

South Africa's Ramaphosa to meet Trump amid tensions over US President's...



Mumbai, Delhi investors pump over Rs 26 lakh crore into mutual funds; number of women investors rises

Katrina Kaif made everyone wait for 5 hours as she wore a custom Manish Malhotra saree...

P6

Approval given to declare Balaghat's Sonewani and Betul's Tapti area as protected areas

Bhopal (Agency): In the meeting of the Wildlife Board held on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, the proposal to declare Balaghat district's Sonewani and Betul district's Tapti area as protected areas was approved. This decision will give strength to wildlife conservation and will give a new direction to tourism along with environmental balance. Local people are likely to get employment opportunities. It was told in the meeting that the Sonewani area has already become the permanent residence of 39 tigers, while tigers are also present in the Tapti area. Bhainsdehi MLA Mahendra Singh Chauhan had demanded to declare these areas as protected

areas. He said that this will not only increase employment but will also ensure that there is no displacement of villages. After the approval of the board, now these areas will be duly declared as protected areas by issuing a notification. Proposals for setting up Tapti Conservation Reserve (250 sq km) in Betul district and Sonewani Conservation Reserve (163.195 sq km) in Balaghat district were passed unanimously. The Chief Minister directed to appoint a separate officer for the conservation of aquatic life like terrestrial life. Other proposals including construction of bridge on Son river, establishment of police camp were also approved. The Chief Minister directed to speed

up efforts towards permanent management of elephants and conservation of vultures, eagles and crocodiles. He asked to rehabilitate wild animals in Bhopal's Van Vihar on the lines of Indore. It was also told in the meeting that there are now 20 tigers in Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav directed to curb the influx of wild elephants and their free movement/behavior in the residential areas of the state. Use new technologies which can prevent elephants from reaching residential areas. He said that permanent management of wild elephants should be done by making necessary arrangements so that they can be kept away from the populated areas. Chief Wildlife Conservator and



Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Shubhranjan Sen said that short films are being prepared regarding the

work being done in the conservation and promotion of wildlife. Two king cobras have been brought from Mangalore

Zoo Karnataka and kept in Van Vihar National Park Bhopal. He said that as per the wish of the Chief Minister, discussions and coordination are being done with the Botswana government to bring five giraffes and five zebras from Botswana. Apart from this, efforts are also being made to bring forest buffalo and rhinoceros from Assam state to Madhya Pradesh. He said that for the conservation and promotion of Narmada river and other wetlands in Madhya Pradesh state, a special action plan will be prepared for the conservation of aquatic life in the national level workshop to be held in July 2025 in Pachmarhi. In the meeting, the members laid special emphasis on the conservation of vultures and

talked about strengthening their habitats. The Chief Minister said that the number of vultures is the highest in the Bundelkhand region, so an action plan will be prepared to restore them in other areas as well. It was said to strengthen the Son Gharial Sanctuary further. Also, there was a consideration to hand over the areas where there are no gharials to the Revenue Department. The Chief Minister said that incidents of illegal sand mining are taking place in these areas, which is necessary to control and increase revenue income. Along with this, instructions were also given to prepare a comprehensive action plan for the conservation of gharials, turtles, rare fish and other aquatic animals.

Top Maoist leader Basavaraju killed in major C'garh operation, 27 insurgents neutralized

Raipur (Agency): At least 27 Maoists, including Nambala Keshav Rao alias Basavaraju, the topmost leader of the CPI (Maoist), were neutralized on Wednesday in a massive counterinsurgency operation deep within the dense forests of Abujmahad, Chhattisgarh. A jawan of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) was martyred while valiantly confronting Maoist fire, and several other personnel sustained injuries. All injured personnel have been evacuated and are reported to be out of danger, officials confirmed.

The operation, led by the DRG, is still ongoing and is being hailed as one of the most significant offensives against Maoist insurgents in decades. Sources suggest the death toll may rise as search operations conclude and security forces return from across the forested tri-junction of Narayanpur, Bijapur, and Dantewada districts. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in a strong statement, said: "Today, in an operation in Narayanpur, Chhattisgarh, our security forces have neutralized 27 dreaded Maoists, including

Nambala Keshav Rao alias Basavaraju, the General Secretary of CPI (Maoist), topmost leader and the backbone of the Maoist movement. This is the first time in three decades of Bharat's battle against Maoism



that a general secretary-ranked leader has been neutralized by our forces. I applaud our brave security forces and agencies for this major breakthrough."

Shah further noted that under Operation Black Forest, 54 Maoists have been arrested and 84 have surrendered across Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Maharashtra. He reaffirmed the Modi government's commitment to eliminating Maoism by March 31, 2026.

The coordinated strike was carried out by DRG personnel

from Narayanpur, Bijapur, Dantewada, and Kondagaon districts, based on specific intelligence about the presence of top Maoist commanders in the Maad region. The forested tri-junction of Narayanpur, Bijapur, and

Dantewada, long regarded as a Maoist bastion, was cordoned off, and the DRG intercepted the insurgents, leading to a prolonged and intense gunfight.

Police officials confirmed that Basavaraju, the General Secretary of CPI (Maoist) and the most wanted Maoist leader in India with a bounty of Rs. 1.5 crore, was killed during the encounter. His death is considered a historic breakthrough in India's decades-long fight against Maoist violence.

Born in 1955 in Andhra

Pradesh's Srikakulam district, Basavaraju earned an engineering degree from the Regional Engineering College in Warangal (now NIT Warangal). As a student, he was associated with the Radical Students Union and was known for his interest in kabaddi and leftist ideology. After a brief arrest in 1980, he went underground and received military training from ex-LTTE cadres in the forests of Bastar in 1987.

Following the 2004 merger of the People's War Group and the Maoist Communist Centre of India (MCCI), he rose to lead the Central Military Commission and, in 2018, became General Secretary of CPI (Maoist), succeeding Ganapathi. He was the chief strategist behind several of the most brutal Maoist attacks in India, including the 2010 Dantewada ambush that killed 76 CRPF jawans, the 2013 Jiram Ghati attack that killed senior Congress leaders, the 2018 assassination of TDP MLA Kidari Sarveswar Rao in Araku, and the 2019 IED attack in Gachiroli that claimed 15 police lives. Basavaraju was on the NIA's most-wanted list for over two decades.

Relieved heartened Ashoka University on bail granted to professor Mahmudabad

Sonipat (Agency): The Ashoka University on Wednesday said it was "relieved" and "heartened" that the Supreme Court granted interim bail to its professor, Ali Khan Mahmudabad.

Mahmudabad was arrested on Sunday by the Haryana Police for his social media posts related to Operation Sindoor.

"We are relieved and heartened by prof Ali Khan Mahmudabad being granted interim bail by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. It has provided great comfort to his family and all of us at Ashoka University," the university said in a statement.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted interim bail to Mahmudabad but refused to stay the investigation against him. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh directed the Haryana DGP to constitute a three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by an IG rank officer and including an SP rank woman officer within 24 hours for investigating the case. The bench restrained the professor from writing any further online posts on the recent India-Pakistan conflict and asked him to cooperate with the SIT investigation.

Rajnath hails success of Op Sindoor calls it India's largest anti-terror operation

Lucknow (Agency): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday lauded the bravery and precision of the Indian soldiers during Operation Sindoor, calling it the "largest anti-terror operation carried out by India" and a testament to the country's unwavering resolve against terrorism. Speaking at a Senior Citizens' Dialogue' held in Triveni Nagar here in his parliamentary constituency, Singh expressed deep gratitude to the veterans of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), aged between 70 and 85, who were present in large numbers.

The event was also attended by Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, BJP Lucknow president Anand Dwivedi, MLC Mukesh Sharma and MLA Neeraj Bora.

Singh began his address by acknowledging the contributions of senior party workers and said he felt "deep emotional resonance" seeing their continued involvement and connection with the community.

"You have taught us how to maintain meaningful relationships with the people at the grassroots," he remarked.

Highlighting the recent suc-

cess of Operation Sindoor, Singh said, "Our soldiers displayed exceptional courage and strategy in avenging the Pahalgam attack. I personally congratulated and thanked our troops for their valour."

He added that India had sent a strong message to the world that it would go to any extent in the fight against terrorism.



Emphasising the precision of the strike, Singh noted that care was taken to avoid civilian areas.

"The target was hit with complete accuracy. No harm came to any civilian or non-military structure. This reflects the discipline and moral strength of our forces," he said, also crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his leadership in the opera-

tion. On the development front, Singh admitted that he was not fully satisfied with the current pace of progress in Lucknow. However, he announced several upcoming initiatives aimed at transforming the city's infrastructure.

"Soon, Lucknow will be home to a Rs 2,500 crore semiconductor chip manufacturing unit," Singh revealed, adding that this will mark a major milestone in the region's technological advancement.

He also said a circular train system around the city will be launched following the success of the Ring Road project.

"I have already discussed this with the Railway Minister (Ashwini Vaishnaw). Lucknow will

soon have a circular train to ease urban commuting," he said.

Singh concluded by mentioning the symbolic significance of the BrahMos missile system, noting that its success during the recent operations coincided with the virtual inauguration of a BrahMos manufacturing unit in Lucknow, underscoring the city's growing strategic importance.

Heavy rains, hailstorms hit Delhi; several flights diverted or delayed

New Delhi (Agency): Gusty winds, heavy rains and hailstorms lashed Delhi on Wednesday, causing tree felling, waterlogging and traffic jams in many areas. Road, train and air traffic were severely affected even though the fall in temperature



provided people relief from the scorching heat of the past few days. At least 10 flights were diverted to nearby airports—mainly to Jaipur—and over 50 flights were delayed between 7:45 pm and 8:45 pm, the Hindustan Times reported, quoting an airport official. Low-cost carrier IndiGo said in a post on X that their flight schedules were currently impacted due to the heavy rains and thunderstorms sweep-

ing across Delhi, Chandigarh and Kolkata.

In a separate statement, the airline said that its flight 6E 2142 operating from Delhi to Srinagar encountered sudden hailstorm en route. "The flight and cabin crew followed established protocol, and the aircraft landed safely in Srinagar. The airport team attended to the customers after the arrival of the aircraft, prioritising their wellbeing and comfort. The aircraft will be released post necessary inspection and maintenance," it said. Both

Air India and SpiceJet said rain and thunderstorms may disrupt flights to/from Delhi this evening.

"Due to bad weather (thunderstorm with heavy rain) in Delhi (DEL), all departures/arrivals and their consequential flights may get affected. Additionally, traffic movement to the airport might be affected due to heavy rains," SpiceJet said in a post on X.

Union minister Athawale calls for decisive battle to reclaim PoK

Mumbai (Agency): Union minister Ramdas Athawale on Wednesday demanded the government launch a decisive battle to reclaim Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), asserting diplomatic efforts have not yielded desired results and the territory must be brought back under Indian control.

Athawale remarked that halting the military action against Pakistan after launching Operation Sindoor on May 7 was not a good move.

"Ceasefire was not a good thing. Indian government's action against terrorists has not stopped. Our defence forces are fighting against terrorists. We will continue our fight against terrorism," he said. The veteran politician from Maharashtra, who heads the Republican Party of India (Athawale), a BJP ally, praised the Modi government's swift retaliation after the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam town of Kashmir in which 26 persons, most of them tourists, were killed. Speaking at the Bharat Jindabad Yatra organised by his

party in Mumbai, Athawale said, "A proposal has been sent to Pakistan to return PoK to us. If it refuses to do so, there should be a decisive battle against Pakistan. It is our firm demand to get it (PoK) back."

"Like the BJP and the Congress, the RPI (Athawale) has decided to hold Bharat Jindabad Yatra across Maharashtra where we will give slogans like Pakistan murdabad, bring back PoK and condemning terrorism. My party will organise the yatra in other parts of the country also," he informed.

The Minister of State for Social Justice hailed the success of 'Operation Sindoor' under which Indian armed forces targeted terror hubs in PoK and deep inside Pakistan. "The way Pakistan-sponsored terrorists killed 26 people in Pahalgam and the Indian government retaliated by killing more than 100 terrorists, proves our strength. The hideouts of terrorists were destroyed

in Operation Sindoor," he said. Athawale expressed optimism about India's chances of reclaiming Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. "I believe PoK will soon be with India," he asserted.

The Union minister asserted India does not need support from other countries in dealing



with its national security challenges.

Responding to a question about China backing Pakistan, while India not receiving similar support from other nations in its fight against terrorism, Athawale remarked, "India and its Army are very strong. India is no longer the same country it used

to be in the past. We do not want support from the US or its president Donald Trump." Athawale emphasised that India is firm in its stance against terrorism. "It is true that China and some other countries are supporting Pakistan. But India and our Prime Minister Narendra Modi are serious about fighting terrorism," he maintained.

He emphasised India does not want any third-party involvement in its discussions with Pakistan on issues such as terrorism as New Delhi believes they must remain bilateral.

On a separate note, when asked about the upcoming local body elections in Maharashtra, the Union minister demanded 15 seats for his party in the Mumbai civic body. "The RPI (Athawale) should get some seats to contest in the upcoming civic body elections, ZP (Zilla Parishad) and other local bodies. We demand at least 15 seats to contest and deputy mayor post for RPI (Athawale) in the BMC (Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation) elections," he added.

No cause for concern over COVID-19 infections in UP: Adityanath

Lucknow (Agency): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday said COVID does not pose an imminent threat in Uttar Pradesh, as concerns about the dreaded virus emerge world over with its latest JN.1 subvariant.

"There is no immediate cause for concern in the state; however, given the global context, vigilance and precaution remain essential," Adityanath said during a review meeting, according to an official statement.

The Centre has so far issued no new advisory regarding COVID-19.

"Still, considering the rising number of JN.1 cases in Thailand, Singapore, and Hong Kong, there is need for continued surveillance in Uttar Pradesh," Adityanath said.

He instructed all medical colleges, district hospitals, and health units across the state to remain on high alert and be fully

prepared to handle any emergency.

He directed that the 10-bed ICUs, ventilators, and oxygen plants established in district hospitals must always remain operational.

Adityanath also instructed relevant departments to begin preparations to prevent seasonal communicable diseases such as dengue, malaria, and kala-azar.

He directed the Health department, Medical Education department, and local administration to work closely to ensure proactive measures are in place. He asserted that the Uttar Pradesh government is "fully prepared" and committed to addressing all potential health challenges, including COVID-19.

Maharashtra has reported two COVID-19-related deaths since January this year, the state health department said on Tuesday, amid rising concerns about the deadly infection.

Rajiv Gandhi's death anniv celebrated

Late Rajiv Gandhi gave right to vote for communication revolution and 18-yr-old people : Chhote khan



Congress officials and workers celebrating the death anniversary of former Prime Minister late Rajiv Gandhi

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur, On the death anniversary of Bharat Ratna former Prime Minister late Rajiv Gandhi at Housing Development Colony Rajiv Gandhi Park While surrendering, he said that poverty alleviation and progress in social harmony science and technology used to make tireless efforts for the uplift of the weaker sections of the society to promote Panchayati Raj institutions and the central role of youth and women in nation building.

District Panchayat member Shiv Shankar Choubey, while surrendering the statue, said that Rajiv Gandhi always remembers the work of national interest and remembers his dynamics Will be done. Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee member in -charge Minhaj Ahmed Chhote Khan, while surrendering the idol, where the whole country is remembering Rajiv Gandhi today. Mr. Khan said that Rajiv Gandhi's dream was that the 21st century India became strong independent

and self-sufficient and the right to vote for 18-year-old people was given by Rajiv Gandhi. Mr. Khan called upon the youth to strengthen the Congress party. On this occasion, mainly Congress leader Chunmun Shuklaz Shashi Bhushan Dubey Kanchmanya, former chairman Deepchand Jain, District Panchayat member Krishnagopal Chaudhary, Ramesh Chandra Prajapati "Pappu", Mohit Mishra, Janardan Pandey, Archana Choubey, Shabnam Ansari, Khushboo Jain, Kapil Kumar Sonkar, Vivek Singh, Swaroop Singh, Vivek Singh, Rajez Mishra, Anujhez Mishra, Anujhez Mishra, Dr. Santosh Yadav, Imran Khan, Pramod Kumar Gupta, S h a s h w a t Pandey, Ganeshdutt Pandey, Manoj Chaurasia, Manas Mohile, Ashok Bharti, Santosh Kumar, Shivnarayan Patel, Jogilal Verma, Anand Mishra, Ankit Dubey, Ayush Dubey and other Congressmen were present.

BJP organized seminar on birth anniv of Punyashlok Rani Ahilyabai Holkar

During Ahilyabai's tenure, women always honoured: Chief Guest Sadhana Singh

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur, BJP District Vice President and District Convenor of Program Dinesh Pratap Singh in the auditorium of BJP District Office Barodha Kachar Mirzapur. The district seminar program on Smriti was completed. In which Rajya Sabha Sadhana Singh was the chief guest/speaker as a member. Chief guest Sadhana Singh, while discussing the biography of Mata Ahilyabai, said that Ahilyabai Holkar ji was born on 31 May 1725 in Chaundi, a small village in Beed Taluka, Maharashtra (Aurangabad), in Chaundi, a father Mankoji and mother Sushila Shinde. In the

glorious history of rich India, where womenHe has always worked as an inspiring source, to take the country in the right direction, while it has been successful in setting an example of generations coming with its talent and skills. The themes of the power and power of the women are found from the Vedas to the Puranas and their qualities are found in the appreciation codes. In the middle period and north-mid-period, when there was evidence of rituals in poetry, many in the state government There was also a period of female powers. Deepshikha, who showed a direction to the country, won the religion and humanity first and brought the society to the society with his thoughts. This year is the 300th birth anniversary year of Punyashlok Rani Ahilyabai Holkar. The famous Prime Minister of the country, Narendra Modi, while installing his statue in Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, said that Punyashloka Rani

Ahilyabai Holkar, from Kashi Vishwanath to Somnath, renovated many temples. The confluence of antiquity and modernity which was in his



Rajya Sabha member Sadhana Singh addressing the seminar organized on the three-century of Rani Ahilyabai Holkar

life. Today, the country is moving forward considering it as an ideal. Together she also said that Ahilyabai Holkar was the Maratha Holkar Queen of the Malwa Empire of India. Ahilya was married to Khanderao, son of Maharaj Malharao Holkar, the founder of Holkar State. Name of Ahilyabai's sonMaharrao and daughter were named Muktabai. After

the death of Malarao Holkar, Goddess Ahilyabai took charge of the administration in 1767 with the permission of the Peshwa and appointed

Tukojirao as the commander. Rani Ahilyabai made Maheshwar from her capital Indore. During the tenure of Ahilyabai, women were always given a respected place. She became the medium of women empowerment as a female ruler, because Faith and tradition goes together, she was a worshiper of Lord Shiva. Ahilyabai always

Three-hour protest kicks off against privatization, management conspiring to save their skin

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur, A 03-hour protest from today on the call of Electricity Employees Joint Conflict Committee, UP has started across the state. The Sangharsh Samiti has accused the chairman and management of the Power Corporation that they illegally appointed consultant Grant is conspiring to save Thouton and is engaged in blaming the consultant who has been fake by back dating. For this, despite the completion of the tenure, the Director Finance, Nidhi Narang is ready to provide another service extension. As part of the ongoing agitation program against privatization of Purvanchal Electricity Distribution Corporation and Dakshinchal Vidyut Vitran NigamStarted a protest program of 03 hours from 02:00 am to 5:00 pm. The anger of the power workers working in various districts, projects and various offices in the capital Lucknow broke out today and they came out of the offices at 02 pm and strongly protested for three hours. Sangharsh Samiti Central Officers Sanjay Singh Chauhan, Jitendra Singh Gurjar, Girish Pandey, MahendraRai, PK Dixit, Suhail Abid, Shashikant Srivastava, Chandra Bhushan Upadhyay, R Y

Shukla, Chhotalal Dixit, Devendra Pandey, R B Singh, Mo Wasim, Mayashankar Tiwari, Ram Niwas Tyagi, Mo Ilyas, Srichand, Sarju Trivedi, Yogendra Kumar, A.K. Srivastava, K.S. Rawat, Rafiq Ahmed, PS Bajpai,



Electrical engineers and employees constantly protesting against privatization of electricity department

G.P. Singh, Ram Saida Verma, Prem Nath Rai, Vishambhar Singh alleged here today that Power CorporationThe chairman and management are conspiring to save the illegally appointed transaction consultant Grant Thorton. For this, the term of Director Finance, Nidhi Narang is ready to extend the term for the second time. It has been learned that the newly appointed director Finance, Purushottam Aggarwal has refused to give a false affidavit to Grant Thouton and give a clean chit in the case of penalty in the

US and he Director FinanceHas refused to take charge. After this, the tenure of the current director Finance, Nidhi Narang is going to be extended for the second time as he has agreed to give a clean chit on the back date despite a fraud to

conspiracy of the Chairman and management of the Power Corporation, if the tainted company Grant Thoron was given a clean chit, thenThe Sangharsh Samiti will take the matter to all public representatives. Varanasi, Agra, Gorakhpur, Jhansi, Prayagraj, Kanpur, Azamgarh, Basti Mirzapur, Etah, Mathura, Aligarh, Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Bulandshahr, Ghaziabad, Noida, Moradabad, Bareilly, Ayodhya, Devipatan, Sultanpur, Sitapur, Obra, Anpara, Pipri, Haraduganj, Jawaharpur And there was a protest protest in Panki. Engineer Deepak Singh, Anshu in protest meeting Kumar Pandey, Sumit Kumar Yadav, Ramesh Kumar Vaishya Jayakar Patel, Shekhar Suman, Dharmendra Singh Patel, Shivshankar Singh, Prithvi Pal, Rambahadur Yadav, Ram Jann, Roshan Patelz Ram Singh, Pramod Kumar, Pankaj Kumar, Vinay Kumar Gupta, Amit Singh, Shambhu Kumar, Brijesh Kumar, Panchdhari, Fahd Khan, Dharmendra, Manish, Ramesh, Ramesh, Ramesh, Vinay Kumar, Sandesh Kumar Singh, Indresh Kumar Singh, Amit Kumar, Anoop Kumar Singh, Anoop Kumar, Shankar Singh Chandel etc. should be present.

Divisional Commissioner held info about progress by holding review meet of Water Life Mission

Water is precious, do not waste it, people should be made aware about its benefits: Divisional Commissioner



Commissioner Balakrishna Tripathi gave instructions after holding a divisional review meeting of the works of water-life-mission

number of the concerned operator. He also said that through slogan, make people aware of the usefulness of water that it is coming to drink water, do not take it for any other use. With this, he said that the importance of water and the time of water coming and going should also be written through painting at panchayat buildings and courtyard centers. Like- water is life, itsAll is uninhabited without. Explain the importance of water to people through such slogans. The Divisional Commissioner said that the officials of the concerned department should keep the water tested from time to time so that it can be known whether the water is potable or not. He directed the officials concerned and said that the water check should be done from time to time. The commissioner said that the officers who are going to check for water check in the area Along with this, talk

with people and also get information about the quality of water. It also said that if any working organization is facing any kind of difficulty in working, then inform the concerned Chief Development Officer that the problem can be resolved. During the meeting, it was told by the executive body Ramki Baba that 04 villages are still left will be completed in a week. On which board The commissioner directed the project manager of the executive body to make them aware of the quality work in a week. The Divisional Commissioner gave directions to write a timetable of water supply. Directing the project managers of all working organizations, the Divisional Commissioner said that the work of road cutting and restoration and OHT has been laid at all those places where the pipeline has been laid.

BRIEFS

IG Vindhyachal Zone Mirzapur conducted annual inspection, given necessary instructions



Inspector General of Police RP Singh gave an annual inspection of the Superintendent of Police Office

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur. The annual inspection of Police Office District Mirzapur was conducted by Inspector General of Police Vindhyachal Zone, District Mirzapur RP Singh in the presence of Somen Burma Senior Superintendent of Police, Mirzapur. During this time various branches of the police office, correspondence branch, numerical Branch, Prosecution Branch, Crime Branch, IGRS, Women's Honor Cell, DCRB, Special Investigation Cell, Public Information Cell, Naxal Cell, Produce Superintendent of Police etc. were inspected and required instructions were given to the concerned by inspecting the letters and records of branches. In this sequence, after inspecting all the offices and premises of the police office, necessary instructions were given to the concerned. During this Additional Superintendent of Police Nagar Nitesh Singh, Additional Superintendent of Police Operation Omprakash Singh and other officers and employees of the police office were present.

Launches MG Windsor Exclusive PRO variant

Staff Reporter
Varanasi: Continuing its momentum in the Indian EV sector, JSW MG Motor India today launched the MG Windsor Exclusive PRO variant, further expanding its electric vehicle offerings. The MG Windsor Exclusive PRO variant will be available at an ex-showroom price of INR 17,24,800 and BaaS price of INR 12.24L + INR 4.5/km. Starting today, customers can book this car at their nearest MG dealership by paying a sum of INR 11,000 and the deliveries of this variant will commence in the first week of June. Bringing together luxury and practicality, the Exclusive PRO variant offers the signature comfort of the MG Windsor alongside a larger battery pack for worry-free long-distance travel. Speaking on the launch, Rakesh Sen, Head of Sales, JSW MG Motor India, said, "The overwhelming response to the MG Windsor PRO is evident, with more than 8,000 bookings recorded within 24 hours of its launch. With the top variant now established, we are expanding accessibility of the MG Windsor by introducing the Exclusive PRO variant, offering a larger battery pack alongside premium comfort and convenience. This move is intended to bring the MG Windsor PRO closer to more customers."

Vi enhances IR packs for summer holiday travel

Staff Reporter
Varanasi: A recent report released by Ministry of Civil Aviation recorded carrying 64.5 million passengers on international routes between January and November 2024, marking an 11.4% increase in comparison to same period in 2023. To address the needs of Indian Travellers increasingly seeking global destinations during Indian summer season coinciding with academic holidays, leading telecom operator Vi has enhanced three International Roaming (IR) Postpaid Plans designed to offer More benefits, More convenience, and More value exclusively this travel season. These Plans are revised with the onset of the summer holiday season, when outbound travel from India typically sees a sharp rise. These three revised Postpaid IR Packs by Vi offer unmatched value through Double Data and Unlimited Incoming Calls & more, designed to suit the travel needs of short term as well as long duration travel. With the Double Data, a limited period offer, Vi Customers travelling overseas can now do more of everything they need on the go like navigate through foreign cities using maps, make uninterrupted video calls, stream entertainment, share photos, or catch up on work emails, all without worrying about running out of data.

Close shave for 5 dozen UP bus passengers as vehicle turns into inferno's ball

Staff Reporter
Aligarh: Sixty people aboard a bus here had a close shave on Wednesday when the engine caught fire and spread quickly to the rest of the vehicle, leaving it entirely gutted within minutes. Many people were forced to shatter window panes and leap out to safety when the bus caught fire along the Mathura bypass route on the outskirts of Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, according to authorities. There were no injuries recorded in the event. According to police, the engine took fire when the bus was on its way from Kanpur to Haryana. According to numerous passengers, they noticed sparks in the engine and immediately ordered the driver to stop the bus. Passengers then quickly exited the bus, with several shattering windows and leaping out to avoid harm. The bus and all of the passenger luggage inside were entirely burned before two fire trucks arrived and extinguished the inferno, leaving only the charred remnants of the vehicle. Passengers reported that the gearbox had developed a snag, resulting in early sparks. Despite protestations from several passengers, the driver allegedly proceeded to drive the car at excessive speeds.

NewMika unveils its first exclusive display

Staff Reporter
Ballia: Greenlam Industries, a global leader in surfacing and substrate solutions across 120+ countries, proudly unveils its latest NewMika laminates display at the 'NewMika Shoppe - Prabhat Enterprises' in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh. Strategically located in Japlinganj near Durga Mandir, this launch marks the debut of NewMika's 1.0 mm laminate collection in the Ballia region, bringing premium and high-quality surfacing solutions to the heart of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. Commenting on the launch, Mr. Sumeet Gupta, Country Sales Head, NewMika Laminate & Allied at Greenlam Industries Limited, said: "The opening of our exclusive laminate display at the NewMika Shoppe - Prabhat Enterprises marks a pivotal moment in delivering premium, sustainable design solutions to Ballia. This space transcends the traditional retail experience, offering architects, designers, and homeowners a curated environment to explore the latest innovations in laminate surfaces. Recognizing the evolving needs of consumers and the increasing demand for aesthetics and functionality, NewMika is committed to leading the industry in redefining interiors with a blend of style, durability, and environmental consciousness. We encourage the community to visit this new destination and experience firsthand how NewMika is shaping the future of laminate design." The new Shoppe is designed to offer an immersive experience into the world of NewMika laminates, displaying a diverse array of textures, patterns, and finishes that reflect global design sensibilities. With a curated selection of interior design solutions, the display centre will serve as a go-to hub for architects, interior designers, contractors and homeowners seeking both style and substance.



Sebi probing IndusInd Bank insider trading



Mumbai (Agency): The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) is investigating whether six officials at IndusInd Bank engaged in insider trading by selling stock options before accounting issues at the bank became public, says a report. Sebi is reviewing the timing of these trades to determine if they violated regulatory norms or the bank’s internal code of conduct, according to sources cited in a Reuters report. The probe aims to establish whether the officials breached any laws by leveraging non-public information for personal gain. An audit report by Grant Thornton had earlier said two former officials of IndusInd Bank were allegedly involved in insider trading during a period when the bank faced accounting lapses in its derivative portfolio. On April 29, weeks after IndusInd Bank disclosed accounting lapses and losses of nearly Rs 2,000 crore in its derivatives portfolio that triggered a rout in its shares, the bank’s Managing Director & CEO Sumant Kathpalia resigned with immediate effect. IndusInd Bank had earlier announced the resignation of deputy CEO Arun Khurana. Kathpalia and Khurana sold shares worth Rs 157 crore in 2023 and 2024, according to data from the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). The data reveals that Kathpalia sold approximately 950,000 shares, valued at Rs 134 crore, between May 24, 2023, and June 25, 2024. During the same period, he purchased 396,000 shares worth Rs 34 crore. Similarly, Khurana sold 550,000 shares for Rs 82 crore over 2023-24, while acquiring 238,000 shares worth Rs 25 crore. While the bank initially sought to shift the blame to the Reserve Bank of India’s change in rules relating to the derivative portfolio and the loss from the derivative book remained unresolved for a long time, leading to the accumulation of losses, subsequent inspection by the central bank and external auditing firms found that the top brass did not act on time to limit the losses and clean up the mess.

US farmers can offer non-GM soybean products to India: USSEC chief Jim Sutter

Sutter said he does not view regulatory challenges in India around genetically modified (GM) products as a non-tariff barrier

Colombo (Agency): A US-India trade deal could resolve several trade issues between the two countries, helping the Indian poultry industry gain access to ‘sustainably verified’ US soybean feed products, while allowing the US to partially offset potential losses arising from trade tensions with China, Sutter said he does not view regulatory challenges in

India around genetically modified (GM) products as a non-tariff barrier, as US soy farmers have both GM and non-GM products to supply to India and elsewhere. This comes amid regulatory restrictions in India concerning GM seeds and products, which have been described by the United States Trade Representative (USTR) as barriers to trade. “The progress in trade deals between India and the US could help resolve differences on trade, and both countries stand to benefit. US farmers have both GM and non-GM options available for India and I see GM as a matter of choice, not a non-tariff barrier,” Sutter said on the sidelines of the U.S. Soybean Export Council’s SUSTAIN SUMMIT conference.

‘Critical lapses occurred’: Road Ministry expands oversight on NH works executed by States

New Delhi (Agency): Citing “critical lapses” that occurred due to lack of due diligence, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has issued new directives to enhance oversight on National Highway (NH) works carried out by state public works departments and road construction departments (PWDs/RCDs). The new directive has significantly increased the role for the ministry’s regional officers (ROs) in the project lifecycle, from bid preparation to managing legal disputes. Along with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL), state PWDs/RCDs are other key agencies who implement road projects for MoRTH. “It has come to the notice of the Ministry that in several projects pertaining to NH works implemented by State PWDs/RCDs, critical lapses have occurred due to lack of due diligence...Such lack of due diligence has led to

unnecessary contractual disputes, legal complexities and financial liabilities for the central government,” states the circular dated May 16, 2025.



consulted nor involved during the bidding process or while defending contractual disputes before Arbitration Tribunals or Courts, wherein such disputes are dealt with mechanically often without adequately safeguarding the interest of the central government or aligning with the Ministry’s position,” reads the letter further. Taking note of the situation, the ministry said that for all NH project works (including those costing less than Rs. 100 crore but excluding maintenance works), the bid documents prepared by state PWDs/RCDs must undergo thorough scrutiny by the concerned RO prior to the

finalisation of bids. ROs will examine the bid documents for any anomalies, inconsistencies or deficiencies, particularly with respect to quantities, schedules, specifications, and contract conditions. “It is imperative that ROs remain actively involved in all legal contractual disputes adjudication processes including arbitration matters related to NH works. State PWDs/RCDs shall not pursue such matters independently without consultation with ROs,” said the Ministry.

provision for its proportionate exposure. These guidelines are designed to mitigate risks and ensure prudent investment practices. Jyoti Prakash Gadia, managing director at Resurgent India, said the proposed revised guidelines of the RBI on AIF are intended to bring the regulatory compliance of the RBI directions in alignment those issued by Sebi on the subject. Taking into account the more robust and comprehensive structure provided under the SEBI guidelines, there was a scope and need for bringing in some relaxations

RBI revises rules for investment in Alternative Investment Funds

Mumbai (Agency): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised draft guidelines for investments by regulated entities (REs) in Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), aiming to enhance oversight and prevent potential misuse. Key proposals include capping a single RE’s contribution to an AIF scheme at 10 per cent and limiting collective RE investments to 15 per cent in a single scheme. Investments up to 5 per cent of a scheme’s corpus will not face additional restrictions. However, if an RE’s investment exceeds 5 per cent and the AIF has



downstream debt exposure to a borrower linked to the RE (excluding equity shares and certain convertible instruments), the RE must make a 100 per cent

Power demand in May dips slightly as weather brings relief to grid managers



New Delhi (Agency): Power demand in the first half of May remained subdued as thunderstorms and rain tempered temperatures in India, with peak demand reaching 231 gigawatts (GW) between May 1 and 17—slightly below the 233 GW recorded in the same period last year. Forecasts of continued light rain and winds through May are expected to ease pressure on grid managers, who had anticipated significant shortages amid record demand. India consumed 82.1 billion units (BU) of electricity between May 1 and 17, slightly below the 83.8 BU recorded during the same period last year, according to data from the National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC). Peak demand this year was 231 GW on May 15, while the lowest—202 GW—was met on May 7. In comparison, peak demand last year touched 233 GW on May 6, with the lowest at 207 GW on May 12. Last year’s peak demand of 250 GW was recorded on May 31. The subdued demand follows a modest 2.3 per cent year-on-year growth in April, attributed to a high base effect, according to ICRA. In January, the NLDC had flagged May and June as “high-risk months” for power shortages, warning that unmet electricity demand could reach 15-20 GW, particularly during non-solar hours. However, rains and thunderstorms have kept temperatures low, which in turn has eased air-conditioner use and helped keep the power supply situation manageable so far. “In May, we’ve been quite comfortable in terms of power availability and prices. The average market price for the first 13-14 days has been around Rs 4.40 per unit,” Rohit Bajaj, joint managing director at the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX), said. “In fact, we’ve even seen prices dip to Rs 3 on some days, especially after sudden rains. On May 4, for instance, the price dropped to Rs 3.11. There were several days when prices stayed below Rs 4,” Bajaj added. With low demand, the grid is also relying less on thermal-based capacities compared to last year. The share of electricity generated from coal has been around 71 per cent in May so far, compared to 74 per cent last year. As a result, the share of wind and solar has increased from around 10 to 14 per cent.

Mumbai, Delhi investors pump over Rs 26 lakh crore into mutual funds; number of women investors rises

Top 5 cities account for over 52 pc of mutual fund assets of Rs 65.74 lakh crore.

Mumbai (Agency): India’s mutual fund assets are heavily concentrated in the top five cities, with Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru, Pune, and Kolkata collectively accounting for a staggering 52.52 per cent of the country’s total mutual fund assets under management (AUM) as of March 2025. This means as much as Rs 34.52 lakh crore of total AUM corpus of Rs 65.74 lakh crore came from these five cities. Mumbai leads the pack with a 27 per cent share (Rs 17.75 lakh crore), followed by New Delhi with 12.63 per cent, Bengaluru with 5.39 per cent, Pune with 4 per cent and Kolkata with 3.49 per cent. This trend is consistent with the previous year’s data, according to the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). The dominance of these cities highlights the skewed distribution of mutual fund investments in India. “Since most of the

corporates are headquartered in these five cities, their investments (in mutual fund schemes) also get accounted there. This is the reason that the numbers are always skewed,” said A Balasubramanian, managing director & CEO, Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund. The MF industry had a total of 5,34,20,840 unique investors as of March 2025; of this, 25.91 per cent (or 1,38,40,740) were women. This represents a marked increase from 24.2 per cent in March 2024, underscoring the growing financial independence and awareness among women. “The rise in literacy rates and the growing presence of women in the workforce have been instrumental in enhancing their economic contributions and, as a result, women are now emerging as a key participant in the MF investor base,” AMFI said in its annual report. Individual investors,

including high-net-worth individuals, retail investors and non-resident Indians (NRIs), hold 63.2 per cent of the total industry AUM (Rs 65.74 lakh crore) — consistent with the previous year’s trend (63.4 per cent). As of March 2025, individual investors hold 65 per cent of AUM in equity funds, 18 per cent in hybrid funds, 9 per cent in debt funds and 7 per cent in passive funds, it said. According to AMFI, a notable observation is that in most states, individual investors accounted for more than 63 per cent of the MF AUM, with the exceptions being New Delhi (52.77 per cent) and Maharashtra (48.22 per cent). In fact, in several states — Lakshadweep, Tripura, Daman and Diu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar and Puducherry — individual investors dominate with over 95 per

cent of AUM. The investment landscape has evolved over the years, with shifting investment

a shift towards more aggressive investment strategies, particularly among younger investors,

be gauged from their significantly higher share of net flows in the equity segment whereas the older



preferences among individuals across different age brackets. A key trend observed in the net flows is the increased risk appetite of investors, who are seeking higher returns. “Data shows

whereas older investors prioritise risk management through diversification,” AMFI said. AMFI analysis reveals that younger investors are more inclined to take on higher risks, as can

investors exhibit a more cautious approach, with comparatively lower percentage of net flows in equity and higher allocation towards debt. Notably, in the higher age brackets, the

investors are increasingly opting for hybrid schemes, which provides a balanced blend of growth and stability. As many as 70 NFOs in the equity category were launched in fiscal 2025, collectively mobilising Rs 85,244 crore, marking a significant increase from the 58 schemes launched in fiscal 2024, which garnered Rs 39,297 crore. Sectoral/thematic funds emerged as the largest category within equity followed by Flexi-cap and Mid-cap. Together, the three categories accounted for 43 per cent share of the total equity AUM as at end-March 2025, AMFI said. Equity mutual funds saw a record inflow of Rs 4.17 lakh crore, the highest ever in a financial year. The net inflows during the year exceeded twice the net inflows in the previous year. “This, combined with valuation gains, propelled the AUM of equity-oriented schemes by 25.4 per cent to

Rs 29.45 lakh crore at end-March 2025. During the same period, Nifty TRI rose by 6.7 per cent,” it said. The MF industry ended fiscal 2025 with AUM at a record Rs 65.74 lakh crore in March 2025 as against Rs 53.40 lakh crore in March 2024, marking an on-year rise of 23.11 per cent. The expansion in AUM was primarily driven by robust net inflows during the fiscal year. Additionally, mark-to-market (MTM) gains provided a supplementary boost, underpinned by positive performance in both equity and debt markets. According to SBI Funds Management Ltd’s deputy managing director & joint chief executive officer, DP Singh, another important factor for higher contribution to the total MF AUM from the top five cities is that most of the country’s wealth is also concentrated in these locations.



EDITORIAL

An opinion sought

In a significant constitutional moment, the President of India has sought the Supreme Court’s advisory opinion under Article 143(1) on whether timelines can be judicially imposed on constitutional authorities ~ Governors and the President ~ when acting on bills passed by state legislatures. This move is more than a legal formality; it is a measured step by the Union government to re-calibrate the delicate architecture of India’s federal democracy. At the heart of this issue is the Supreme Court’s April 8 ruling that placed time-bound obligations on Governors and the President to act on state legislation. The judgment arose from Tamil Nadu’s protracted tussle with its Governor over several bills pending assent. The court declared that constitutional functionaries cannot remain in prolonged inaction, especially when such delays obstruct the legislative will of an elected assembly. What makes the Court’s intervention momentous is its use of implied timelines ~ deriving urgency from principles of constitutional morality and federal balance, even though Articles 200 and 201 do not expressly stipulate deadlines. While this may be seen as judicial activism, it is also a response to repeated patterns of Governors withholding or sitting indefinitely on bills, sometimes even after legislatures re-pass them ~ an action that constitutionally leaves the Governor with no discretion. The Presidential Reference now tests the contours of this intervention. Can courts prescribe methods or deadlines where the Constitution is silent? Can the discretionary space afforded to the President and Governors under Articles 200 and 201 be judicially structured without violating the separation of powers? In raising these questions, the Reference appropriately separates institutional mechanism from political controversy.

The President, as the ceremonial head of the Union, is acting within her constitutional role in seeking clarity ~ not contesting the court’s wisdom but highlighting areas where institutional expectations now require definitive constitutional answers. There is merit in both sides. Judicial discipline demands that courts not legislate. Yet, when constitutional silence enables executive impasse ~ particularly in Centre-state relations ~ the court’s role as the guardian of the constitution becomes vital. The ruling rightly noted that long delays frustrate the will of the people, expressed through elected state legislatures, and disrupt cooperative federalism. Imposing judicially mandated timelines is not an overreach but a necessary safeguard to up hold legislative intent, prevent constitutional impasses, and ensure that state bills reflect the democratic will without indefinite delay. The imposition could have been avoided had the executive responded with alacrity. If left unresolved, such standoffs corrode trust in constitutional governance. This moment, therefore, offers a valuable opportunity to clarify not just timelines, but also institutional responsibilities, judicial boundaries, and the spirit of federalism. The Supreme Court’s opinion must strike a balance between ensuring accountability in high office and preserving the rightful autonomy of constitutional functionaries. Ultimately, this Reference is not just about bills or deadlines ~ it is about restoring the rhythm of a federal compact where roles are respected, processes are not obstructed, and the people’s mandate flows unimpeded through the machinery of the state.

Strain on labour

The recent easing of US-China tariffs has undoubtedly pulled China back from the brink of a social and economic rupture. For months, the spectre of mass layoffs haunted the country’s manufacturing hubs, where labour-intensive industries like lighting, footwear, furniture, and toys bore the brunt of tariff hikes that reached as high as 145 per cent. But even as tariffs drop to more manageable ~ though still burdensome ~ levels, the structural damage to China’s job market cannot be wished away. The truth is sobering. The tariff rollback has prevented an immediate crisis, but not a long-term correction. For workers once earning a modest living in factory jobs, the economic disruption has already altered life trajectories. Forced to return to subsistence farming, they represent a silent but growing population pushed out of industrial employment, not due to their own failings, but because of geopolitical manoeuvres beyond their control. The relief from Geneva’s diplomatic progress is real but limited. A 30 per cent tariff remains punishing for most manufacturers who compete on thin margins. The Chinese government may celebrate the de-escalation as a strategic win, but on the ground, companies are still reluctant to resume hiring. Job market confidence cannot be restored overnight, particularly when American trade policy remains highly unpredictable and subject to electoral cycles. The rural fall-back isn’t just economic regression ~ it is a reversal of decades of urbanisation. As workers retreat to their villages, the vision of a modern, upwardly mobile China dims, replaced by uncertainty and the return to subsistence livelihoods for millions. More importantly, this episode underscores the deep vulnerability of China’s export-dependent growth model. Over the years, as domestic consumption has faltered and industrial overcapacity has swelled, exports have served as a pressure valve.

But when tariffs weaponise trade, the pressure rebounds inward, straining labour markets and social cohesion. This time, even state interventions ~ such as increased public investment and stimulus for the services sector ~ may only partially absorb the shock. There’s also a psychological dimension to this disruption. The belief in manufacturing as a stable path to social mobility is weakening. Workers displaced today may not return to factory floors tomorrow, even if opportunities re appear. Many have already shifted to gig economy roles, citing the volatility of global trade and the fragility of export-based jobs. It’s a shift that signals not just a temporary dislocation, but a more permanent reorientation in China’s labour landscape. Ultimately, while diplomacy has calmed immediate fears, the deeper challenges persist. China must now grapple with how to rebuild job resilience in an era where neither low-cost labour nor global markets can be counted on as before. That means rethinking industrial policy, accelerating domestic demand, and ~ most crucially ~ offering displaced workers not just short-term relief, but long-term reintegration. Without that, tariff relief may prove fleeting, and the job market’s pain will linger far beyond the headlines.

After Virat Kohli, does the new crop of Indian cricketers have what it takes?

Ramvilas Sharma

Gill, Jaiswal, and Rahul have the talent. Can they summon the tenacity and technical discipline?



In Virat Kohli’s first Test as captain, India chased 360-odd runs in the fourth innings at Adelaide and fell short by 48. The Indian batsmen could have pulled down the shutters on the last day and the team could have eked out a draw against the world’s top team. The target of close to four runs an over was going to be a tough ask, even though the fifth-day Adelaide pitch held no demons. But audacity was the new captain’s signature. For most of the day, in the company of Murali Vijay, he had Australia on the mat. At 240 for 2, India sensed a famous win. But after Vijay’s departure, Nathan Lyon spun a web, and by the time Kohli was the seventh out, the writing was on the wall. Nevertheless, the team had made a statement: It would not back off from a challenge. It would approach Test cricket the way it is meant to be played: Ball by ball, over by over, session by session. With Kohli hanging up his Test boots, the question that will be asked of those being heralded as his successors is this: Do they have the same tenacity? There can be little doubt of their talent. Like the King — and the Master Blaster before him, Sachin Tendulkar — Shubman Gill gave indications of his talent in his first series in Australia. A 90-odd in the famous Gabba fortress breach of 2021 made the pandemic-hit world look up at an exciting new player. Even though he had announced his abilities with greater aplomb before, Yashasvi Jaiswal’s return Down Under earlier this year among the team’s ruins, too,

led a section of the Australian media to hail him as “The New King”. But do the new lot have the hunger to give their best in arguably the most demanding format, when the instant versions demand equal, if not more, attention? Gill has been around for more than four years, a little more than Kohli when he donned the captain’s mantle. His ODI numbers are impressive. Pedigree is also writ large on almost all his 1,800-odd test runs. Yet, an average of 35 indicates that the longest format has not seen the best of the man reckoned as the frontrunner to replace Rohit Sharma as India’s skipper and perhaps take Kohli’s place at number 4 in the batting order. There are fears that Gill’s career arc could follow the trajectory of K L Rahul, another player with undoubted technical finesse. Every now and then, he produces an innings of great concentration — like in South Africa in 2023 and then in the early part of the Australia series. But the Rahul purple patch is yet to arrive. Some of the current players could perhaps take a leaf out of the King’s book. Kohli is arguably the country’s greatest ODI player. He scored at more than 48 with a near-140 strike in T20Is. Yet, Kohli has always said that “the purest form of the game” received his utmost. Nothing captures his devotion better than the effort he put in after the horrors of the England tour of 2014. It was his third year in the whites and he was being seen as one of the players to watch out for. But as James Anderson and co exploited his frailties against the moving cherry, Kohli

battled depression. He worked hard to make changes in technique, treating every overseas tour like an “engineering exam” he had to pass. A few months after England came the monumental effort at Adelaide. One of the beauties of team sport is that the greats are greats because several others go about their job quietly, feeding into and thriving with the success of their comrades. Cheteshwar Pujara at the peak of Kohli’s career, for example. Pujara scored more than 7,000 runs — the value of each of them magnified by the impact it had on his teammates, while the doughty technician was absorbing all the pressure at the other end. Indian cricket today would give anything to have an enabler like him. Remember, however, that Pujara had a near-zilch presence in the instant format. Nevertheless, as Kohli retires, there is much to look forward to. Jaiswal, for instance, willed himself to play close to his body after being dismissed for a duck in his first innings in Australia. The 170 in Perth had every Jaiswal stroke, and more. Nudged on by Rahul, Jaiswal would put his head down after every audacious shot, sometimes admonishing himself after a false one. Test cricket demands minor but critical adjustments, almost every match, sometimes every few overs. Pitch conditions require bowlers to vary their lengths and lines. The team comprising Kohli, Pujara, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Ishant Sharma, R Ashwin, and Ravindra Jadeja had players who were attentive to this imperative. Shami and Jadeja are in the twilight of their careers. Will the likes of Rahul step up? Will Gill fulfill the Brisbane promise? Where are the bowlers to fill in if Bumrah or Shami get injured? More importantly, given the pulls today, does the current lot have the drive to abide by Test cricket’s dictum of one ball at a time? The coming months will raise such questions.

How India ensured its success in Op Sindoor

Ramvilas Sharma

Operation Sindoor is now paused as India continues to monitor Pakistan’s actions and activities. The operation lasted four days at the end of which Pakistan, a nuclear weapons state, backed by China, Turkey and Azerbaijan, sought termination of hostilities. This is in sharp contrast to current ongoing global conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza. India had no intention of occupying territory. It had sought to convey the message that terrorist actions are unacceptable and will invite a backlash. The end game was determined by the political leadership; it was to convey a stern warning in case of future terrorist strikes, while ensuring no collateral damage. The exit strategy based on a possible Pakistani reaction was evolved by the armed forces and approved by the political authority. The modus operandi, date, timings, as also choice of weapons was left to the forces, a perfect politicomilitary coordination. The operations, once they commenced, were closely monitored by the Cabinet Committee on Security. Unlike Pakistan, India had decided not to target civilians. Indian armed forces initially destroyed select terrorist camps, employing a combination of ground and air launched weapons, each accurately, choosing the time when there would be minimum civilians in vicinity.

The strikes were so accurate that neighbouring structures

were undamaged. After the first strike, India left a message for Pakistan on the hot line that only terrorist camps, not military facilities, had been destroyed. Pakistan refused to take the hint as terrorists have greater value than soldiers. The second retaliation was a display of India’s military prowess, accurately destroying airfields and radar sites. It opened Pakistan to any future strikes as its air defence capabilities and its operational airfields were unusable. Pakistan was down on its knees. The impact of India’s successful military campaign added power to the government’s decision of holding the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in abeyance. India can now negotiate from a position of strength at a time of its choosing. Pakistan is on the backfoot despite all its threats. The Indian military successfully completed its assigned objectives. No armed force in the world possesses needed capabilities for immediate operations. There are shortcomings, some critical. Success flows when you hide your shortcomings and exploit your strength. That is what the Indian armed forces excelled in. Added was close coordination with multiple intelligence agencies to obtain updates on designated terrorist camps and other targets, some of which were shifted at the last moment to

avoid casualties. This was possible as the NSA, who controls them, was part of the planning process. Next was the close collaboration between the three forces. All air defence assets of the army were placed under the air force, which employed them ef-



fectively in a coordinated manner. It brings to fore late General Bipin Rawat’s intent to create an air defence command, which was then debunked by the air force, but proved possible in this short conflict. It can now be revived. UAVs were shared between the forces. Integration in firepower was complete. Such synergy was never witnessed in earlier conflicts. Post Uri, there was a view that India will need to retaliate to Pakistan’s future terrorist misadventures. Hence, capabilities began being enhanced. Post Pulwama, when Balakote was struck, India lost

credibility, even internally, as it lacked visual evidence. The air force then had to launch missiles after crossing the LoC. These lessons were imbibed, alongside those from ongoing global conflicts. After Balakote, the Indian armed forces began preparing for the next round. It was not the question of if, but when, as Pakistan continued to support terrorism. At some stage it was bound to cross the Indian threshold of tolerance, India enhanced its ability to strike and obtain PSDA (Post Strike Damage Assessment), while Pakistan developed air defence measures to prevent Indian aircraft from entering its air space. In the final analysis, Indian strikes were successful, each target engaged with precision from well within Indian territory, employing different weapon systems and also assessed for PSDA, while

Nuclear power: Suicidal decision under foreign pressure

How can the world forget the Bhopal gas tragedy in Madhya Pradesh? Methyl isocyanate gas leaked from the pesticide plant of Union Carbide India Limited. Thousands of people lost their lives and lakhs were affected. Even today people shudder at the memory of this horrific industrial tragedy. The remnants of this tragedy are still troubling people. Taking a lesson from this horrific incident, subsequent governments never allowed any such industrial plant or its unit to be set up or started under foreign pressure, which could lead to such a tragedy again. With the passage of time, the present government has probably forgotten it. This is the reason why it is now forced to take decisions like nuclear power. God forbid that in the future this day is again remembered as a black chapter in the democratic and public welfare history of India. In fact, the new decision taken by the Government of India under pressure from foreign companies can become a serious threat to the security of the country, the environment and the lives of the citizens. With this apprehension, it is also being underlined that the government has completely freed foreign companies from the responsibility of compensation in case of an accident in nuclear power plants. Now if any nuclear accident occurs, its entire burden will fall on the government company and Indian taxpayers. Let us tell you here that according to the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act passed in 2010, the nuclear plant operator was given the responsibility of compensation up to Rs 1500 crore and the government up to Rs 1100 crore. However, this amount was also very less for any serious nuclear accident. Japan had to bear an expenditure of more than Rs 16 lakh crore in the Fukushima accident of 2011. Despite this, now the government has taken a step that puts Indian citizens at risk by completely freeing the companies from responsibility. There are already 23 nuclear plants operating in India, which run under government supervision. But now the old technology of America, France and Russia is being brought to India like a dumping ground. These companies are looking at India as a market where huge profits can be made by ignoring safety and accountability. Setting up plants in earthquake prone areas like Jayatapur and Kudankulam is a dangerous experiment. The most worrying thing in this entire process is that the government has taken this decision without any discussion in the Parliament, keeping the public in the dark. Rules like post facto clearance have been implemented, in which environmental permission is taken after the plant is set up. This system eliminates transparency and accountability. The economic rationality of nuclear energy is also under question. While solar energy is available for Rs 2 to 3.5 per unit and coal based electricity is available for Rs 4 to 6, the cost of nuclear power is Rs 9 to 12 per unit. It takes 10 to 15 years to build a plant, while solar or thermal plants are ready in 1 to 2 years. The environmental risk in this is also not less. It takes thousands of years to neutralize nuclear waste, and it permanently damages land, water and marine life. When the countries of the world—Germany, Japan and Italy—are distancing themselves from nuclear energy, its expansion in India is being considered an anti-people and suicidal policy. The Indian government should give priority to public health, safety and environmental stability, and take decisions keeping in mind scientific prudence and public interest rather than foreign pressure. The country should develop, but to what extent is it justified to take suicidal steps in the name of development?

Pakistan’s ability to damage India’s assets failed. This was because India had prepared better and its armed forces are professional rather than being involved in governance. India had largely relied on its indigenous air defence products, which it amalgamated with multiple equipment, including the S 400. India’s domestic defence industry shone, while those of China and Turkey, which supported Pakistan, proved to be failures. India sent a firm message that no part of Pakistan is safe from Indian retaliation. PM Modi could lay down his new red lines only because the military gave him the desired end state. The immediate impact was inputs of Pakistan shifting its military HQs from Rawalpindi to Islamabad, with the intent of locating it in a major city which houses embassies, a clear sign of fear. India won global recognition as unlike other on-going conflicts, there were no civilian casualties. It was precision targeting, the likes of which has not been witnessed in recent times. Those eliminated were either terrorists or uniformed. The fact that India achieved its aims within a short span under a nuclear threat, was indicative of

its military prowess. India’s maturity stemmed from it not contradicting Pakistan’s attempt at face-saving within its own borders. It announced that Pakistan requested for a ceasefire, but maintained silence when it was denied by Islamabad. It neither humiliated Pakistan by unwarranted threats nor by highlighting strategic losses. India displayed strategic independence, when it refused to accept global interjection in its intent. Rejecting President Trump’s claims of brokering talks by the PM himself in his national address was a masterstroke. It left the US red faced while conveying that despite announcements by Pakistan, all issues between India and Pakistan will remain bilateral, overriding Islamabad’s debunking of the Shimla agreement. It forced the US to state that it hopes India and Pak can commence dialogue. Maturity was also witnessed when no Indian politician rushed before global media projecting the Indian stand, as compared to Pakistan, whose political leaders made buffoons of themselves when their lies were caught on global media networks. India was clear on who was behind Pahalgam and needed to convince no one. This is the new and powerful India. It will act when it is threatened. India achieved its military aims, giving a boost to the political authority, which laid down India’s new red lines, which will dominate Indo-Pak ties of the future.

South Africa's Ramaphosa to meet Trump amid tensions over US President's genocide claim

WASHINGTON (Agency): South African President Cyril Ramaphosa meets Donald Trump on Wednesday amid tensions over Washington's resettlement of white Afrikaners that the US President claims are the victims of "genocide." The Trump administration's admission of around 50 white South Africans last week -- even as it halts refugee arrivals from most of the rest of the world -- is set to dominate the meeting at the White House.

Ramaphosa will be hoping to reset historically low relations with a crucial trading partner but will also confront Trump over what Pretoria says are false claims of persecution. The South African president will stress to Trump that conspiracies of a "white genocide" in South Africa are "patently false," his spokesman Vincent Magwenya said. "We need to reset the relationship," he added.

Ramaphosa may also come bearing gifts, with reports that his government will offer Trump advisor Elon Musk a deal to operate his Starlink network in the country.

Tech tycoon Musk was born in South Africa and has been a vocal proponent of the unfounded assertion that white farmers are being targeted in the country for murder. Trump appears to have bought into his billionaire ally's claims. A first group of around 50 white South Africans arrived in the United States on May 12 after Trump offered refuge to the Afrikaner minority. "It's a genocide that's taking place that Africa."

Trump's administration has been particularly critical of a land law will be used to arbitrarily confiscate white-owned land. Land ownership is a contentious issue in post-apartheid South Africa, with most farmland still owned by white people despite being only 7.3 percent of the population.

Some right-wing Afrikaner lobby groups have claimed that Afrikaans farmers are being murdered in targeted killings, but authorities say this is unfounded. Most of the victims of South Africa's sky-high murder rate are young black men in urban areas, according to police figures.

But Trump and his team have also torn into a series of other policies in South Africa, a pivotal nation seen by former administrations as a crucial ally for Washington.

It has slammed South Africa's case accusing Israel of genocide in Gaza at the International Court of Justice, cut aid, announced 31-percent tariffs, and expelled Pretoria's ambassador after he criticized Trump's Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement.

Seasoned diplomat Ramaphosa will therefore be treading a tightrope when he meets Trump in the Oval Office.

The symbolic heart of the American presidency has turned into something of an endurance test for foreign leaders seeking to curry favor with the unpredictable Trump in his second term.

Ramaphosa will in particular seek to avoid the fate of Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky, who was berated by Trump and US Vice President JD Vance in front of news cameras in February. Trade will be one of the top topics for Ramaphosa.

The United States is South Africa's second-biggest trade partner but Trump's announcement of sweeping tariffs in April -- later paused for 90 days -- has ignited fears for key sectors, including the automobile industry and citrus growers.

"The purpose of the visit is to reset and revitalize bilateral relations between South Africa and the United States," read a statement issued by the Pretoria presidency.

Two of the last functioning hospitals in northern Gaza encircled by Israeli forces

GAZA (Agency): Two of northern Gaza's last functioning hospitals have been encircled by Israeli troops, preventing anyone from leaving or entering the facilities, hospital staff and aid groups said this week, as Israel pursued its renewed offensive into the devastated Palestinian territory.

The Indonesian hospital and al-Awda hospital are among the region's only surviving medical centers.

Israeli authorities issued evacuation orders Friday for large parts of northern Gaza ahead of attacks intended to pressure the Hamas militant group to release more hostages. New evacuation orders followed Tuesday.

Both hospitals as well as another and three primary health care centers are within the evacuation zone, though Israel has not ordered the evacuation of the facilities themselves.

Another two hospitals and four primary care centers are within a 1,000 meters (yards) of the zone, said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director general of the World Health Organization.

Israeli military operations and evacuation orders "are stretching the health system beyond the breaking point," he said.

The WHO said hospitals in northern Gaza are "at a serious risk of shutting down completely."

The United Nations agency has documented nearly 700 attacks on health care facilities in Gaza.

Palestinians say the latest attacks on hospitals in the north are part of a larger plan to displace the population to the south and eventually drive them from Gaza.

Israel has vowed to facilitate what it refers to as the voluntary migration of much of Gaza's population to other countries, which many Palestinians and others view as a plan for forcible expulsion.

Israel wants to "ensure the forced displacement of people from the area," said Rami Shurafi, a board member of al-Awda hospital.

Al-Awda's courtyard and its ambulances came under fire starting Monday.

The Indonesian hospital, once the largest in northern Gaza, has been surrounded by Israeli troops, which were positioned about 500 meters (545 yards) away.

Drones have hovered above, monitoring any movement, since Sunday, an aid group that supports the hospital said.

The Israeli military said its forces were operating around the hospital and targeting Hamas infrastructure but that troops had not entered the facility and ambulances were allowed to move.

Israeli bulldozers demolished a perimeter wall of the hospital, according to the aid group MERC-Indonesia and a hospital staff member who had since evacuated.

The staffer spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

On Tuesday, airstrikes targeted the hospital's generators, sparking a fire and damaging its main power supply.

The strikes also caused damage to the hospital's water supply, according to a video posted by MERC-Indonesia.

Large flames were seen rising from the area before daybreak.

A speaker in the video said the fire was close to the hospital fuel supply, but firefighters controlled the flames.

At least one staff member was killed, according to WHO, which said those who remained in the hospital were in urgent need of water and food.

The U.N. said it was working to transfer remaining patients to other facilities.

Pope calls for 'sufficient humanitarian aid' into Gaza

NEW DELHI: Pope Leo XIV called Wednesday for sufficient humanitarian aid to be allowed into war-ravaged Gaza, where humanitarian agencies say a total blockade has sparked critical food and medicine shortages.

"The situation in the Gaza Strip is worrying and painful," the pope said during his first weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square. "I renew my heartfelt appeal to allow the entry of sufficient humanitarian aid and to put an end to the hostilities, the heartbreaking price of which is paid by children, the elderly, the sick," he said.

Leo, who was elected on May 8 to be the Catholic Church's first US pope, has made peace a theme of his papacy so far, calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war.

Israel has come under massive international pressure to abandon its intensified military campaign in Gaza and allow urgent humanitarian aid into the besieged strip.

The UN announced Monday that it had been cleared to send in aid for the first time since Israel imposed a total blockade on March 2, sparking severe shortages of food and medicine.

But aid groups say the amount allowed in is not enough to meet needs.

The Israeli army stepped up its offensive in Gaza at the weekend, vowing to defeat Hamas, whose unprecedented October 7, 2023 attack on Israel triggered the war.

What Israel is doing now in Gaza is close to a war crime: Former PM of Israel Ehud Olmert



NEW DELHI: "What Israel is doing now in Gaza is very close to a war crime," former Prime Minister of Israel Ehud Olmert has said, even as Israeli forces killed at least 42 Palestinians across Gaza since Wednesday morning.

The Benjamin Netanyahu's government was waging "a war without a purpose -- a war without a chance of achieving anything that can save the lives of the hostages."

A critic of the current Israeli leadership, Olmert told BBC Radio 4's Today programme that nothing but domestic and international political pressure will convince Benjamin Netanyahu to pull back from a renewed offensive in Gaza.

Olmert, who was prime minister from 2006 to 2009 said that the "obvious appearance" of the campaign was that Israel was killing many Palestinians, and that "from every point of view, this is obnoxious and outrageous."

Thousands of children in Gaza are at risk of imminent death after a nearly three-month total Israeli blockade on the besieged enclave, which has spread famine, the United Nations relief chief warned.

That has put 14,000 babies at risk of dying in the next 48 hours, Tom Fletcher said in

an interview with the BBC on Tuesday.

According to the emergency coordinator in Gaza for the medical aid group Doctors Without Borders, the medical supplies are "critically low."

"There is a small amount of aid that is inside, but it hasn't reached the communities at all," she said, adding Israeli officials are placing conditions on how it is distributed which are "not safe".

Meanwhile, homes and hospitals are "being targeted" and "the access to healthcare and to any kind of assistance is becoming impossible", she said.

The condition of people there is "deteriorating", and the number of children coming in with third-degree burns is "horrific".

The "agony" of children without pain medication, people on the streets "desperate for food", and mothers "watching their children starve", are things that are "getting worse every day", she added.

An adviser to Ukrainian ex-President Viktor Yanukovich has been shot dead in Spain

MADRID (Agency): Spanish authorities said that an adviser to former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich was shot dead outside a school in Madrid on Wednesday.

Andrii Portnov, 52, was identified as the victim by Spain's Interior Ministry.

He was shot at 9:15 a.m. local time (0715 GMT), authorities said.

Witnesses reported that Portnov was shot "several times" in the head and body by more than one gunman when he was getting into a vehicle, police said.

The assailants then fled on foot into a wooded area, police said.

Portnov is a former Ukrainian politician closely tied to Yanukovich, having served as deputy head of the presidential office from 2010 to 2014.

During Yanukovich's presidency, Portnov was widely viewed as a pro-Russia political figure and was involved in drafting legislation aimed at persecuting participants of the 2014 revolution in Ukraine.

After fleeing Ukraine in 2014, Portnov reportedly lived in Russia in 2015 before relocating to Austria.

It wasn't immediately clear when he moved to Spain.

In 2018, Ukraine's Security Service, or SBU, opened an investigation against him on suspicion of state treason, alleging his involvement in Russia's illegal annexation of the Crimean Peninsula.

The criminal case was closed in 2019.

In 2021, the United States imposed personal sanctions on Portnov, designating him as someone "responsible for or complicit in, or (who) has directly or indirectly engaged in, corruption, including the misappropriation of state assets, the expropriation of private assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, or bribery."



Japan's agriculture minister resigns after 'rice gaffe' causes political fallout

TOKYO (Agency): Japan's agriculture minister was forced to resign on Wednesday because of political fallout over recent comments that he "never had to buy rice" because he got it from supporters as gifts.

The resignation comes as the public struggles with record high prices of the country's traditional staple food.

Taku Eto's comment, which many Japanese saw as out of touch with economic realities, came at a seminar Sunday for the Liberal Democratic Party, which leads a struggling minority government.

The gaffe could be further trouble for the party before a national election in July.

A major loss could mean a new government or could mean Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba would have to step down.

"I made an extremely inappropriate remark at a time when consumers are struggling with soaring rice prices," Eto told



reporters after submitting his resignation at the prime minister's office.

Eto's resignation was the first under Ishiba's leadership that began October.

The government has released tons of rice from its emergency stockpile in recent months, but the latest agricultural ministry statistics show little impact from the move.

Some supermarkets have started selling cheaper imported rice.

Eto also sought to clarify the comments that got him in trouble.

He said he does actually buy white rice himself and was not living on rice given as gifts.

He said the gift comment referred to brown rice, which he wants people to become interested in because it can reach market faster.

Ishiba appointed popular former Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, the son of a former prime minister, to lead the ministry, noting his experience in agriculture and fisheries policies and enthusiasm for reforms.

Koizumi told reporters Ishiba instructed him to do everything to stabilize the rice supply and prices to address consumer concern.

Survivors of clergy sexual abuse turn up calls for reforms from Pope Leo's American hometown

CHICAGO (Agency): Survivors of clergy sexual abuse amplified calls Tuesday for a global zero-tolerance policy from the new pope's American hometown and raised questions about Leo XIV's history of dealing with accused priests from Chicago to Australia.

The cases span Robert Prevost's previous posts. They include leading a Catholic religious order, bishop and as head of the Vatican's office for bishops, where he was made cardinal.

The Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, or SNAP, called out alleged abuse by Chicago priests and other clergy in Peru, Colombia, Canada and Australia where it contended the new pope should have done more.

Along with a worldwide zero-tolerance law for accused priests, SNAP has called for a global truth commission, survivor reparations and church transparency measures.

"It is our hope that Pope Leo does the right thing," Shaun Dougherty, SNAP president, told reporters in Chicago.

"It is our gut, in our experience, that says that he will need the pressure."

The Associated Press requests for comment to the Vatican media office Tuesday and its diplomatic representative to the United States didn't receive immediate replies.

No one has learned about the abuse claims.

accused the new pope of any act of abuse himself or knowingly keeping confirmed abusers in public ministry, which has been the biggest scandal plaguing the Catholic Church recently.

Instead, victims' advocates said he should have involved authorities earlier, been vocal about accused priests and worked to strip them of their titles.

SNAP has been gathering evidence of how the church has covered for abusers and provided internal communications referencing cases, including in Chicago.

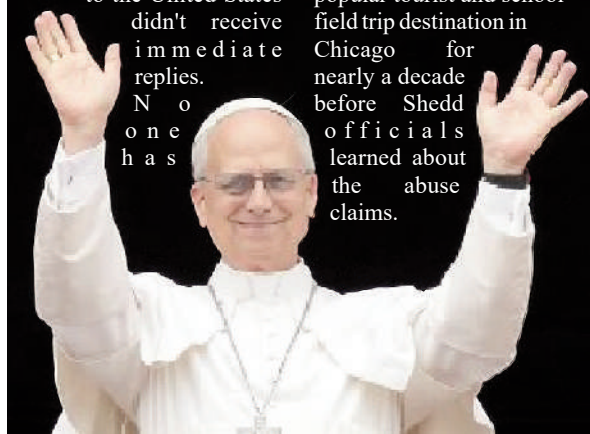
"This is the underground story of Prevost, this is the side of him and his management and decisions that we're finally able to bring to light," said Peter Isely with SNAP.

Some cases span the time when Prevost was based in Chicago as the Midwest regional leader of the Order of St. Augustine, a job he took in 1999.

Three years later, he became worldwide leader of the Augustinians.

One priest who faced dozens of abuse allegations left the church in 1993 before landing a job as a Shedd Aquarium tour guide on a recommendation from a top Augustinian official.

The priest worked at the popular tourist and school field trip destination in Chicago for nearly a decade before Shedd officials learned about the abuse claims.



Tom Cruise shrugs off father’s day question after daughter Suri dropped his name following a decade of of estrangement



Tom Cruise’s professional life might be a hit, but on a personal note, the actor has faced a few setbacks, including failed marriages and estrangement from his kids. The Mission: Impossible star is returning with the eighth and final chapter in the franchise titled The Final Reckoning, and for the same, he walked the red carpet at the New York City premiere, where he was stopped for a question on fatherhood that visibly left him in an uncomfortable spot. Anyway, the actor downplayed the moment and moved on to other questions. However, fans were quick to jump into the conversation, with some bringing up reports that the actor hasn’t met his daughter Suri in over a decade.

During the red carpet interview, a journalist asked Cruise, “What would an ideal Father’s Day look like for you?” adding that Father’s Day is just around the corner. The 62-year-old seemed caught off guard. He paused, looked away into the distance, and said, “You know…” before trailing off. Then he added, “Just having fun, man.” Cruise has three kids, Bella, Connor, and Suri, but the actor didn’t mention any of his children, despite being on good terms with his oldest, and that seemed to have left the internet divided over the reaction. The Top Gun star then pivoted to promoting his movie, saying he’s focused on “making movies, big adventures, having a great time.”

“What’s the point of giving superhits when you can’t speak about your kids publicly, Mr. Cruise?” a fan wrote online. “At least he could have named the other two, since Suri is definitely not on good terms,” a second wrote. “He just went on and on about his films. ‘Making movies’? That’s definitely not a dad activity. His loss!” a third wrote.

Cruise was last spotted with his daughter Suri in 2013, after which the father-daughter duo hasn’t been photographed once. Cruise and Holmes were once one of Hollywood’s most high-profile couples. They started dating just a month after Holmes ended her long-term engagement with Chris Klein.

‘Manhoos, drunkard’ Kunal Kamra gets mercilessly roasted by fellow comics: ‘His favourite position is opposition’

Comedian Kunal Kamra is no stranger to controversy; his latest special caused a stir among a certain section of the audience, who took offence to jokes he made about some politicians. They destroyed the venue where the special was shot, and Kamra was hit with several FIRs. The comic splits his time between Himachal Pradesh and Puducherry, and has been put on the no-fly list by several airlines after an altercation that he had with TV journalist Arnab Goswami. He appeared on the latest episode of Ashish Solanki’s Roast show on YouTube, where a panel of comics joked about Kamra’s edgy comedy, growing ‘irrelevance’, and his ‘saviour’ attitude. Kamra



was seen laughing along as his friends and colleagues took aim at him in the roast, a format of stand-up comedy where people poke fun at a person, no holds barred. Solanki described Kamra as ‘manhoos’, citing his appearance on Samay Raina’s equally controversial series India’s Got Latent. The first comic to take shots at Kamra was Sumaira Shaikh, also implied that he is a drunk. “Kamra has become a farmer, the first farmer who gives alcohol to his plants,” she joked. “Saviour ban ke ghoomta hai, Muslim comics and female comics ka. Apne baal toh bacha nahi paaya,” she continued. Sumaira finished her set with another reference at the India’s Got Latent controversy.

Katrina Kaif made everyone wait for 5 hours as she wore a custom Manish Malhotra saree on ‘Kala Chashma’ set: ‘She can then do her magic with…’

Baar Baar Dekho (2016) was a romantic/sci-fi movie that just refused to work on so many levels when it hit the big screen. The narrative was pushy and without intent, and the filmmakers had somewhat of a distorted sense of what the ‘future’ is supposed to look like. But the one thing that definitely worked was the song “Kala Chashma” from the film. Performed by Badshah, Neha Kakkar and Amar Arshi, the tune was a breakout hit and still finds space for itself in wedding and party playlists. Choreographer Bosco Martis, who worked on the song, recently talked about working with Sidharth Malhotra and Katrina Kaif and how the latter delayed the shoot for a wardrobe change. While talking to the BBC Asian Network, Martis talked about several Bollywood big hits that he has

supervised in his multi-decade career, “Kala Chashma” being one of them. He talked about his decided moves list for the song and explained how Katrina’s unique wardrobe decision completely changed the game for them. “It’s really funny that you ask about “Kala Chashma” because Katrina was wearing a lehenga in the song, and the moves we had designed had a lot of footwork in them. On the first day, she wore the lehenga, but on the second day we had to wait for 5 hours because she was wearing this custom saree designed by Manish Malhotra.” He admitted that this decision by Katrina was actually a godsend, as it allowed the intricate footwork involved in the song to be more visible and

attractive. “That outfit really shone through, because you could see the legs move and the Indian element of a saree in a new way. It was their creation that allowed the moves to be

visible in the song. When you see all those things come together, it’s worth the wait, because then you see Katrina do her magic with Sidharth.” The song is one of the most popular Indian songs on YouTube, amassing 1 billion views since its release. While the movie failed to do much during its theatrical run, the love and appreciation the song has received is certainly something to boast about.



The song Kala Chashma was from the movie Baar Baar Dekho (2016), and the cast of the film included Sidharth Malhotra, Katrina Kaif, and Sayani Gupta

Aditya Chopra: The businessman Yash Chopra never was



When you Google ‘define a good businessman,’ the AI assistant doesn’t hesitate: ‘A good businessman is someone who is skilled and successful in business, demonstrating strong leadership, decision-making, financial acumen, and an understanding of market dynamics.’ If anyone in the Hindi film industry fits that definition with surgical precision, it is Aditya Chopra — the heir to a cinematic dynasty, who didn’t just inherit the throne but rebuilt the entire kingdom. Born with a silver spoon, Aditya didn’t just hold on to it, he forged it into gold. As actor Anil Kapoor aptly put in Netflix documentary, The Romantics, “Aditya is one of those few sons who, I think, has surpassed his father’s legacy.” And that legacy? It belonged to the towering figure of Yash Chopra, a romantic visionary whose films defined Bollywood’s golden era. However, his business instincts often lagged behind his artistic flair. Yash Chopra began his career under the shadow of his elder brother B.R. Chopra. After directing five films as a salaried employee, Yash finally stepped out on his own and founded Yash Raj Productions in 1970.

Scarlett Johansson and Mahershala Ali take on the ‘worst’ dinosaurs ever in Jurassic World Rebirth

Jurassic World Rebirth will feature stars like Scarlett Johansson, Rupert Friend, Jonathan Bailey, Mahershala Ali and Manuel Garcia-Rulfo. It will release on July 2.

The Jurassic Park franchise introduced audience to a beautiful, incredible and dangerous reality when the first movie hit theatres in 1993. Now Universal Pictures is back with Jurassic World Rebirth, where the characters will face off against their biggest threat yet. The trailer of the Gareth Edwards directoral shows a group of explorers travelling to an island which houses an abandoned theme park that experimented with one of nature’s deadliest creations, dinosaurs. The trailer opens with a scene inside of a research facility where something has gone terribly wrong, with scientists running to safety behind a door, but one of them fails to make it and pleads with the person on the other side to “please open the door,” as a giant claw grabs him from behind. We are then introduced to the team of explorers that have set out on a journey to obtain DNA of three dinosaur species, one each from land, air and sea, in order to develop a revolutionary drug for human use. Zora Bennett, played by

Scarlett Johansson, talks about the island, which was the original location for the Jurassic Park experiments, and says, “The theme park owners did experimental work, leaving only the worst ones here.” The team then meets a civilian family, the Delgados, stuck on the island, battling for their survival, and decides to help them get out alive. They seem to have it under control as they start obtaining the required DNA while fighting against smaller dinosaurs, but things start going south as they quickly discover the fallout of the experiments that were conducted on the island. Henry Loomis, who is a palaeontologist, states that “We have put ourselves in a place where we don’t belong; survival is a long shot.” The team proceeds to wade through the tropical jungles as they try to complete their mission, while protecting the civilians they have sworn to get out of there. It is at this point we see the extent of the experiments, as a baby dinosaur is seen groaning for help because she is afraid. Then through the red mist appears the franchise’s most formidable and dangerous dinosaur, the Distortus Rex, which possibly came to be due to a botched experiment on T-Rex.



Dear Hongrang ending explained: 7 burning questions answered in Lee Jae Wook and Jo Bo Ah story finale

Lee Jae Wook and Jo Bo Ah’s Dear Hongrang, despite its lukewarm ratings, has stirred up enough noise on Netflix to pull viewers into its historical-fantasy story of Hong Rang and Jae Yi, while leaving a trail of chaos and questions behind. Was it a happy ending? Who died? Are they siblings or lovers? And what about Mu Jin? Sure, the makers didn’t keep us hanging by dropping all 11 episodes in one go, but there are still loose ends that need to be answered, especially since the series wrapped on a bittersweet note (or downright tragic).



The story kicks off with the disappearance of the only son from Joseon’s wealthiest merchant family, and what follows is his half-sister risking it all to bring him back, only to clash with a stranger claiming to be Hong Rang. She’s not buying it, but somehow, the family is. The series throws in a time jump, a romantic arc, and long, beautifully chaotic battle scenes. So here we are, breaking it down for you. Spoilers ahead—this is your last chance to look away if you’re not caught up. Jae Yi is on a mission to find her long-lost half-brother, who disappeared at the age of 12. By episode three, it’s

clear that Lee Jae Wook, who bears the same scars and habits as Hong Rang, isn’t her brother, but a soul reaper planted in the wealthy merchant family to take the Min family down. But Jae Wook isn’t just a pawn. His backstory is brutal. Once a lowly slave to a powerful family, he was captured by Prince Han Pyeong and turned into a living “talisman.” After escaping, he was caught by Kkot Nim, leader of Geomgyedan, who gave him a new identity and trained him to replace Hong Rang. She wanted to avenge the death of her unborn child, killed by the Min family. After capturing In Hoe, Han Pyeong also kidnaps Jae Yi to lure Soul Reaper, aka Hong Rang, into his trap. On the other hand, Hong Rang, who promised Jae Yi to free Hoe In and not let the prince succeed in his evil intention, gets startled and filled with rage. He attacks the palace even in his unhealthy state, but fails to save his close friend. However, Jae Yi gets saved, along with the other kids captured by the prince. Now, coming to the next question, who is Snow Man? He was often sighted on crime spots, whether a kidnapping or taking the body back. The identity of white-bearded, pale-looking man of towering height remained a mystery till the end in episode 10 when Hong Rang kills him, but it is clear that he was mortal. On the other hand, Painter is none other than the evil prince himself, whom Jae Yi’s father kept supporting with money. Based on the 2021 novel Tangeum: Swallowing Gold by Jang Da Hye, the story introduces this character as someone who used toxic substances to hurt kids, and Hong Rang was one of the victims.

Hera Pheri 3 can do without Akshay Kumar but not Paresh Rawal, says Suniel Shetty: ‘100 per cent cannot happen’

Days after Paresh Rawal announced his exit from the highly-anticipated film Hera Pheri 3, actor Suniel Shetty has expressed his disappointment. After leaving the film, Paresh Rawal claimed that his co-stars are aware of his decision. However, Suniel Shetty had a complete different story to tell. He shared he received the news

of Paresh’s exit from Hera Pheri 3 from his children amid an interview of his upcoming film Kesari Veer: Legends of Somnath. In an interview with India Today, Suniel Shetty shared, “Athiya and Ahan sent the news to me, asking ‘papa what is this?’ And I was here doing my interviews, and I felt like holy s***.” Suniel Shetty shared, “It cannot happen. 100 per cent



cannot happen without Paresh Rawal. It can have 1

per cent chance without me and Akshay, but 100% can’t happen without Paresh ji. No, it doesn’t. Raju and Shyam, if they’re not hammered by Babu here, it doesn’t work.” Paresh Rawal’s sudden decision reportedly attracted a legal suit from his co-star Akshay Kumar, who had bought the rights of the film from Feroz Nadiadwala. Speaking to Hindustan Times, filmmaker Priyadarshan who is also

working with both stars in his horror comedy Bhoot Bangla, said, “I don’t know why this happened because Paresh didn’t inform us. Before starting the film, Akshay asked me to check with both Paresh and Suniel and I did and both were onboard.” He added, “I don’t have anything to lose but Akshay has invested money and that could be the reason why he is taking this action.”



'IPL has been a life-changer for me,' says DC all-rounder Nigam

NEW DELHI (Agency): Delhi Capitals all-rounder Vipraj Nigam says the ongoing IPL has brought significant changes to his life, adding that the lessons he's picked up while sharing the dressing room with some of the game's greats will help him immensely in his budding career. The 20-year-old Nigam, who was picked by DC for Rs 50 lakh, has impressed in the tournament with both bat and ball. Reflecting on the life-changing experience of sharing the dressing room with senior players, Nigam



said: "There have been a lot of changes in life. With the IPL, things always change, you get the chance to share the field with such big, senior

players, to learn from how they go about things, and to experience their approach up close. These are all new

experiences for me, and I'll try to apply the same learnings in my own game." Nigam praised the Delhi Capitals coaching staff for providing clarity regarding his all-round role. "When I was picked by Delhi Capitals, even before that, I had discussions with my coaches and the management. They always told me they see me as an all-rounder. They had seen my batting in league and domestic cricket, so the message was clear, while I would be expected to bowl 2-4 overs, I also had to focus equally on my batting,"

'Open' Shubman Gill allows Gujarat Titans to be at their best

CHENNAI (Agency): Shubman Gill's performances as Gujarat Titans skipper this season has captured the imagination of many in cricketing circles. He has brought the best out of his team-mates, with the likes of B Sai Sudharsan, Jos Buttler, Prasidh Krishna and Sai Kishore putting up good numbers. In his first year as captain, the Titans finished eighth in 2024. It was the first time since inception in 2022 that the franchise had missed on a play-off spot. Being more open to his players' suggestions and to switch between batter and captain are few of his key lessons from last year. That has come to fruition this season, with the Titans securing their play-off spot, and, if results go their way, a top-two finish. His middle-order colleague Shahrulkh Khan, felt it was Gill's 'openness' that stood out from his other leadership aspects. "He has really grown as a captain," he said in a media interaction on Tuesday. "He is somebody who is really open for suggestions. It doesn't happen regularly with a lot of players where a captain is open for suggestions. No matter what he is thinking on the field, the other players suggest a few things and he is very open to it," he added. He also stressed the importance of that characteristic in leading the

team to victories. "He might go ahead with his plans, but to listen is an art in itself. And he is really good at it. And as a captain, his success has been remarkable," he stated. Gill's marshalling of his bowlers has impressed the 29-year old batter. "The way he is handling Rashid Khan... if he falters a bit, he knows what to tell him. It's the same



with the bowlers like Rabada and the Indian bowlers (Mohammed Siraj and Purple cap-holder Krishna). Even when Sai bowls as well, I walk in sometimes, just cross them when they are at the top of the run-up. And the conversations are so smooth and so clear," he added. That shows in Gill's constant running up and down the field to advise his bowlers. Near dismissal? Back his bowlers with a comforting pat. A delivery smashed to the fence or beyond? Make signs to the bowler in getting his

line right. A dropped catch? Get their chins up. He's been the epitome of positive energy. Gill's approach to back his players has brought the best out of Kishore, who has delivered with wickets. Krishna is having the time of his life, and Siraj, on more than a few instances, has looked dangerous. Maintaining the players' morale in adverse situations is something Gill has d o n e

exceptionally well. Take the thrilling win against Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium on May 6. Amidst their chase of the revised target of 147 in a rain-affected game, a sense of frustration ensued in the dugout. It was Gill who helped with doing away with it, by acknowledging their contributions, which according to him, made a big difference. "It is games like these (v Mumbai) that get you through, in a tournament like IPL," Gill had said in the post-match interview. That he was groomed amid comfortable league campaigns and two final appearances (2022 and 2023), makes this trait of acknowledging their contributions more unique.

Mullanpur, Ahmedabad to host IPL playoffs and final



CHENNAI (Agency): The playoffs and final of the 2025 Indian Premier League will happen in Mullanpur and Ahmedabad, the BCCI announced on Tuesday. The New PCA Stadium will host the Qualifier 1 and Eliminator on May 29 and 30, respectively, while Ahmedabad will host the qualifier 2 and final. The decision, taken at the meeting on Tuesday, has largely to do with the weather patterns because of which the BCCI had held back on announcing the venues for the playOff games. This will be the third final in four years in Ahmedabad. Mullanpur, meanwhile, will host the playoff games for the very first time. "Hyderabad and Kolkata were initially supposed to host the last four games before the one week suspension of the tournament. The new venues for the Playoffs were decided by the IPL Governing Council keeping in mind the weather conditions and other parameters," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said in a statement.

Spain delivers first hate crime ruling for racist insults, Valladolid fans sentenced over abuse of Vinicius



MADRID (Agency): Five Valladolid fans who racially insulted Real Madrid star Vinicius Júnior in 2022 have been found guilty in the first ruling in Spain that condemns racist insults in a soccer stadium as a hate crime, the league said Wednesday. A Valladolid court convicted the fans for their insults in a league match, sentencing them to one year in prison plus a fine of up to 1,620 euros (\$1,837). The jail time is suspended on condition they don't commit any offense or visit soccer stadiums hosting official national competitions for three years. The league called Wednesday's ruling "a firm step towards eradicating racism in sport." "This judicial decision represents an unprecedented milestone in the fight against racism in sport in Spain," the league said.

Last year, three Valencia fans were handed eight-month prison sentences after pleading guilty to racially insulting Madrid forward Vinicius Júnior. That was the first conviction for racism-related cases in professional soccer in Spain, but it was not based on a hate crime. The Valencia fans were convicted of a crime against moral integrity, with the aggravating circumstance of discrimination based on racist motives. "The fact that this ruling explicitly refers to hate crimes associated with racist insults reinforces the message that intolerance has no place in football," the league said. The league first filed the complaint against the Valladolid fans. It was later joined in the case by the player, Real Madrid, and the public prosecutor's office.

IPL 2025: Suryakumar, Santner & Bumrah guide MI into playoffs

CHENNAI (Agency): When Suryakumar Yadav walked into bat against Delhi Capitals on Wednesday, despite losing Rohit Sharma early, Mumbai Indians were on a roll. They finished the powerplay with 54/2 on board and looked all set to build on the momentum through middle-overs. However, Kuldeep Yadav removed Ryan Rickelton and MI had to hit the brakes. Over the next 6.2 overs, along with Tilak Varma, Yadav had to slow down to ensure there was no further collapse. In this period, they added just 40 runs from 38 balls. It was only in the 14th over, MI got going. Yadav, who has hit a purple patch of sorts, recorded his 13th consecutive 25+ scores in T20s, equalling the record with South African

Bavuma. Just as it looked like they were shifting gears, Tilak and Hardik Pandya fell in quick succession. With 12 balls left in the innings, MI were lingering at 132/5, quite the contrary to the way they had finished the powerplay. That is when Yadav kicked in with Naman Dhir. The duo took Mukesh Kumar to cleaners, smashing three sixes and two fours — 27 runs came off the

penultimate over including Yadav's fifty. Dhir and Yadav brought out their hitting range, punishing the minimal errors made by DC pacers. The last over, from Dushmantha Chameera, was no different. Yadav started with a four through extra covers. A slower ball was sent over deep midwicket boundary before Y a d a v

clobbered a low full toss even further. On the penultimate delivery, a yorker nonetheless, Yadav created room to squeeze it for four behind point. By the time he walked off the field, MI had gone from 132/5 to 180/5 in 12 balls — 48 runs came in the final two overs, providing the five-time champions enough runs on the board to put pressure on Delhi. That pressure was evident from ball one as DC, in what is a must-win contest for them, tried to go hard from ball one. KL Rahul, who got back to opening and scored a century that went in vain against Sunrisers Hyderabad, flashed hard to get a four of the first ball. Faf du Plessis too seemed eager to get going. But it backfired as both of them were back in the pavilion after 16 deliveries. Abhishek Porel did not last either as DC were down to

27/3. That is when Vipraj Nigam came out all guns blazing against Will Jacks. The Uttar Pradesh all-rounder played some ridiculous shots on his way to a 11-ball 20 but he too could not sustain the momentum. As it has been the story of the season, Delhi started well before losing the plot and spiralling. On Thursday, they did the same first with the ball after keeping MI in check for 18 overs. And later with the bat, panicking and losing half their side in the first ten overs. It was down to Ashutosh Singh and Sameer Rizvi to pull off a miracle from thereon. However, it was too late as Delhi were knocked out of the tournament while Mumbai sealed their place in the playoffs.



CHENNAI (Agency): The day when Adriyan Karmakar shot silver in prone on his debut at the junior World Cup at Suhl (Germany), thousands of miles away one person was silently admiring his son's effort. It is not easy to be born into a shooting family where a father has left an illustrious trail of records and medals. It's never easy to emulate such a star. "I am emotional because in 2010 I had won a silver at the same event (but senior) in Sydney," Joydeep told this daily. Adriyan lost the gold to Sweden's Jesper

Johansson by just 0.3 points. Griffin Lake (USA) won bronze with 624.6 points. For Adriyan, who started shooting at seven and competed at the senior nationals three years later (it was allowed by the National Rifle Association of India back then), however, the path he chose was not easy. Father Joydeep was not just an

incredible shooter, he finished fourth at the London Olympics, but is an able master (coach) with a keen eye for talent. Sitting in Bhopal, he was recollecting the day when he had a serious discussion with his son about pursuing the sport. "It must be when he was around 16 or 17 and it was not a discussion," he corrected the word and said it was a spat. "I thought he was not being too serious about the sport and I asked him to quit. I told him shooting is not what you should do. There was a lot of tension and he



Guardiola says 'he'd rather quit Man City than have a bloated squad' as he plans rebuild



M A N C H E S T E R (Agency): Pep Guardiola said he would rather leave Manchester City than have to work with a bloated squad next season. The City manager has begun to rebuild his team after the club's first trophyless campaign since 2017. But he said Tuesday he had told the club that he will walk away rather than oversee an oversized squad. "I said to the club I don't

similarly tough calls for Saturday's FA Cup final loss against Crystal Palace. He has traditionally liked to work with a smaller squad, but a spate of injuries this season, including knee surgery for Rodri, severely hampered City's title defense, which unraveled by Christmas. City spent more than 200 million USD in January to try to salvage the campaign, bringing in Omar Marmoush, Nico Gonzalez, Abdulkodir Khusanov and Vitor Reis. Guardiola is expected to make major signings in the offseason, with Kevin De Bruyne leaving as a free agent and Kyle Walker also likely to go, but has made it clear he wants to keep his squad numbers down. "I don't want to have 24, 25, 26 players when everyone is fit," he said. "If I have injuries, unlucky. We have some players for the academy and we do it. "(We) cannot sustain for the emotion of the club, the soul of the team, create another connection with each other that this season we lost it a bit."

Visa 'complications' for Indian athletes ahead of Asian meet in South Korea

New Delhi (Agency): Days before the Asian Athletics Championships to be held in Gumi, South Korea, some of the Indian athletes are fretting over visa issues. It is understood that visas of a handful of athletes, who have been selected to participate at the Asian meet, have been denied or yet to be granted. The event starts from May 27 and ends on May 31. The Athletics Federation of India has apparently taken this up with relevant authorities and is expecting the impasse to end as early as possible because athletes are expected to leave for Gumi in batches from Thursday night. In fact, if sources in the AFI are to be believed, this has created some consternation among the athletes as not too many days are left for the event to start. It is believed that there are quite a few athletes whose visas have been rejected too. If that is the case, proper intervention would be required. It has to be noted that situation is fluid and the visas might come any day. Of late there have been issues with visas for multiple athletes. Recently, a few archers and support staff had to miss the US flight because of visa delay. It is not clear if there has been a delay in applying for a South Korean visa but AFI usually meticulously plans such big continental events. Even for the 2023 World Championships in Hungary, javelin thrower Kishore Jena's visa application was initially denied which led to him reaching the venue hours before the event. It is understood that the matter has been taken up with the sports ministry and the Sports Authority of India (SAI). The sports ministry and the external affairs ministry had always been helpful in acquiring the necessary visas whenever athletes have been in a fix. It is learnt that a few of the athletes were supposed to travel from Thiruvananthapuram, where the relay teams are training, to Delhi on Wednesday but could have been delayed. Though the reasons have not been spelt out clearly visa could be one of them. According to an earlier plan, athletes were supposed to leave India in batches starting from Thursday. If the departures are delayed this may affect their acclimatisation.

Clouds will settle in Madhya Pradesh from May 21, temperature will drop due to rain in many cities including Bhopal



Bhopal (Agency): People in many cities of Madhya Pradesh are going to get relief from the scorching and humid heat. If the weather forecast is to be believed,

then the period of rain will continue in more than two dozen districts for the next two to three days from May 21. Along with the rain, the day and night temperature

will decrease, which will give a lot of relief to the people from the heat. If the forecast issued by IMD is to be believed, then it will rain in Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Jabalpur, the capital of Madhya Pradesh. Along with rain, an alert has also been issued by the Meteorological Department on thunderstorms. If the Meteorological Department is to be believed, a forecast of strong thunderstorms has been issued in about a dozen districts. After the warning of the Meteorological Department, the police-administration has also come on alert mode. People living on the banks of rivers in many districts of the state

This is the forecast of Madhya Pradesh from May 21

If the weather department's forecast is to be believed, then the rain will continue in many cities of the state from May 21. An alert has been issued on rain as well as thunderstorm in Rewa, Ujjain, Anuppur, Dhar, Indore, Dewas, Jabalpur, Raissen, Shivpuri, Vidisha, Narsinghpur, Neemuch, Katni, Rajgarh,

Ashoknagar, Ratlam, Seoni, Sehore, Guna, etc. including the capital of MP, Bhopal. While, heat will trouble people in cities like Datia, Khargone, Bhind, Nimari, Gwalior, Betul, Tikamgarh, Morena, etc. The temperature will increase during the day as well as at night and an alert has also been issued on heat wave.

have been instructed to be cautious during the rains. However, the weather will change once again in the last week of May. In such a situation, the period of heat will start again across the state. A rise in temperature can be recorded in cities like

Bhopal, Jabalpur, Ujjain, etc., the capital of MP, while an alert has been issued on heat wave in other cities including Morena, Gwalior, Khajuraho. People are advised to take necessary measures to protect themselves from the heat.

Investigation of love jihad

Women's Commission report suspects network and funding, submits investigation recommendations to the government

Bhopal (Agency): The National Commission for Women has submitted its investigation report to the Governor and the Chief Minister regarding love jihad cases involving college students in the capital. The Commission has described these incidents as not merely personal but part of an organized conspiracy. The report states that the accused pressured the victims to convert and expressed the possibility of an organized network or funding behind them. This report has been prepared by an investigation team of the Commission, led by former Jharkhand DGP Nirmal Kaur. The team stayed in Bhopal from May 3 to 5 and gathered information from various parties. The Commission has recommended in its report that some educational institutions are taking undue advantage of land taken at cheap rates and government schemes. Commercial rackets are being run in the name of education under the guise of scholarship and free education schemes. Such activities should be thoroughly



investigated.

The Commission has also given suggestions in its report regarding the police. It has recommended registering a case against the accused under the sections of organized crime. It has been asked to investigate the conversion pressure and suspicious funding angle. It has also been suggested to investigate from the angle of drug use or smuggling. It has also been said that in view of the mental condition of the victims, it has been asked to train policemen in counseling, gender sensitization and communication skills to prevent post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as to regularize quarterly meetings with Mohalla committees.

BRIEF NEWS

Man suspects wife having affair with teen, kills him

Delhi (Agency): Suspecting that his wife was having an affair with a 17-year-old teen, a man killed killed the youth by hitting him with a gas cylinder in Delhi's Gulabhi Bagh on Tuesday, police said, adding that the accused was found sitting on a bed beside the body, sipping water, after committing the murder. The police identified the accused as Mukesh Thakur, with whom the deceased had been staying since Saturday. On Tuesday morning, the Gulabi Bagh police station received a call regarding a man lying in a pool of blood on the floor of a house at Andha Mughal area. The caller told the police that another man was sitting beside the body in the one-room flat, said police.

"Mukesh's wife had brought the victim with her from her native village in Haryana on Saturday, which irked Mukesh... He was observing the victim and his wife closely for the past few days, and concluded that they were having an affair," said an officer. "On Tuesday morning, Mukesh waited for his wife to leave for work... Then, around 9.30 am, Mukesh picked up a LPG cylinder and hit the victim while he was sleeping. He then sat on the bed, and was drinking water when some neighbours saw him and called the police," the officer added.

Husband on run denied bail by Delhi court

Delhi (Agency): Eight months after a 24-year-old Delhi woman was murdered in East London, a Delhi court on Wednesday denied pre-arrest bail to her husband, who is absconding. Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Kumar Meena of Dwarka court denied the man anticipatory bail after hearing arguments for an hour. The man, accused of murdering his wife, was purportedly last spotted withdrawing money from a bank in Gurgaon on March 4. He has been on the run since last November, when his wife's body was found in the boot of his car in East London. A postmortem report had listed strangulation as the preliminary cause of death. The Delhi Police had earlier issued a Look Out Circular against him, after he was suspected to have arrived in the Capital. It had subsequently declared him a Proclaimed Offender on May 1.

Turkish company gets work in Bhopal-Indore Metro, Congress gheraoed Metro office, raised slogans

Bhopal (Agency): After Turkey supported Pakistan during the tension between India and Pakistan, Turkey is being continuously opposed in India. Turkish company Asis Guard has the contract in Bhopal-Indore Metro. It is installing automatic fare collection system at stations. Congress has also come out in protest against this on Wednesday. Congressmen gheraoed the Metro office under the leadership of former minister PC Sharma. Slogans of Pakistan

Muradabad were also raised here. Sharma said that Turkey has supported Pakistan. In such a situation, the country is in danger. Turkey can put the country in trouble through software. The tender should be cancelled within seven days. Sharma said that 7 days have been given. In this period, Metro Corporation should remove Turkish goods, otherwise a big demonstration will be held in front of the Metro office. Congress gave a

memorandum to Metro Project GM Ajay Gupta. Congress leaders Yogendra Singh Guddu Chauhan, Praveen Saxena, Rahul Singh Rathore were also present during the demonstration. MP Metro Corporation had called international tenders in the year 2024 for automatic fare collection at metro stations. A total of 3 companies had filled the tender. One of these is Turkey's Asis Elektronik Blissim Systemleri, while



the other two companies were NEC Corporation India Private Limited and Shelling Forsk Global Digital Technology. Against the

tender call of Rs 230 crore, the Turkish company had given an amount of Rs 186 crore 52 lakh in the tender. In second place, NEC

Corporation India Limited had submitted a proposal of Rs 204.57 crore. According to this, the Turkish company got the tender. After getting the tender, the company also started installing the system at the stations. Gates have been installed at Subhash Nagar, Kendriya Vidyalaya, DB Mall, MP Nagar and Rani Kamalapati stations in Bhopal, while work is going on at DRM Tiraha, Alkapuri and AIIMS. In Indore also, the system has been installed

at 5 stations - from Gandhinagar to Super Corridor-3. The company will work on a total of 53 stations of the first phase of Bhopal and Indore. The company is responsible for creating the most important automatic fare collection system, i.e. the entire fare collection process. This includes opening the gate only after the fare is collected through the card. This company will also do the complete maintenance of the system.

Delhi's double whammy: Warmest night yet—and it 'feels like' 50 degrees in the day

Delhi (Agency): Delhi recorded the highest minimum temperature of the season on Tuesday, with the night-time temperature settling at 30.2 degree Celsius, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). While no heatwave has been declared, residents in the capital have been grappling with intense heat stress, as real-feel temperatures or heat index values have soared this week. The 'feel-like' temperature or the heat index in the capital soared to 50.1 degrees Celsius on Wednesday afternoon. The recording taken at 2.30 pm showed the actual temperature to be at 39.8 degrees Celsius. As per the IMD, the relative humidity levels at the time were 44 per cent.

On Tuesday, the heat index, which factors in both temperature and humidity, climbed to 48.5 degree Celsius. The discomfort

continued into Wednesday morning, with the heat index hovering around 40 degrees Celsius, despite the air temperature being significantly lower. At 10 am on Wednesday, the temperature was 32.4 degree Celsius, but the heat index



stood at 39.4 degrees, primarily due to high humidity levels, which were recorded at 64 per cent. The relative humidity in the city has ranged between 43 per cent and 64 per cent since Tuesday, adding to the heat discomfort experienced by residents. Amid these sultry conditions, Delhi's power demand also surged,

reaching a peak of 7,375 megawatts (MW) on Wednesday, as per data from the State Load Despatch Centre, Delhi. The heat-stress conditions in Delhi-NCR continue even against the backdrop of the region witnessing several

duststorms, thunderstorms and rainfall this month. As a result, it has received 92.7 mm of total monthly rainfall against the season's normal of 16.8 mm. Unlike previous years, there have been no heatwave days registered so far this month. The IMD defines a heatwave when the maximum temperature reaches at least

40 degree Celsius in the plains and based on departure from the normal temperature, it is 4.5 degrees to 6.4 degrees, which is logged for two days in a row in at least two stations. The minimum temperatures have been on the rise in the entire Delhi-NCR region in the past 24 hours, said the IMD on Wednesday. The minimum temperature crossed 30 degrees Celsius at Gurgaon as well. In Gurgaon, it was recorded at 30.4 degree Celsius, and at Najafgarh it was 31.5 degrees. Cities including Noida, Gurgaon, Faridabad, and Ghaziabad saw the nighttime temperature increase by around 1.6 degrees Celsius. As per the IMD forecast, partly cloudy skies are forecast from May 22 (Thursday) to May 27, next week. The minimum temperature is expected to be above normal at around 27-29 degrees Celsius, while the maximum is forecast to see a

slight dip by a degree or two and be around 37-39 degrees up to May 27, said the IMD. Windy conditions would persist till the weekend, with winds reaching up to 20 kmph, said the IMD. This is expected to clear pollutants, as the air quality forecast by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, said that the air quality index is forecast to be in the 'moderate' category till May 23. In the subsequent days, due to calm wind conditions, which are unfavourable for the dispersal of pollutants, the AQI is expected to hover between the 'moderate' and 'poor' category. The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) said it is closely monitoring the situation to decide on invoking GRAP-1 restrictions in the capital. It was recorded at 204 in the 'poor' category on Tuesday, as per data from the Central Pollution Control Board.

‘Not permissible in civilised society’: Delhi HC directs Abhijit Iyer Mitra to take down posts against women journalists in 5 hours



Delhi (Agency): The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to hear commentator Abhijit Iyer Mitra in a defamation case filed by women journalists till he takes down the posts in question within five hours, and remarked that the language he used "are not permissible in any civilised society". The suit against Mitra was filed by nine journalists of Newslandry, as well as the organisation, seeking damages of Rs 2 crore. The plaintiffs accused Mitra of defaming them through a series of tweets, besides using abusive and offensive language against them. The journalists are also seeking an injunction. Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav, after perusing the alleged defamatory statements, inquired from Mitra's counsel, advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai, "Can you defend these...?.. This kind of language...whatever may be the background...but this kind of language against women, is it permissible in society?" Dehadrai answered in the negative, while adding that Newslandry "is not a news organisation as they

claim" and alleged that they have "questionable sources of funding". Justice Kaurav, however, remarked, "Going by any stretch of imagination, such a language on a public platform... The choice of words... We will hear you, but first you take (it) down." The court also warned that it will pass a judicial order restraining Mitra and may also direct for suo motu registration of a First Information Report (FIR). "This is not permissible in law. I'll direct for registration of FIR against your client (Mitra)." Following the court's warnings, Dehadrai informed the court that Mitra shall take down the tweets. The court directed that it must be removed in five hours. Minutes after the hearing concluded, Mitra took to X and posted, "I have full faith in the Hon'ble Delhi High Court. They have asked me to take down my poetic tweets about NewsLandry. I am complying with said order in deference to the Court." "The Hon'ble court has not gotten into the defamation aspect yet, where I will expose these NL charlatans for what they are.

Veer Savarkar, Madan Mohan Malviya portraits in Delhi Assembly soon? Decision today

Delhi (Agency): BJP MLA and party's chief whip Abhay Verma on Tuesday proposed that portraits of leaders such as Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, Dayanand Saraswati and Madan Mohan Malviya be put up in the Delhi Assembly gallery. The proposal was submitted to Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta. "The proposal has been forwarded to the General Purposes Committee of the Assembly as per procedure. A decision will be taken on the proposal on Wednesday," an official said.

Verma, the Laxmi Nagar MLA, said that the move is meant to commemorate the country's "glorious past" and inspire the younger generations. "This will not only express our devotion and gratitude towards the nation but also instill the Vidhan Sabha with a lively historical awakening," Verma said in his letter to Gupta. Earlier, this year, AAP MLAs had alleged that the portraits of B R Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh were removed from the Assembly after the BJP came to power. The allegation was rejected by the BJP.

