bring unexpected twists and shocks to the table. With the OG gang back in action, audiences are left wondering: who's entering next to bring spice? Just as the celebrity contestants begin to catch their breath and get into the cooking groove, in walks Rajat Dalal, igniting a fiery wave of excitement. He makes an entrance on comedy-culinary crossover to team up with his friend Elvish Yadav, and his powerful energy sparks the competitive heat on set. And with a powerlifting champion in the mix, the show's about to get even more unpredictable—will he flex his muscles or dish out a culinary knockout? Rajat Dalal says, "I have zero experience when it comes to cooking. I'm the guy who struggles with chai proportions and thinks it is a big achievement to prepare the perfect chai. So when this offer came my way, my first reaction was doubt. But what sealed the deal was teaming up with Elvish, who's my brother and I was ready to face any number of cooking storms with him in my corner. The vibe of Laughter Chefs is unlike anything I've done before. One moment you're figuring out how to adjust the flame, the next you're being judged for your presentation by actual chefs. It's a pressure cooker of chaos and learning on the go. But don't get me wrong—I may be new to cooking, but I'm competitive to the core. I play to win. So even with all the confusion, I made sure the other celebrity contestants felt the heat."

The married woman was thrown out of the house for demanding dowry

Staff Reporter
Sumerpur. Last night in Lakhnapurwa of the town, in-laws beat up the newly married woman for additional dowry and threw her out of the house. Priyanka Devi, a resident of village Pauthia of Lalpura police station area, said that she was married to Avinash, a resident of the town, on 24 February. Priyanka alleges that her husband Avinash, father-in-law Ramdulare, sister-in-law Deepa, Khushboo, Abhilasha beat and harass her every day for additional dowry. Last night, all of them together beat her up and threw her out of the house. The victim had reached the police station and pleaded for justice. Police station in-charge Anoop Singh said that the in-laws were brought to the police station at night itself. Later, both the parties reconciled and returned home with the daughter-in-law.

Final Destination

Bloodlines movie review: This franchise, and death, goes out with a bang



get them, gnaws at us. For a while, it also seems to gnaw at them – and then, suddenly, not so much. That is the way of things in this franchise exuberating in campy horror, where the more gruesome a death, the more the chances of an audience. However, directors Guy Busick, Lori Evans Taylor and Jon Watts (also the co-writers) do put in the effort to get us hooked. The most impactful character they create is Iris (an impressive Bassinger), who sets off the chain of events sometime in the 1950s, thanks to a sense of dread she can't shake off. She is on a dream date with her boyfriend, at a shiny new restaurant called Skyview, which has got its name courtesy its location 500 ft off the ground, atop a tower that has been constructed at a rushed pace “ahead of deadline”.

The live music, the open fire, the overweight elevator, the gust of wind, the swaying chandelier, the clinking glasses, all add to

There are many, many freaky ways that one can die, and the Final Destination franchise has spared few of them. Still, one must say, Bloodlines – the sixth film in a horror franchise that also includes several novels and comic books – is alive and kicking. At least at the start. This is when Bloodlines is uncoiling its tension, the build-up to something horrific in that next sip of glass, the next jump on the trampoline, the next stomped foot in a dance on a glass floor perched up in the air, or most menacingly, the next roll of a coin tossed carelessly away. At the heart of it is an extended family, a racially mixed bunch of aunts, uncles and cousins, who come together with surprisingly genuine warmth. The thought that Death may be coming for one or the other, reaching out across half-a-century to

Iris's disquiet. If you have seen enough Final Destination films or read the novels, you can guess what's coming. In this case, Death will stalk down the people in that restaurant that starry evening as well as their progenies. If Bloodlines packs enough surprises to give you chills down the spine, it is because Death is stalking a close-knit family. But that is also the most disturbing aspect of the film. Beyond a point, it's hard to chuckle at the thought of a woman losing her husband and all her three children in the space of a few days – however preordained their deaths may have been, and even if the film conveniently forgets about her altogether. Final Destination clearly believes in going out with a bang, or two or three. Its whimpers, though, are the most scary.

Boman Irani makes Cannes debut with Anupam Kher's film



The film also stars Karan Tacker, who features in a special appearance as Captain Samar Raina

Boman Irani has made his much-awaited debut at the 78th Cannes Film Festival with Anupam Kher's directorial venture, “Tanvi: The Great”. He described the moment as an ‘honour beyond words’. The film will be showcased at Cannes on May 17. In the film, Boman essays the role of Raza Saab, a legendary music maestro whose presence is central to the emotional depth and soul of the story. The film also stars Karan Tacker, who features in a special appearance as Captain Samar Raina. “To be at Cannes, representing Indian cinema on such a prestigious global platform with a film as heartfelt as “Tanvi: The Great”, is an honour beyond words. Collaborating with Anupam Kher - an artist I have immense respect and admiration for - made the experience even more special,” said the ‘3 Idiots’ actor. Reflecting on this moment, Karan shared, “I’m honoured to be debuting at Cannes, a festival I’ve revered throughout my career.” ‘Tanvi: The Great’ also marks the directorial return of Kher after more than two decades.



I’m more self-assured now: Bella Ramsey

Ramsey said earlier they used to be hard on themselves if they felt they didn't perform well in a scene

As someone who started acting at the young age of 11, British actress Bella Ramsey never imagined pursuing a career that would lead to starring in not one but two critically acclaimed and popular shows like ‘Game of Thrones’ and ‘The Last of Us’. Ramsey, who identifies as non-binary and uses the pronouns they/ them, shot to fame with their role of the courageous and spirited Lyanna Mormont in HBO's epic fantasy series ‘Game of Thrones’. The popularity of their performance in the show led to their casting in another HBO series, ‘The Last of Us’, based on a video game of the same name. In the show, Ramsey stars alongside fellow



She talked about growing up between ‘Game of Thrones’ and ‘The Last of Us’

‘Game of Thrones’ alum Pedro Pascal; the two never shared screen time in the earlier series. “I was 11 when I started on ‘Game of Thrones’ and now I’m 21. So, I’ve been doing this for



‘I wasn’t considered the IT girl back then’

Sonali reflected on breaking Bollywood beauty mould of the 1990s

In an industry obsessed with glamour and perfection, not fitting into the cookie-cutter mould can be both a challenge and a statement. Sonali Bendre, who mesmerised audiences with her elegance in ‘Hum Saath Saath Hain’, recently opened up about her early struggles in Bollywood during an interview with ‘Bollywood Bubble’.

Despite being one of the

most recognisable faces of the 1990s, Sonali revealed that she was often labeled ‘too skinny’ for mainstream Hindi cinema - a beauty standard that didn’t align with

Bendre was often labeled ‘too skinny’ for mainstream Hindi cinema

the era’s preference for fuller, curvier heroines. “When I entered the industry, the trend was all about voluminous curls and curvy figures. I was

Hindi films didn’t quite know what to do with that,” she recalled. The actress humbly expressed gratitude for being remembered and appreciated even decades later. When asked if she could be dubbed the ‘1990s IT girl’, Sonali responded candidly, “Well, I wasn’t considered the IT girl back then. Others were. But I was always distinct - I had my own identity.”

‘Bollywood is in recession’

Kalki Koechlin says creative teams are being fired, smaller actors haven’t had

It is now a widely acknowledged fact that Bollywood is grappling with a severe crisis — both creatively and financially. Several filmmakers, producers, and artists have publicly addressed the industry’s ongoing struggles. Adding her voice to the growing chorus is actress Kalki Koechlin, who recently opened up about the dire state of affairs during an appearance on the podcast Aleena Dissects. Calling the current scenario nothing short of a “recession,” Kalki pulled no punches in her assessment. “Recession ho raha hai... does everyone know that? There is a Bollywood recession, that’s why they are releasing everything. There



is no content. Whatever they are making is not working... that’s why everything is stalled.” She emphasized that people within the industry are well aware of the downturn but feel powerless to reverse it. “Kyunki kisiko pata nahi kya chal raha hai... kya nahi chal raha hai... kuch predictions nahi ho raha hai... so everything is stalled... everything is stuck... creative teams are being fired and rehired... they just don’t know why it’s not working... and I think people don’t realise there is this crisis going on.” (Because no one knows what’s working... what’s not working... there are no predictions happening... so everything is stalled... everything is stuck... creative teams are being fired and rehired... they just

don’t know why it’s not working... and I think people don’t realize there is this crisis going on.) The impact, she said, is not limited to one section of the industry, it spans from top-tier filmmakers to struggling actors. “From top to bottom I have spoken to people... and at the top, they are like, 7 films... crores of money being just spent and they can’t find a platform to release. And now there are smaller actors who haven’t had work in 2 years.” She also noted a growing sense of denial within the certain segments of the industry, suggesting that many are reluctant to admit the extent of the crisis. When asked about the future of Bollywood and whether the film business can revive itself, Kalki offered a cautiously optimistic outlook: “It will change, it will adapt to the next thing. There was a time when circus was big, there was time when theatre was big. Those also got a renewed life when, say, people wanted suddenly live concerts... and there was a time when it disappeared, and now it’s picking. So things will keep changing, formats will keep changing.

‘I could have impaled my skull’: Tom Cruise recalls death-defying Mission Impossible scene, reveals why he kept harnesses in wardrobe

Tom Cruise’s Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning made a stellar debut at the 78th Cannes Film Festival, even receiving a five-minute standing ovation. With this film, the team also said goodbye to the beloved franchise. Cruise’s death-defying stunts at 62, his helicopter antics, and acrobatics born from “decades of knowledge” of flying planes kept the audience hooked during the screening, even though the long runtime left some exhausted. Before that, the Hollywood heartthrob received the BFI Fellowship at

the annual BFI Chair event and sat for a one-hour conversation, detailing every bit of his filmmaking passion that started when he was just four. Cruise spoke about how he moved from one rented house to another but kept writing his dreams in a diary. The actor also shared stories, giving us a peek behind the scenes, including a crazy moment when he almost seriously hurt himself doing a stunt. Speaking to BFI, Cruise mentioned how he got involved with producing films, although he revealed he was more interested in how the movie was made.



Shanaya Kapoor wraps shoot for ‘JC’

The film also stars ‘Munhya’ actor Abhay Varma

Shanaya Kapoor has officially completed shooting for Sujaat Saudagar’s upcoming period comedy ‘JC’, which also stars ‘Munhya’ actor Abhay Varma. The young actress celebrated the occasion with her team with a cake that read ‘Wrap up for Diana’, offering a subtle yet telling hint about Shanaya’s character name in the film. Both the director and the actor took to social media to share the sweet moment, giving fans a glimpse into the camaraderie and creativity that defined the project.

Adding a personal touch, Sujaat also penned a heartfelt note for Shanaya on the cake display, writing, “Will miss you, Dee. Keep shining,” highlighting the bond the two built during the shoot. Meanwhile, Shanaya’s chemistry with Abhay has already begun to spark chatter online. 2025 is shaping up to be a big year for Shanaya. Other than ‘JC’, she’ll next be seen in ‘Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan’ (July 11), followed by ‘Tu Ya Main’ in February 2026. She’s also set to join the popular ‘Student of the Year’ series.



Peace with Sinner

Tennis fan Pope Leo XIV meets World No. 1 during Italian Open off-day

VATICAN CITY (Agency): Pope Leo XIV has apparently made peace with Jannik Sinner. The top-ranked tennis player visited the new pope on Wednesday, gave him a tennis racket and offered to play, during an off day for Sinner at the Italian Open, the Vatican said. Leo, the first American pope, is an avid tennis player and fan and had said earlier this week that he would be up for a charity match when it was suggested by a journalist. But at the time, Leo joked “but we can’t



invite Sinner,” an apparent reference to the English meaning of Sinner’s last name.

Sinner said it was “a good thing for us tennis players” that the new pope likes to play the sport. The top-ranked player has a quarterfinal match on Thursday in his first tournament back after a three-month ban for doping that was judged to be an accidental contamination. Sinner will next face either freshly crowned Madrid champion Casper Ruud or Jaume Munar. Sinner is attempting to become the first Italian man to win the Rome title since Adriano Panatta in 1976.

Real Madrid beats Mallorca 2-1 in stoppage time, delays Barcelona’s title win

MADRID (Agency): It was a matter of pride for Real Madrid. There is little hope of winning the Spanish league. But the last thing it wanted to do was hand Barcelona the title in advance. And it needed a goal deep into stoppage time to achieve its objective on Wednesday. Jacobo Ramón scored five minutes into injury time and Madrid rallied to beat Mallorca 2-1 and delay Barcelona's title celebrations. Madrid needed the victory to keep Barcelona from clinching its 28th league title in advance. The Catalan club remains four points ahead and can still lift the trophy with a win at city rival Espanyol on Thursday. Mallorca took the lead on Wednesday with a goal by Martin Valjent in the 11th minute and stayed ahead until Kylian Mbappé beat a couple of defenders to equalise in the 68th. Ramón netted the go-ahead go from inside the area five minutes into injury time to keep Barcelona from winning the title. Mbappé is still in the race to be the league's leading scorer and reached 28 goals, three more than Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski. Mbappé had a hat trick in

Madrid's loss to Barcelona on Sunday, when the Catalan club virtually secured the title by coming from behind to win 4-3 in the last clasico of the season. Madrid has little chance of defending its league title. It must win its final two games and hope Barcelona fails to take two points from its three remaining matches. "When we wear this shield we always must fight until the end. Even though there is still a big gap, we will keep fighting until it's mathematically impossible," Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois said. Madrid lost all four matches against Barcelona this season, being outscored 16-7. It was the first time Barcelona won every clasico in a season that had at least three matches between the rivals.



Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti received a mostly indifferent reaction from the fans at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium on Wednesday after taking over the Brazil job. Ancelotti was announced as Brazil's new coach on Monday, and some Madrid fans criticised the coach for negotiating with the five-time champions with the La Liga season still underway. There were no significant jeers or cheers when Ancelotti's name was announced by the loudspeakers at the Bernabeu before the match, with most fans applauding and saying his name along with the announcer, following the tradition at the stadium. Madrid had not released any reaction or statement about its coach since Brazil's announcement, and there were no farewell or congratulatory messages for Ancelotti, either, ahead of Wednesday's match. The 65-year-old Italian is leaving after four mostly successful years in his second stint with Madrid, which won both the Champions League and the Spanish league last season.

Unnati Hooda, Malvika Bansod exit Thailand Open after straight-game defeats



BANGKOK (Agency): Indian shuttlers Unnati Hooda and Malvika Bansod were ousted from the Thailand Open after suffering straight-game defeats to higher-ranked shuttlers in the second round of the Super 500 tournament here on Thursday. The 17-year-old Unnati, the 2022 Odisha Masters and 2023 Abu Dhabi Masters winner, proved no match for world number two top seed Pompaewee Chochuwong from Thailand, going down 14-21, 11-21 in just 39 minutes. World number 23 Malvika, a runner-up at the 2024 Hylo Open, too found the going tough against former world champion and Thai veteran Ratchanok Intanon. She went down 12-16, 21 to the world number five shuttler in their second-round women's singles fixture of the USD 475,000 tournament. Later in the day, the women's and men's doubles pairs of Tressa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand and Sai Pratheek K and Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy, and singles players Tharun Mannepilli and Aakarshi Kashyap, will be in action.

ISSF Jr WC:

Coach Rajput's aim to help young guns prosper

CHENNAI (Agency): Indian shooting has largely been in the pink of health for the last decade or so. One of the primary reasons behind that is the junior programme. Most of the present-day senior shooters, including double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker, evolved through the junior programme. Sanjeev Rajput, a former champion shooter in the rifle discipline, is one of the key persons involved in the said programme as he's the coach of the junior national rifle team. Rajput and some 60-odd shooters across disciplines are currently making last-minute preparations in New Delhi ahead of their first World Cup assignment of the season. They generally practice in the morning and have a physical training session in the afternoon and a

session with the sports psychologist. The team is expected to depart on May 17 for the ISSF Junior World Cup in

doing well. Apart from him, there's Anushka Thokur who has been doing quite well and there's Prachi. Depending on the day, Prachi can deliver a



Suhl, Germany. The event is scheduled to begin on May 19 and go on until May 26. Rajput, who is fairly a new face in the coaching setup at the national level, is encouraged by the talent in store. "It's been going really well. Two, three kids have been doing quite good. Adriyan Karmakar has been

strong performance. I think they'll do well," he said. As per entry list, there are 57 Indians (across disciplines) who'll be competing for medals at Suhl. Besides, there will be a few more shooters who'll be competing for just the ranking points. The level of performance of junior shooters could

determine India's future in the sport. These shooters could potentially be following Bhaker's path in future Olympic editions. Rajput and the rest of the coaching staff are hoping to maintain their rich history. "This is my fourth assignment. I couldn't go for the first assignment. In my second assignment, I had travelled with the team for the Deaf World Championship and we finished first. I had also gone for the junior World Championships in Peru last year. Even there we finished first. I hope I'll be able to prove myself and we can deliver as a team," he said. Rajput is a former shooter who thrived for well over a decade, garnering medals across competitions and he also featured in as many as three Olympics.

Bologna beats AC Milan to win Coppa Italia, ends 51-year trophy drought



ROME (Agency): Bologna ended a 51-year wait for a major trophy by defeating AC Milan 1-0 to win the Italian Cup. Dan Ndoye, returning from injury, scored the only goal of the match, helping Bologna lift their first Italian Cup since 1974. Since then, the club, owned by Canadian businessman Joey Saputo, had only won two second-division titles. It was also the first major final victory for coach Vincenzo Italiano, who had previously lost two consecutive Europa Conference League finals with Fiorentina, as well as finishing runner-up in the 2023 Italian Cup.

“They were three hefty disappointments,” Italiano told broadcaster Mediaset. “I didn’t think I could immediately come back and get my own back. But we succeeded and I’m happy. I add an important trophy to my mantlepiece and I truly dedicate it to the guys, who were extraordinary.” After the final whistle, Bologna’s players celebrated by tossing Italiano into the air. Many were in tears of joy, as were some of the thousands of Bologna fans in the stands. The 47-year-old coach, smiling at the end of his TV interview, added, “Now let me go and celebrate, because this is

something incredible.” This was Italiano’s first season in charge of Bologna after taking over from Thiago Motta, who had led the club to its first-ever Champions League qualification before leaving to join Juventus. However, Motta was later dismissed by Juventus earlier in the season. With the victory, Bologna secured a place in next season’s Europa League. Meanwhile, AC Milan now faces the possibility of missing out on European competition entirely, following a disappointing season that has left them eighth in Serie A. The loss could also mark the end of Sérgio Conceição’s short tenure as Milan’s head coach. Both teams came into the final hoping to end a long trophy drought, with Milan having last won the Italian Cup 22 years ago and losing two finals since then. The match was played at a fast pace, with both goalkeepers making key saves in the opening 10 minutes.

Wrestler uses registration number of four-year-old for fake birth certificate



CHENNAI (Agency): In their bid to qualify for lower-age group competitions and gain undue advantage, up and coming wrestlers have come up with unique ways to reduce their age. Their bids, however, have seemingly been foiled (at least for the time being) as the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has temporarily suspended one of them and is set to initiate appropriate disciplinary proceedings against six others in accordance with the Federation's rules and regulations. In one such case, the national sports federation, much to its amusement, found that a 12-year-old wrestler in question has used the birth registration number of a child, who will turn four this September, to obtain a fake certificate. "When we tried

to verify the document through the application number or other particulars, we cannot find the birth certificate online. However, when we used the registration number, we found that the birth certificate pertains to a child who was born on September 20, 2021," a WFI source told this daily. In another case, a female wrestler submitted a birth certificate issued by the Office of the Cantonment Board, New Delhi. When enquired, the Cantonment Board confirmed that no such certificate has been issued by it. Birth certificates of at least two women wrestlers have been found fake so far. The wrestler, who has been temporarily suspended, was found to have two birth certificates - one obtained from Haryana and another from Delhi.

Neeraj Chopra kickstarts 2025

At Doha Diamond League, all eyes on a fit Neeraj and how much impact coach Jan Zelezny has had

Mumbai (Agency): As he switched between exuding charm and showcasing diplomacy — drawing chuckles as he sheepishly narrated his awkwardness on ad-shoot sets and deftly handling the Arshad Nadeem bouncer hurled at him — only one thing Neeraj Chopra declared mattered: that, for the first time in months, he was fully fit. “(Earlier) I had some problems in my groin,” Chopra said in Doha ahead of the Diamond League curtain-raiser for men’s javelin throw. “This time, I never missed any (throwing) session. So, I feel very confident.” To understand how big a deal this — not missing a throwing session — is for Chopra, it is important to go nine months back in time. Moments after winning the Paris Olympics silver medal last August, he was concerned that the persisting groin injury did not allow him to explore his full range. “I haven’t been able to throw from the full runway. Maximum athletes will have 40-50 throws in one session. With me, who knows, maybe in two or three weeks, I’ll have one session. I have the

fear of getting injured,” an anguished Chopra had said. Fast forward to Thursday — the eve of his first major competition this year — there were no creases on an injury-free Chopra’s forehead. “I



feel really good. The last throwing sessions were really great. I am ready,” he said. “I am very excited to open my season in Doha.” The excitement was also because Friday will mark the official beginning of a new partnership — it will be the Indian’s first competition with javelin legend Jan Zelezny, the current world record holder, as his coach. The bigger picture, of course, is whether Zelezny can not just help Chopra remain consistent — the Indian has

not finished outside the top two at any event since the 2021 Tokyo Olympics — but also build on it. And though he was spared the question on Thursday about crossing the 90m-barrier — something

before. Chopra has insisted he has a ‘big throw’ in him, but the injury has been holding him back. And Zelezny already seems to have had an impact off the field on the injury front. Chopra hasn’t directly related the two, but earlier this year, he travelled to Prague, where he consulted a doctor. Zelezny recommended to heal his groin injury. The Czech has also been striving to make Chopra, who already boasts of a monster mentality, even stronger mentally. Chopra, who reflected fondly on his time with Klaus Bartonietz, the German who guided him to the top of the world, said it took him a while to get used to Zelezny’s coaching methods. “In the beginning, it was really hard for me because normally when I trained with Klaus, we trained like today we do throwing, tomorrow lifting... But with Jan, in the morning we do throwing, afternoon lifting. So, it was a new experience for me,” Chopra said. “In the beginning, it was hard but after a few weeks, I really liked it. Now, I did some really great sessions.

Everything is going well. He changed few little things in technique. He not just helped me in training but also with other things like how we can compete with a strong mindset,” Chopra said. That will be put to the test immediately on Friday. Despite Nadeem’s absence in Doha, the field is stacked with champion throwers, with each one of the world’s top seven throwers deciding to show up. There’s Anderson Peters, the former world champ and Paris Olympics bronze winner. Jakub Vadlejch, the Czech who’s been coached by Zelezny in the past, will be there too. And so will Kenya’s Julius Yego, Germany’s Julian Weber, and Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago. And there’s more Indian interest as Kishore Jena will make his international comeback after an ankle surgery that kept him out for six months. Chopra has frequently competed against all of them and on most occasions, come out on top. What could be closely observed on Friday is how he does it — if, in the new season, he showcases some new tricks.

Gujarat Titans set to miss Buttler in play-offs, Moeen Ali not to return for KKR



NEW DELHI (Agency): England T20 stalwart Jos Buttler will leave for national duty after completing Gujarat Titans' last three league engagements as the IPL play-offs are clashing with his country's white ball series against the West Indies starting May 29. Titans are poised to finish among the top two teams after the league stage with 16 points from 11 games. They have three remaining games against Delhi Capitals (away, May 18), Lucknow Super Giants (May 22) and Chennai Super Kings (May 25). Sri Lankan left-hander Kusal Mendis will replace Buttler during the play-off stages. Among the other notable English players, Moeen Ali from Kolkata Knight Riders is also not coming back along with Jofra Archer (Rajasthan Royals), Sam Curran and Jamie Overton (both CSK). However, Liam Livingstone is rejoining RCB for the remainder of the tournament along with Aussie Tim David. Moeen Ali is apparently nursing an "unspecified injury". Bangladesh left-arm seamer Mustafizur Rahman's participation in the IPL remains doubtful even though Delhi Capitals signed him as Jake Fraser McGurk's replacement. The left-arm pacer is yet to get a No Objection Certificate from Bangladesh Cricket Board and is currently in UAE to play five T20s against UAE and Pakistan between May 17 to 30. The commitment to international cricket is sacrosanct and it will be interesting if BCB sanctions Mustafizur's absence from international cricket. There is still some time and DC are hopeful that with help of the BCCI, a certain agreement could be reached. Meanwhile, South African seamer Marco Jansen will be rejoining Punjab Kings squad but will only play the remaining league matches before joining the national squad for the World Test Championship final preparation against Australia. All Proteas players have been asked by the CSA to report back by May 26, a day after the original date of the final.

Two colors of weather in MP; Yellow alert of storm and rain in 25 districts, while some places will experience severe heat

Bhopal (Agency): The coolness that had come in the weather for the last few days in Madhya Pradesh is now seen to be going away. However, during the last 24 hours, rain was recorded with strong winds at some places in the districts of Narmadapuram, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Shahdol, Sagar divisions of the state, while at some places in the districts of Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain divisions. During this, hail also fell in Dewas. The weather remained mainly dry in the districts of all the remaining divisions. The highest maximum temperature of 43.6 degree Celsius in the state was recorded in Khajuraho

(Chhatarpur) on the previous day, while the lowest minimum temperature of 22.4 degree Celsius was recorded in Khandwa. The hottest night was recorded in Rewa. The Meteorological Department has also issued a yellow alert of rain for 25 districts of the state on Thursday and has predicted strong winds and rain at these places. On the other hand, Rewa and Mauganj are forecast to have a warm night.

It may rain in these 25 districts on Thursday

The weather department has issued a yellow alert for rain on Thursday for Bhipal, Sehore, Narmadapuram, Betul, Harda, Burhanpur,

Khandwa, Khargone, Barwani, Alirajpur, Jhabua, Dhar, Indore, Ratlam, Ujjain, Dewas, Mandsaur, Neemuch, Anuppur, Dindori, Chhindwara, Seoni, Mandla, Balaghat and Pandhurna districts, during which light rain may occur with thunder and lightning, along with lightning, thunderstorms and gusty winds at a speed of 40 to 50 kilometers. During this time, the sky in the capital Bhopal is likely to remain partly cloudy and there is a possibility of light rain with thunder in the evening or night. During this time, winds may also blow at a speed of 20 to 22 kilometers per hour.

The weather department has predicted thunderstorms and light rain with wind speed of 40 to 50 kmph in Neemuch, Mandsaur, Ratlam, Ujjain, Jhabua, Dhar, Alirajpur, Barwani, Ujjain, Indore, Khargone, Dewas, Khandwa, Burhanpur, Bhopal, Sehore, Harda, Narmadapuram, Betul,

Chhindwara, Pandhurna, Seoni, Mandla, Balaghat, Dindori and Anuppur districts of the state on Thursday.

This much rain fell at these places on Wednesday

Light rain was recorded at many places in the state yesterday. During this period, 35 rains were

recorded in Dhundhraka, 32 in Sonkachh, 31 in Javra, 27 in Khategaon, 23 in Hatpiplya, 22.3 in Rama, 22 in Manasa, 18 in Tonkkhurd, 16.1 in Nabibag, 16 in Dahi, 15 in Pithampur, 10.2 in Sardarpur, 10 in Jhabua, 9 each in Prabhattattan, Bhavgarh, Raoti, 8.5 in Hatod, 8.2 in Saunsar, 8.1 in Ranapur, 7.6 in Chaurai, 7 each in Javra and Nateran, 6.6 in Petlawad, 5.3 in Mhow, 5 each in Mandsaur and Shamshabad, 4.6 in Sarangpur, 4.5 in Gautampura, 4 each in Sailana and Pathari, 3.8 in Depalpur, Amarwara 3.2 mm rain was recorded in Indore, 3 each in Shahpur, Pachor

and Bajna, 2.4 mm in Bina, 2 each in Gandhwani, Kukshi, Nisarpur, Indore and Gulana, 1.6 mm in Raisen, 1 each in Amarkantak, Dewas, Khilchipur, 0.8 mm in Bhopal, 0.5 mm in Dhar, 0.4 mm in Ujjain, 0.2 mm each in Guna, Narmadapuram and Rajgarh.

Amidst the changing weather, on Wednesday, winds blew at the speed of 52 kmph in Indore, 52 kmph in Bhopal, 50 kmph in Neemuch, 50 kmph in Shajapur, 47 kmph in Ujjain, 43 kmph in Sehore, 39 kmph in Sagar, 34 kmph in Barwani, 28 kmph in Betul, 28 kmph in Rajgarh, 28 kmph in Guna and 26 kmph in Seoni. Lightning and

thunderstorms were witnessed in Barwani, Dhar, Khargone, Jhabua, Indore, Ujjain, Shajapur, Dewas, Sehore, Guna, Rajgarh, Raisen, Bhopal, Betul, Narmadapur, Neemuch, Mandsaur, Ratlam, Vidisha, Sagar, Chhindwara, Pandhurna, Seoni, Dindori and Anuppur.

Synoptic weather conditions

A cyclonic circulation lies over South Gujarat and adjoining areas at 5.8 km above mean sea level. A trough extends from Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim to North Chhattisgarh and Southeast Madhya Pradesh at 0.9 km above mean sea level.

BRIEF NEWS

Noida bans flowerpots on balcony parapets in housing societies

Noida (Agency): The Noida Authority has asked all flat owners to remove the flower pots from the parapets of the balcony, officials said on Thursday. The decision was taken in the aftermath of the incident in Pune, where a child died after a pot placed on a balcony railing fell over him, said Greater Noida Chief Executive Officer M Lokesh.

“It (flower pots) can fall on anyone, even while watering the pots or because of the wind. As of now, we are not going to take any fines. It is a sensitive issue. Residents should comply with it because it is a sensitive issue,” the CEO said.

According to the notice, the step has been taken not to repeat the Pune incident that led to the death of the child playing in a housing society’s compound. “The incident is very unfortunate and so that the similar incident is not repeated in future that is why it is expected from the constituted Apartment Owners Association (AOA) of all the group housing societies in Noida to act against and remove all the flower pots kept on the parapet of the balconies,” the notice read that has been issued by the Noida Authority.

It further stated that if any such accident is repeated, the entire responsibility will be on the president of the AOA and in the absence of an AOA, the responsibility will fall on the builder who has constructed the group housing society.

“In case of accident, the Noida Authority will register an FIR against the AOA president, builder, and the owner of the flat,” the notice read. “My team has started to go and check if the order is being implied or not and ensuring it,” said the CEO.

Man shot at near Chhatarpur Metro station in Delhi; police say case of personal enmity

Delhi (Agency): A man was shot at multiple times by assailants in broad daylight while he was driving an SUV near the Chhatarpur Metro station in South Delhi’s Mehrauli area Thursday. A Delhi Police officer said 10 rounds were fired at Arun Lohiya, who was driving a Scorpio and was near the Commander Chowk in Mehrauli, when he was intercepted at 1 pm by the alleged assailants. “The accused knew Lohiya and belonged to the same village as him. They had a dispute with him over some land in the village. Prima facie, it seems like a case of personal enmity,” the officer said. Lohiya, a resident of Aya Nagar, was taken to the nearby hospital, where his condition is said to be serious.

While confirming the incident, Ankit Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South), also pointed towards a possible case of personal enmity. “On prima facie inquiry, it has been found that the victim, namely Arun Lohia, who was in his car, sustained bullet injuries. It seems to be a case of personal enmity wherein the alleged perpetrators are known to the victims as they are residents of the same village. There is a previous case history between the two parties,” he said.

“The accused involved in the incident have been identified, and multiple teams have been formed to trace them,” Chauhan said. Crime data given by the Delhi Police showed that 107 cases of murder were reported between January 1 and March 31 in 2025, a slight uptick from 105 in 2024 during the same period, but lower than 2023, when it was 115. Attempt to murder cases, though, went down by 17.24 per cent to 168 as compared to 203 in 2024.

Mohalla clinic doctors, staff may retain jobs only for a year

Delhi (Agency): Doctors and staffers attached to mohalla clinics may retain their jobs only for one year or until the Delhi government recruits manpower to operate Ayushman arogya mandirs in the city, whichever is earlier, stated the minutes of a meeting attended by Health Minister Dr Pankaj Singh last week. The move is set to impact around 2,000 staffers and more than 500 doctors attached to mohalla clinics, said officials. At the meeting, held to discuss the operationalisation of Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), it was decided that sufficient notice for de-empanelment will be served to the doctors and staffers of mohalla clinics. “It was discussed that the extension and empanelment of existing doctors and paramedical staff shall continue under existing terms and conditions for one year, or until the new manpower for Ayushman Arogya Mandir is appointed to serve areas currently covered by Mohalla Clinics, whichever is earlier. Further, sufficient notice for de-empanelment should be served to the empanelled human resource of the Mohalla Clinic as per the terms and conditions of empanelment,” stated the minutes.

At the meeting, it was also decided that fresh hiring of doctors and staffers for Ayushman arogya mandirs will be undertaken based on the existing norms of National Health Mission (NHM).

Minister who called Colonel Sofia Qureshi 'sister of terrorists' may lose his chair, high command angry



Bhopal (Agency): The BJP leadership is very angry with the statement given by Madhya Pradesh minister Vijay Shah regarding Colonel Sofia Qureshi. Tribal Welfare Minister Vijay Shah's position is in danger. It is believed that he may be asked to resign from Mohan Yadav cabinet or may even be dismissed. Earlier, an FIR has been registered against him on the orders of the High Court.

CM Mohan Yadav is also angry with his minister. Late night, the Chief Minister held a meeting with the state president and organization general secretary. In this, Vijay Shah was discussed. After this, the social handle of the CM Office said to follow the orders of the High Court. Former Chief Minister Uma Bharti also condemned Vijay Shah's statement and said that he should be dismissed.

After the order of the High Court, an FIR was registered against Vijay Shah in Manpur police station of Indore.

Superintendent of Police (rural) Hitika Vasal said that the case has been registered under Section 152 (act endangering the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India), Section 196 (1) (B) (act having adverse effect on mutual harmony between different communities which causes or is likely to cause breach of public peace) and Section 197 (1) (C) (speaking about a member of a community in a manner which has adverse effect on mutual harmony between different communities or which causes or is likely to cause enmity or hatred or ill-will between them) of the Indian Penal Code. During Operation Sindoor, the briefing was given by Army Colonel Sofia Qureshi and Air Force Wing Commander Vyomika Singh. Both these military officers received a lot of appreciation throughout the country during this period. But, in a public program in Madhya Pradesh, state government minister Vijay Shah made

an objectionable statement about Colonel Sofia, which is being opposed all over the country. Vijay Shah, while roaring at Pakistan in a program organized in Mhow, said objectionable things about Colonel Sofia. He said that PM Modi sent 'his sister' to answer those who attacked in Pahalgam. He said, 'Those (Pakistani terrorists) who had destroyed the sindoor of our daughters, we sent their sister to beat up those beaten up people. They killed our Hindus by removing their clothes and Modi ji sent their sister to their house to beat them up. Modi ji could not remove their clothes, so he sent the sister of their community saying that you have made our sisters widows, so the sister of your community will come and leave you naked.'

A political uproar has erupted over the indecent statement of Madhya Pradesh's Tribal Affairs Minister Vijay Shah on Colonel Sofia Qureshi. Congress on Wednesday alleged that Vijay Shah's statement reflects the distorted mentality of BJP. Congress on Wednesday protested across the country over the minister's statement.

Amidst the controversy arising on his statement, the reprimand of the High Court and the deliberation on action in the party, Vijay Shah is repeatedly apologizing. At night, he again issued a video and apologized.

The minister said, "My recent statement has hurt the sentiments of every community. For that, I am not only ashamed and sad from the bottom of my heart, but also apologize." Shah called Colonel Sofia a 'sister of the country' and said that she has worked above caste and society while performing her national duty.

He said, "She is more respected than our own sister."

Pregnant woman raped in Rewa

Tantrik committed the crime on the pretext of special ritual; husband was sent out



Rewa (Agency): A case of rape of a three-month pregnant woman by a tantrik in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh, on the pretext of exorcism has come to light. To carry out the crime, the accused tantrik sent the woman's husband out on the pretext of performing a special ritual during the exorcism. After this, he raped the woman. Giving information about the case, Sagara police station-in-charge Ankita Mishra said that on the complaint of the victim, the police registered a case and arrested the accused and then presented him in the court, from where he was sent to jail. Actually, this entire case is of Sagara police station area of Rewa district where a tantrik living in the same village raped a pregnant woman of the village. The woman used to go to a tantrik of the same village for exorcism along

with her husband and was constantly in touch with him. When the woman was three months pregnant, the tantrik deceived the woman into performing a special ritual and called her to his house for the ritual. Believing the tantrik's words, the pregnant woman reached the tantrik's house with her husband for the special ritual. After the ritual, the tantrik sent the woman's husband out of the room to drain the water and raped her. After the incident, the victim came out of the room and informed her family about the entire incident. After which the family took the woman to the Sagara police station, where the victim told the police about her ordeal. After which the victim was medically examined. The police took the accused into custody and presented him in court from where he was sent to jail.

New form of censorship, harassment, says Ashoka University associate prof



Delhi (Agency): After the Haryana State Commission for Women issued a showcase notice to a Ashoka University Associate Professor over his remarks that allegedly “disparaged women officers in the Indian Armed Forces and promoted communal disharmony”, the faculty member, Ali Khan Mahmudabad, said on Wednesday that his remarks were “completely misunderstood” and claimed that the Commission had “no jurisdiction whatsoever” in the matter. The summons, dated May 12, was served to Mahmudabad – the Head of Department of Political Science at the Sonapat-based university – after the Commission took suo motu cognizance of his social media post following Operation Sindoor on May 7. Mahmudabad had called the optics of the media briefing on Operation Sindoor by woman officers — Colonel Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh — important but said it would be “hypocrisy” if it didn’t translate to reality on the ground. While Mahmudabad was summoned on Wednesday, his legal representatives appeared before the commission with a reply. In a statement to the media,

Mahmudabad said the summons failed to highlight how his post is contrary to rights or laws for women. “Contrary to the allegations, my post appreciated the fact that the armed forces chose Colonel Sofia Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh for the press conference to highlight that the dream of the founders of our Republic, of an India united in its diversity, is still alive,” he added. “This is a new form of censorship and harassment,” Mahmudabad said, referring to the actions of the commission. “I have faith in the process of law and know that my fundamental, constitutional,

and statutory rights will be protected.” Meanwhile, in a statement, Ashoka University distanced itself from Mahmudabad's remarks. “Comments made by a faculty member on his personal social media pages do not represent the opinion of the university,” it said, adding that the statements were made in his “individual capacity”. “Ashoka University and all members of the Ashoka community are proud of India's armed forces and support them unequivocally... We stand in solidarity with the nation and our forces,” it added.

Notice

I, Anoop Agarwal S/O Om Prakash Agarwal R/o 37/354 Basant Bihar Colony In Front Of New Court, Morena (M.P.) do hereby Declare that In My Passport No. H1458528 Entered Incorrect Name Anoop Kumar Agarwal S/o Omprakash Agarwal . But as per My Aadhar Card, Pan Card My Actual Name Is Anoop Agarwal S/O Om Prakash Agarwal . May Please be entered in My Passport actual Name Anoop Agarwal S/O Om Prakash Agarwal Instead of Anoop Kumar Agarwal S/O Omprakash Agarwal .

Notice

I, Arti Agrawal W/O Anoop Agarwal R/o 37/354 Basant Bihar Colony In Front Of New Court, Morena (M.P.) do hereby Declare that In My Passport No. E0866788 Entered Incorrect Name Arti Agarwal W/o Anoop Kumar Agarwal . But as per My Aadhar Card, Pan Card My Actual Name Is Arti Agrawal W/O Anoop Agarwal . May Please be entered in My Passport actual Name Arti Agrawal W/O Anoop Agarwal Instead of Arti Agarwal W/O Anoop Kumar Agarwal .