



Trump's Afrikaners are South African opportunists, not refugees: What's...



Govt to open up key spectrum for high-speed WiFi: Why it's a win for tech companies

Which villains will be seen in Spider-Man-4? Here's all that we know about Peter Parker's next...

Bangladeshi nationals living in India illegally will be dealt with as per law: MEA

New Delhi (Agency): India on Thursday asserted that Bangladeshi nationals living illegally in India will be dealt with as per law. Addressing a weekly



media briefing, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "We have a large number of Bangladeshi nationals in India who are required to be de-

ported." "People who are staying in India illegally, whether they happen to be Bangladeshi nationals or any other, will be dealt with as per law," he stressed. Jaiswal further informed that India has urged Bangladesh to expedite the nationality verification process soon to facilitate the deportation of a large number of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in India who are required to be sent back. "We have asked the Bangladeshi side to verify the nationality. We have a pending list of more than 2360 cases of people required to be deported. Many of them have completed the jail process. In many cases, the nationality verification process has been pending since 2020," the MEA spokesperson said.

Akhikesh mocks UP govt over fake teacher recruitment posts

Lucknow (Agency): Samajwadi Party president and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday mocked the Yogi Adityanath government for playing with the future of the state's youth with fake job assurances. "Jobs and employment for youth are not on the agenda of the BJP government. Just as social media posts about jobs have been deleted, employment opportunities have also disappeared from Uttar Pradesh," he alleged in a statement.

The SP president was reacting to a recent social media post of the UP government, which announced the appointment of 1,93,000 teachers in government-run schools. The post also said that 65,000 teachers would be appointed in three phases, and that the Centre's approval has been sought in this regard. However, the post was later deleted.

PM not responding to serious issues, only delivering film-style dialogues: Congress

New Delhi (Agency): Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Thursday claimed Prime Minister Narendra Modi, instead of responding to serious public issues, is delivering "grand-sounding but hollow film-style" dialogues. "Instead of throwing out grand sounding, but hollow filmi dialogues in public rallies as he has done in Bikaner today, the Prime Minister should answer serious questions that are being asked of him," he said in a post on platform X.

Reiterating several questions in connection with the Pahalgam terrorist attack, Jairam Ramesh in his post claimed, "Instead of throwing out grand-sounding but hollow filmi dialogues in public rallies as he has done in Bikaner today, the Prime Minister should answer serious questions that are being asked of him." Launching a scathing

attack on Pakistan during a rally in Bikaner early Thursday, the Prime Minister condemned the April 22 terrorist attack and praised the Indian armed forces for their swift retaliation.

Recalling how the terrorists targeted innocents, singled them out by religion and wiped the sindoor off women's foreheads, and then in retaliation Indian armed forces buried them in the soil the Prime Minister claimed: "Sindoor, not blood, flows through Modi's veins... that terror camps were destroyed within 22 minutes.... Armed forces got a free hand and forced Pakistan to back down." Taking a calculated swipe at what he dubbed Prime Minister's "film-style" posturing, Mr Ramesh questioned: "Why are the brutal killers of Pahalgam still free—according to some reports, they had been responsible for three earlier

terror attacks in Poonch, Gagangir, and Gulmarg over the past 18 months. Why have you not chaired any all-party meeting and taken the opposition parties into confidence?" he asked.

Ramesh further questioned: "(as to) why have you not called a special session of Parliament to reiterate the unanimously passed resolution of Feb 22, 1994 and update it, given the deep China-Pakistan nexus evident during Operation Sindoor? Why have you stubbornly remained silent on the repeated claims being made by President Trump and US Secretary of State Rubio on the US role over the past two weeks, especially?"

Earlier today, the Congress had also reiterated its demand

for a clarification from the government on the repeated claims being bragged by US President Donald Trump of brokering India-Pakistan ceasefire.

"For the 8th time in 11 days, President Trump has – 1. Claimed full credit for the ceasefire between India and Pakistan. 2. Praised the PMs of India and Pakistan equally and put them in par in every way 3. Reiterated that trade with the US was the instrument he used to get India and Pakistan to declare a ceasefire," Jairam Ramesh had alleged in a post on platform X. Crediting his personal diplomacy and ongoing trade deals for the de-escalation, US President Donald Trump on Wednesday continued to pat his back

that it was he who played a key role in stopping hostilities between India and Pakistan.

"If you look at what we did with Pakistan and India, we resolved that whole issue, and I think we resolved it through trade," Donald Trump said Wednesday in the Oval Office during a meeting with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. "Yet our PM—Donald bhai's great buddy—is completely silent on what the US President is repeatedly saying. The External Affairs Minister also continues to maintain complete quiet on what his pal, the US Secretary of State, has said in support of the US President's claims and about the "neutral site" for talks between India and Pakistan," Mr Ramesh pointed out questioning: "Why this thundering silence?"

India's resolve unshakable: PM Modi issues stern warning to Pakistan post-Operation Sindoor

Bikaner (Agency): In a loud and clear message to Islamabad post "Operation Sindoor", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday made it clear that India would not allow Pakistan access to its rightful share of water and that playing with Indian blood would come at a steep cost.

"This resolve is India's commitment, one that no force in the world can shake", he declared while asserting that any discussion with Pakistan would solely revolve around Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir (PoK). He warned that if Pakistan continued exporting terrorists, it would face economic ruin.

"There will be no trade – no talks with Pakistan and not even water from India be given, this is the firm resolve of new India," the PM said.

"No power in the world can deviate India from this resolve. Playing a bloody game with India would cost Pakistan dearly," PM Modi said while addressing a public meeting in Palana, Bikaner District, Rajasthan, exactly a month after the Pahalgam terror attack.

He categorically reiterated that even a single terror attack

against India henceforth will make Pakistan liable for paying the heavy cost. "We will retaliate appropriately and effectively. The time, mode (of gravity), and other conditions would be decided and dictated by our armed forces," the PM said. "We will



not distinguish between terrorists and those who support them—whether defending a government or operating independently, both will be treated as one. The excuse of state and non-state actors will no longer be accepted to justify actions or situations," PM cautioned. The nuclear blackmailing would also not deter or scare us, Modi said.

"This operation was not revenge or retaliation, rather it was

the new mode of delivering justice by India. This is the 'Samarth Bharat's Raudra Swaroop (Avatar)', Modi asserted.

Pakistan can not win against India in direct and full-blown war, that is why for decades that country had been inflicting ter-

the Indian Railways' network.

More than 105 projects, with a total investment of Rs 26,000 crore across 18 states, were either inaugurated or had their foundation stones laid simultaneously by the Prime Minister via remote control from Palana.

These included the inauguration of 103 redeveloped railway stations across the country under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.

Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagade, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnav and Arjun Lal Meghwal, and former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje were present.

Soon after landing at Nal Airport, Prime Minister Modi interacted with airmen at the key IAF base that was the target of Pakistan's unsuccessful air strikes. Expressing satisfaction, Modi said, "Pakistan had attempted to target [the base] but failed to inflict any damage. This shows our strength and capability."

Five years ago, after the Balakot strikes, PM Modi chose the Rajasthani town of Churu to address his first public meeting following the surgical strikes.

J&K: Army soldier killed, 2 injured in gunfight with terrorists in Kishtwar

Jammu (Agency): An Army soldier was killed and two other jawans were injured on Thursday in a fierce gunfight with a group of terrorists in the Kishtwar district of Jammu division. The martyred soldier has been identified as Sepoy Gaykar Sandeep Pandurang of Maharashtra. Three soldiers were injured during the firefight, but Sandeep, who was critically wounded, later succumbed to his wounds. The injured soldiers have been airlifted to the military hospital at Udhampur.

The White Knight Corps of the Indian Army said, "One of our bravehearts sustained grievous injuries in the exchange of fire and has succumbed despite best medical efforts". The encounter started in the morning in the Singhapura locality near the Chatroo area of Kishtwar when the security forces cordoned the area following inputs about the presence of a group of around five terrorists. Contact was established with the terrorists in the morning, after which additional troops were deployed and operations initiated to neutralise them. Reinforcements from the CRPF, J&K Police, and Army also arrived at the spot. There were reports of two groups of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) trapped in the ongoing encounter.

Gallantry honour: 6 Kirti Chakras, 33 Shaurya Chakras conferred on Armed Forces personnel by President Murmu

New Delhi (Agency): President Droupadi Murmu conferred six Kirti Chakras, including four posthumous, and 33 Shaurya Chakras, including seven posthumous, to the personnel of the Armed Forces (Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Navy), Central Armed Police Forces and State/ Union Territory Police during Phase-I of Defence Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhawan, here on Thursday. The Gallantry awards were given to the personnel for displaying raw courage, unparalleled bravery, and total disregard to personal safety in the line of duty.

The bravery was displayed during various operations related to counter-terror/ counter-insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East. Dreaded terrorists were neutralised and apprehended during these operations, and arms and ammunition were recovered.

The Indian Navy officers led anti-piracy operations, resulting in the surrender of pirates and the rescue of hostages, while also demonstrating bravery during fire-fighting operations on a burning oil tanker. The awardees from the Indian Air Force showed utmost courage in life-threatening circumstances during rescue of aircraft while maneuvering away from civilian areas to avoid any loss of life/ property. The gallant acts of CRPF officers were performed in various operations in areas affected by Left-Wing Extremism. Maoist insurgents were apprehended and weapons recovered. The list of awardees is as follows:

Shaurya Chakra: Major (now Lt. Col) Vijay Verma, Deputy Commandant Vikrant Kumar (CRPF), Inspector/ GD Jeffrey Hmingchullo (CRPF) Wing Commander Vernon Desmond Keane (IAF), Squadron Leader Deepak Kumar

(IAF), Special Police Officer Abdul Latif (J&K Police), Subedar Sanjeev Saini Jasrotia (IA) Colonel Pawan Singh (IA), Naib Subedar (now Subedar) P Pabin Singha, Major Sahil Randhawa (IA), Major (now Lt Col), CVS Nikhil (IA), Major Tripathpreet Singh (IA), Lieutenant Commander Kapil Yadav (IN), Deputy Commandant Lakshveer (CRPF), Assistant Commandant Rajesh Panchal (CRPF), CT/ GD Malkit Singh (CRPF), Subedar Mohan Ram



(IA), Commodore Sharad Sinsunwal (IN) Flight Lieutenant Aman Singh (IAF), Sergeant Dabhi Sanjay Hiffabbhai (IAF), Major Kunal (IA) Major Ashish Dahiya (IA), Havildar Prakash Tamang (IA), Major Satender Dhankar (IA), Assistant Commandant Eshenthung Kikon (IA), and Subedar Vikas Tomar (IA).

Shaurya Chakra (Posthumous): Major Aashish Dhonchak (IA), Sepoy Pardeep Singh (IA), Havildar Rohit Kumar (IA), Pawan Kumar CT/GD (CRPF), Devan C CT/GD (CRPF), Vijayan Kutty G (BRO), and Capt. Deepak Singh (IA).

Kirti Chakra: Major Malla Rama Gopal Naidu (IA), Major Manjit (IA)

Kirti Chakra (Posthumous): Rifleman Ravi Kumar (IA), Colonel Manpreet Singh (IA), Deputy Superintendent of Police Himayun Muzzammil Bhat (J&K police), Naik Dilwar Khan (IA).

Amrit stations symbolise a synergy of speed and pride: Yogi Adityanath

Lucknow (Agency): Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Thursday, inaugurated 103 redeveloped railway stations across the country under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme from Bikaner, Rajasthan. Among these, 19 railway stations in Uttar Pradesh were also renovated, marking a significant step towards the modernization of Indian Railways and enhancing passenger amenities. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath from Lucknow participated virtually in the event.

In a post on his X account, the Chief Minister wrote: "All 103 Amrit Stations across India, including 19 in Uttar Pradesh, dedicated today by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, embody New India's blend of heritage preservation, development resolve, and the synergy of speed and pride."

He emphasized that these amrit stations across the country embody the vision of a 'New

India.' Not only do these stations feature modern amenities, but they will also promote regional culture and improve connectivity.

Stations renovated in Uttar Pradesh

The stations renovated under this scheme in Uttar Pradesh include Balrampur, Bareilly City,



Bijnor, Fatehabad, Gola Gokarnanath, Govardhan, Govindpur, Hathras City, Idgah Agra, Izzatnagar, Karchana, Mailani, Pukhrayan, Ramghat Halt, Saharanpur, Siddharthnagar, Suremanpur, Swaminarayan Chhapia, and Ujhani. The redevelopment of

these stations will provide a smoother and more pleasant travel experience for rail passengers in Uttar Pradesh.

New features include state-of-the-art waiting rooms, escalators, lifts, amenities for the differently-abled, digital displays, green energy-based infrastructure, and glimpses of local architecture. The stations will enhance passenger comfort, while also boosting the local economy.

"Heartfelt gratitude to the Prime Minister for these amrit stations that provide passengers with integrated modern facilities, accessible and soulful travel experience!", CM added.

These 103 stations, located in 86 districts across 18 states and Union Territories, have been developed at a cost of over Rs 1,100 crore. Under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, more than 1,300 stations across the country are being redeveloped to reflect regional architecture and improve passenger amenities.

MP CM says Vande Bharat coaches will be manufactured in Bhopal

Bhopal (Agency): Lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi for envisioning the growth of railway infrastructure across the country, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav said on Thursday that soon the coaches of Vande Bharat trains



would be manufactured at Bhopal. Dr Yadav said this while addressing at the main nationwide function in which the PM virtually inaugurated 103 redeveloped 'Amrit Stations' of the railways across India. The stations have been refurbished in 86 districts of 18 states and union territories at a cost of around Rs 1100 crore. Six such stations were inaugurated in Madhya Pradesh too. They include Narmadapuram, Katni South, Shridham, Shajapur, Seoni, and Orchha. The six stations have been redeveloped at a cost of Rs 84 crore.

India planning modular space station by 2035: ISRO chairman

New Delhi (Agency): The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to put in space the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), a modular space station, by 2035, ISRO's Chairman and Secretary of the Department of Space, Dr. V. Narayanan, said.

The launching of BAS will enhance India's presence in space research and foster advancement in space technology, Dr. Narayanan said while having an interaction with students, researchers and faculty members of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University (SOA) here on Wednesday.

"India's first ever human space flight mission, 'Gaganyaan' is expected to be launched in March 2027 for which four test pilots are undergoing training to be astronauts," he informed.

This will be preceded by launching of uncrewed missions to test systems as India's objective is to become a global space power by 2047, Dr. Narayanan

said adding only Russia, the United States and China had been successful to independently launch humans into space till now.

Dr. Narayanan, a rocket propulsion expert, said though India's space program had



started in 1962, it had traversed a long way technologically since then and was contemplating to take an Indian to the Moon and bring him back safely.

Pointing out that ISRO was established in 1969 when the US had already become successful in putting Neil Armstrong on the Moon, he said despite the late start ISRO had made phenomenal progress and succeeded in

putting the first 35 kg satellite in space in 1980.

"Since then, India has been able to develop six generations of launch vehicles and created a record by conceiving a 40-storey high rocket in only 27 days," he said.

There was a time, Dr. Narayanan said, when India was mocked, insulted and denied access to cryogenic engine technology. But India had, since then, been able to develop three such engines, two of them indigenously. "India is the only country which soft landed Chandrayaan-3 on Moon's south pole and is the first to find water molecules on the lunar surface," he said adding the country created a world record by placing more than 100 satellites in space on a single mission.

India is also the only nation to have reached Mars' orbit in its very first attempt, Dr. Narayanan said. Chandrayaan-4, Dr. Narayanan said, would be a complex mission as it would be

expected to bring back lunar samples. India planned to launch Chandrayaan-5 in collaboration with Japan.

One of ISRO's significant achievements has been the successful completion of a docking experiment involving two satellites which was executed with exceptional precision on January 16, 2025. The docking happened when the satellites were travelling at a speed of 28,400 km per hour, he said.

Subsequently, ISRO scientists successfully conducted the undocking experiment in a circular orbit, Dr. Narayanan said. Prof. Damodar Acharya, Chairman of SOA's International Advisory Board and former Director of IIT, Kharagpur was present.

SOA's Vice-Chancellor Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda welcomed Dr. Narayanan while Prof. Renu Sharma, Additional Dean (Student Affairs), proposed the vote of thanks. Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das, Dean (Students' Welfare) conducted the program.

Udaan: SankalpSabkiPragatiKa” theme celebrates

Staff Reporter
Varanasi: Anmol Industries Limited, one of India's leading packaged food companies, successfully hosted its Distributor Meet 2025 at Om Vilas Banares. Themed “Udaan: SankalpSabkiPragatiKa,” the event was a grand celebration of Anmol's thriving partnerships, shared achievements, and a forward-looking growth vision for the coming fiscal year. The well-curated event brought together top distributors from across the Varanasi, alongside the company's senior leadership team including the Managing Director Mr. Bimal Kumar Choudhary, Executive Director Mr. Aman Choudhary, Head Sales Mr. Ram Sinha, Zonal Sales Manager Mr. Subrata Dey and Regional Sales Managers. Staying true to its brand promise “Har Pal Anmol,” the company emphasized



the value it places on every stakeholder relationship—from partners to customers. The meet celebrated the trust and commitment that fuels Anmol's journey, with heartfelt recognition of top-performing distributors who have played a critical role in strengthening the brand's presence across the region. A major highlight of the meet was the announcement of new product launches, including Anmol Bourbon, Darko (premium dark chocolate cream biscuits), and other upcoming innovations in the pipeline. The company used the opportunity to align all channel partners on maximizing placement and visibility of Anmol's focus products at the outlet level, ensuring wider reach and deeper market penetration across urban and rural markets alike.

Op Sindoor: Shaurya Yatra led by Rajnath Tiwari got immense success in district



Teachers honoring BJP District President Brij Bhushan Singh on the success of Shaurya Yatra

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur: District President Rajnath Tiwari, District President of National Educational Federation district Mirzapur, in the honor of the immense success of Operation Sindoor and the pride of the glorious army of the country, BJP State Vice President and Noida in Noida, headed by Bharatiya Janata Party's famous and popular BJP District President Brij Bhushan Singh in the head of the Bharatiya Janata Party and in management. Shaurya Tiranga Yatra of district Mirzapur under the leadership of Public MLA Pankaj Singh was unique and unmatched. For which all of us teachers give heartfelt greetings and infinite best wishes to Yashasvi BJP District President Brij Bhushan Singh. Among those who congratulated District 8 Conservator Shivakant Dixit, Divisional Senior Vice President Narendra Bahadur Singh, District Treasurer Manoj Shukla, District Senior Vice

President Virbhanu Singh, District Organization Secretary Anil Tripathi, District Vice President Sunil Singh, District Secretary Rakesh Maurya, District Joint Secretary Rajdev Singh, Municipal Secretary Rajesh Kumar, Municipality President Satya Prakash Dubey, Con Development Block President Sarvesh Tripathi, Lalganj President Pradeep Tiwari, Marihan Secretary Arun Prakash, Municipality Vice President Arun Prakash, Municipality Vice President Rajeev Pandey, City Media In-charge Eklakh Ahmed, Sunil Tripathi, Pandey, Santosh Pandit Dayanand Mishra, Ankur Shukla, Mahesh Dubey, Manish Mishra, ARP Nagar Santosh Singh, Mayank Dubey, Anil Singh, Dayananda Mishra and other respected companions were present. The above information was given by Vimlesh Agarhari, District Media In-charge of the National Educational Federation.

Woman of every rural family made member of self-help group: Anupriya Patel

- Union Minister held meet with DM and other officials and took info about progress of NRLM groups being done in MNREGA
- Force on adding more women with weaving work of Banarasi saree along with activating passive groups
- Union Minister expressed displeasure over power cuts
- Ensure bad transformers to change within 48 hours

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur: Union minister Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizer Anupriya Patel on Thursday held a meeting with District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjana, Chief Development Officer Vishal Kumar, Chief Engineer Vidyut and other concerned officials in the Engineering College on Thursday and meeting with the progress and proposed works being done under MNREGA in the district and meeting in relation to the groups constituted under the National Rural Livelihood Mission and their progress. Got information. In addition to getting information about the work being done under the Union Minister MP Nidhi Yojana in the meeting, along with most complaints of power cuts in the city and

rural areas, they gave necessary guidelines. During the review of National Rural



Union Minister Anupriya Patel, meeting with other officials including District Magistrate

Livelihood Mission, the Union Minister told the District Magistrate that every rural family at least one female member must be included in the self-help group so that they can improve their livelihood. He said that by activating passive groups in the district, 100 percent groups should be connected to banks by connecting them with any or the other employment. District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjana told the Union Minister that 1,84,800 families formed a total of 15,400 groups of self-help groups in the district. It has been added so far, which has a revolving fund -received group 13,201 and 7,869 groups have received linkage by banks. The Union Minister said that by connecting all groups, they should be linked to banks. Group of women should be connected to employment by training them in various trades. He also emphasized women on weaving of Banarasi saree. He said that Engineering College,

Medical College, Inspiration can be opened in the development block offices

including the ghats so that they can join the employment and discharge their livelihood. The Union Minister said that women should also be trained in the works of Dari, Carpet, Wall Hanging, Door Mat etc. under one district. On this occasion, under the National Livelihood Mission by the Chief Development Officer, Got information about progress and achievements of Giving information about the progress and proposed works being done under MNREGA, the Union Minister said that work should be done by adding ponds in the cluster in view of water conservation. He said that more and more families should be provided employment by linking MNREGA work. The Union Minister gave the Chief Development Officer under the MNREGA. They are done and directed to provide the ratio of raw and pucca works, list. The District Magistrate said that there are 2,73,000 jobcard holders under the total MNREGA in the

Divyangjan, Backward Cg. Essay, Marketing and



Commissioner Balakrishna Tripathi taking information by meeting the status of implementation of e-office

Mandi, Panchayat, Agriculture, Chief Engineer Public Works Department,

Joint Director Secondary DSC, VPN connections,

number of computers made by the total number of personnel of the offices and

the progress of operating the letters at the e-office were taken. On this occasion, training was also given giving detailed information regarding the operation of e-office. Additional Commissioner Administration Dr. Vishram, Joint Development Commissioner Ramesh Chand, Deputy Director Earth and Number Ramnarayan Yadav, District Information Science Officer Abhishek Srivastava, Divisional officers of all departments including Abhishek Srivastava should be present.

BRIEFS

IG conducted annual inspection of police line Mirzapur, necessary guidelines given to concerned



Inspector General of Police RP Singh doing annual inspection and review seminars of Mirzapur Police Line

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur: Inspector General of Police, Vindhyachal Zone Mirzapur RP Singh, along with Somen Burma Senior Superintendent of Police Mirzapur, was conducted annual inspection of Police Line District Mirzapur. During the inspection of the police line, visit the office, campus, barracks etc. and clean the premises etc. Necessary guidelines were given to the concerned in the relationship and during the inspection of various offices/branches located on the police line, while observing various registers and important records intensively, instructions were given to keep the records in addition and proper maintenance. After inspecting the vehicles located in the premises, necessary guidelines were given to the concerned for proper maintenance. During this, U.P. Police Reserve Nagarik Policeln view of the RTC training of selected candidates in recruitment-2023, instructions were given to the concerned by inspecting the barracks, classes, mens etc. in the police line Mirzapur and taking stock of the arrangements. Subsequently, Gazetted Officers, All Police Station In-charge and Police Station in Police Line Auditorium with Senior Superintendent of Police Mirzapur Somen Burma by Inspector General of Police Vindhyachal Zone Mirzapur, Mirzapur. And a review meeting and crime seminar was held with various branch in -charge. During this time, strict instructions were given to all the jurisdictions and police in-charge for effective action against crime and criminals in the district. Strict instructions were given to curb immediate effect on illegal liquor extraction, storage and sale. Policemen under all police station area by putting duty with motorcycles and cluster mobiles continuously. To be kept The information received on UP 112 was immediately instructed by PRV vehicles to reach the spot immediately. On receiving any kind of objectionable/misleading posts, necessary guidelines were given on other important points, including denying it with immediate effect. Additional Superintendent of Police Nagar Nitesh Singh and Additional Superintendent of Police Operation in the said seminar. Om Prakash Singh, including all the Deputy Superintendents of Police, all the police station in-charge, police station, branch in-charge and other police officers and employees were also present.

Vi Enhances Family Plan Flexibility

Staff Reporter
Varanasi: Vi Family Plans can now have 9 connections in total, where every family member can enjoy separate data quota benefits. Vi, India's leading telecom operator, today announced a new add-on feature in Family Postpaid plans, wherein upto a total of 8 secondary members can be added to your existing family plan at just Rs 299 per member. This provides a convenient way for customers to add family members to their existing Vi Family plan via Vi App, allowing all members to enjoy superior benefits. Vi's new add-on feature ensures each member, who is part of the plan, gets 40GB high-speed monthly data. At Rs 299 per connection, it is one of the most competitive options in the market, offering excellent value and convenience. The plan complements Vi's existing Family Postpaid range, which includes data, OTT, voice and SMS benefits for two to five members, starting at Rs 701. With the introduction of the Rs 299 add-on feature, Vi customers can now add up to 8 secondary members to their account, offering greater flexibility without upgrading to a higher-tier plan. For example, a Vi Max Family Rs701 plan currently includes 2 connections – 1 Primary and 1 Secondary. With the introduction of this add-on feature, a Rs701 plan user can add up to 7 additional secondary members at Rs299/member.

Sangharsh Samiti accused Power Corporation management of adopting persistent attitude and imposing strike

Conspiracy for huge scam under guise of privatization, protests of electricity personnel continue continuously

Samiti, but the Chairman of the Power Corporation, the Chief Secretary and the officials of the government are misleading that the electricity personnel are misleading. Going on strike. The Sangharsh Samiti said that on the basis of the letter of the chairman, orders are being issued by the district officials in the districts to deal with the strike, due to which there is an atmosphere of industrial unrest in the energy corporations unnecessarily. The Sangharsh Samiti said that instead of taking action on the transaction consultant grant thorton, which has been imposed in the US, power instead of taking action Corporation has been a large spray of contract workers and is creating an atmosphere of confrontation. The Sangharsh Samiti said that the term of Director Finance Nidhi Narang as the chairman of the tender evaluation committee is ending. The new director Finance Purushottam Aggarwal has refused to take charge in view of the big scam in privatization. Now

Nidhi Narang is being given the work extension for the second time, because Nidhi Narang has agreed to give a clean chit to the illegally appointed transaction



Electrical engineers and employees protesting against Vijali privatization continuously

consultant Grant Thorton. The Sangharsh Samiti said that the Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh, who is the biggest officer of the government and the chairman of the Energy Task Force, should take immediate action and cancel the appointment of the illegal appointed transaction consultant. The Sangharsh Samiti said that electricity workers in a peaceful manner are agitating. If the appointment of Transaction Consultant is canceled and

the decision of privatization is withdrawn, electricity workers will not agitate. The Sangharsh Samiti said that the assets of Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam and

capital Lucknow from 2:00 pm to 05:00 pm on the second consecutive day. The Sangharsh Samiti has said that agitation against privatization to consumers is being fought in Therefore, consumers should not have any kind of difficulty due to protests. The Sangharsh Samiti has warned the Power Corporation management not to do oppressive proceedings, otherwise in this scorching heat, the energy corporations will have full responsibility of unrest.

Today Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Prayagraj, Azamgarh, Mirzapur, Basti, Agra, Mathura, Firozabad, Aligarh, Etah, Kanpur, Kesco, Protests were held in Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Bulandshahr, Noida, Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Dehra Dun, Ayodhya, Sultanpur, Sitapur, Rae Bareilly, Obra, Anpara, Pipri, Examination, Harduaganj, Jawaharpur and Panki. Today's protest took place in the Chunar Division. Engineers Deepak Singh, Sumit Kumar Yadav, Sachin

Kumar, Anshu Kumar Pandey, Vinay Kumar Singh, Jayakar Patel, Ram Singh, Pramod Kumar, Pankaj Kumar, Amit Kumar, Vinay Kumar Gupta, Prithvipal, Mahendra Prajapati, Lavkush Yadav, Alok Kumar Srivastava, Vineet Singh, Anoop Kumar Singh, Vinod Kumar, Praveen Kumar, Amit Kumar, Prakash Singh, Bhanu Kumar Singh, Sushil Kumar Singh, Deepender Singh, Indresh Singh, Shah Hussain, Upendra, Bade Babu Jai, Sant Dnyaneshwar, Vinod, Sandepin Singh, Sandipad Kumar Singh, Prabhakar, Anil Singh, Pramod Singh, Dhyanchand Verma, Ritesh Kumar, Anil Kumar Pandey, Saroj Singh, Surendra Maurya, Anil Kumar Gupta, Ramsjivan Singh, Rekha Das, Chandrakala, Anita Devi, Vijay Bade Babu, Krishna Singh, Maheshwar Singh, Shivshankar Singh, Jitesh Kumar, Pawan Kumar, Sanjay Kumar, Ashutosh Bajpai, Dharmendra Babu, Nasim Babu, Nasim Babu, Sanjay Saini, Pawan Kumar Yadav, Pradeep Nirala,

As core sector growth hits 8-month low in April, a cascading impact likely on factory output



New Delhi (Agency): India's key infrastructure-linked industries in April showed a sharp deceleration, with their output rising just 0.5 per cent from a year ago, the commerce ministry said on Tuesday. At 0.5 per cent in April, the growth of the eight core sectors — coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement, and electricity — was not only well below 4.6 per cent in March, but was the lowest in eight months.

Vagaries of the base effect apart, there are real concerns about the weak infrastructure output growth. Of the eight sectors, the performance of six weakened in April compared to March, with refinery products faring the worst after their production was down 4.5 per cent, the poorest showing since November 2022.

The two sectors which saw improved production rates did so only because what came before: natural gas output was up 0.4 per cent after a 12.7 per cent contraction in March, while production of coal rose by 3.5 per cent, up from a 1.6 per cent rise the previous month. Coal output is likely to slow down post June, once the monsoon sets in across parts of the country.

The bad start to the new financial year seems to have been partially driven by the “unprecedented economic uncertainty” caused by the US’ tariff tantrums”, according to Paras Jasrai, economist and associate director, India Ratings and Research. And while the reciprocal tariffs were put on hold on April 9, core sector growth — and industrial growth in general — still faces headwinds.

Next week on May 28, the statistics ministry will release industrial production data for April. After edging up marginally to 3.0 per cent in March, industrial growth may have more than halved last month, going by the performance of the eight core sectors which make up 40 per cent of the Index of Industrial Production.

IndiGo's long-haul debut: Thrice weekly flights to Manchester, Amsterdam from Mumbai from early July as part of airline's internationalisation strategy

New Delhi (Agency): IndiGo will start operating flights to Manchester and Amsterdam from Mumbai from early July, marking the long-haul debut for India's largest airline that has been making concerted efforts to rapidly expand its international network and go beyond short-haul international routes. While Manchester and Amsterdam are the initial long-haul routes for IndiGo, the airline is understood to be evaluating multiple other key long-haul markets in Europe and beyond to expand its

international footprint. The carrier's Mumbai-Manchester service will start on July 1, and the Mumbai-Amsterdam service will begin on July 2. Both will be thrice weekly services and will be operated with the wide-body Boeing 787-9 aircraft that the carrier has taken on damp lease from Norse Atlantic Airways. IndiGo has opened bookings for these services with one-way fares starting at Rs 24,499 for Manchester and Rs 26,999 for Amsterdam. The aircraft that will operate

these flights have 56 business class seats, marketed as IndiGoStretch seats, in a



2x3x2 configuration, while the economy cabin consists of 282 seats in a 3x3x3

configuration. In a first for IndiGo, the airline will offer complimentary hot meals to all flyers on these flights, which is a departure from its model of paid meals. As the

airline's regular fleet does not have ovens on board, it serves only cold meals and instant meals prepared with hot water. Over the past few months, IndiGo signed agreements with Norse Atlantic Airways to damp lease a total of six Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft, one of which is already operating on its Delhi-Bangkok route. These aircraft will support IndiGo's debut into the European market, starting with Manchester and Amsterdam, while the airline awaits the delivery of its

A321XLR planes from this year and A350-900 aircraft from 2027 onwards. As part of its “internationalisation strategy”, IndiGo plans to induct extra-long-range narrow-body Airbus A321 XLR aircraft and wide-body Airbus A350 planes to operate medium- and long-range international flights. The carrier evidently does not want to wait for these aircraft to further fuel its international expansion, and therefore decided to enter the long-haul market using damp-leased planes.

SEBI's concern: Crores of rupees of investors are being defrauded by fake apps

New Delhi (Agency): There is a rapid increase in the cases of fake apps and websites using the names of stock brokers and their officials in the country. This has troubled the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and it is urging all the units coming under the purview of regulation to take immediate action. In a recent meeting with the intermediaries, strict action has been demanded. In view of the concern of regulatory matters, the concerned monitoring teams



are being strengthened. Information about crores of rupees of investors being defrauded in the cases is possible, but the total number and loss figures are yet difficult to determine. Industry officials say that there is no clear record for this. SEBI has sought to register an FIR and is ready to take action against possible fraud. Investors should

be vigilant to stay away from such fake portals. In this best condition, they should also do a criminal search for those cheating in the name of stock brokers. SEBI says that there should be no delay in such cases and action should be taken. Filing an FIR helps mark the beginning of a legal process and can potentially lead to arrests or disrupt a fraudulent network. Investigations by law enforcement agencies also help prevent potential frauds as the agencies become aware of the pattern of such frauds.

Govt to open up key spectrum for high-speed WiFi: Why it's a win for tech companies



New Delhi (Agency): In a major win for tech companies like Sony, Apple and Meta, the Indian government has proposed to open up licence-free use of a portion of the key 6GHz spectrum, paving the way for faster WiFi speeds, and supporting connectivity needs of devices like the Sony PlayStation Pro, and virtual reality gear from Apple and Meta. The 6 GHz spectrum band (5925 MHz-7125 MHz) and its use has been a point of contention between telecom companies Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea on one side and tech companies on the other. Telcos have been calling for the entire band to be reserved for licensed mobile telecommunication for 5G and 6G services, whereas tech companies wanted the band to be delicensed and provided free to use to improve WiFi services. While rules vary country-by-country, some nations like the United States have allocated the full 1200MHz of 6GHz spectrum for unlicensed use, with others choosing to allocate a smaller swath of 500MHz, with an aim to create a balance between the two technologies. India has chosen to go the latter route. In a draft notification released recently, the Ministry of Communications said that a part of the 6 GHz band (5925 MHz -6425 MHz) would be made license-free. In December 2023, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) had set aside the 6425 MHz -7125 MHz range for licensed mobile operations.

“No Authorisation or Frequency Assignment shall be required to establish, maintain, work, possess or deal in any wireless equipment for the purpose of Lower Power Indoor and Very Low Power outdoor wireless access systems, including radio local area networks operating in the frequency band 5925-6425 MHz,” the communications ministry said in a notification on the draft rules. Tech companies believe that unlicensed availability of the spectrum will promote next generation Wi-Fi technologies like WiFi 6 and WiFi 7, and could play a major role in the growth of the Internet of Things. WiFi 6 and WiFi 7 is many times faster than the current WiFi standard. Due to the lack of clarity earlier on the unlicensed availability of the spectrum in the country, Sony had announced that its latest gaming console, the PlayStation (PS) 5 Pro, would not be launched in India due to wireless connectivity issues.

Hybrids vs EVs: Honda's pivot to hybrids is now part of a growing trend

New Delhi (Agency): Honda Motor Co., Japan's second-largest automaker, said on Tuesday that it was moving to scrap its previous goal for electric vehicles (EV) to be 30 percent of its cumulative global vehicle sales by 2030, citing slowing sales of EVs in the US. The decision by the Tokyo-based carmaker ties in with the broader trend being seen across markets, even outside of the US. Carmakers across markets have been pivoting away from EVs (essentially battery electric vehicles) towards hybrids. Honda is part of that trend. Honda Motor Chief Executive Toshihiro Mibe termed the decisions “a switch in the planned course,” while asserting that the long-term shift toward electrification remained unchanged, just “pushed back in time”. Incidentally, last year, Honda

was forced to jettison a pact with American carmaker General Motors that aimed to build a line of cheaper EVs in the US. Also, talks that began late last year to merge the operations of Honda and Nissan Motor Corp, as well as smaller automaker Mitsubishi Motors Corp, collapsed earlier this year. From Honda's perspective, this venture was also aimed at jointly harnessing rival Nissan's EV expertise. Since late 2023, an EV slowdown is getting more pronounced in the US, with Tesla, the market leader with over half of all EV sales in that country, consistently reporting its lowest quarterly earnings in over two years. Other American car manufacturers too are beginning to right-size their EV ambitions, with General Motors distancing itself from its earlier production

target for EVs last year, while Ford has belatedly stepped up its hybrid focus since mid-2024. In the Indian market too, there are signs of a subtle pivot that

technology, are learnt to be exploring the hybrid option to diversify their offerings. Hyundai Motor India, the country's second-largest carmaker, looks set to enter the



automakers are already making, in line with the trends being seen in developed markets. Players with a keen interest in the EV segment, including Mahindra & Mahindra and Hyundai Motor, both strong proponents of battery electric vehicle

hybrid vehicle segment in the coming three years and is said to be looking to add a hybrid powertrain as part of its electrified future in India. A Reuters report quoted Euisun Chung, the executive chairman of Hyundai Motor Group, telling employees in India that

hybrids and electric vehicles will be critical parts of its portfolio in the country. Chung had addressed a town hall in April 2024, offering a long-term strategy for the Indian market. Hyundai group company Kia too has committed to introducing hybrid vehicles in India. The one reason for the waning enthusiasm in EV in the US is President Donald Trump and his lack of enthusiasm for electric vehicles. Japanese automakers, alongside most others, have been scrambling to adapt to the policy switch by Washington DC. “The environment surrounding the automobile industry is changing day by day. Uncertainty in the business environment is increasing, due particularly to the slowdown in the expansion of the EV market due to several factors, including

changes in environmental regulations,” Honda said in a statement Tuesday. Honda chief Mibe did not give a specific timeline for a new course on electrification, but said that Honda will be more aggressive in producing hybrids instead. Beyond the Trump factor though, there are at least three structural issues that are playing out in most global markets, with the exception of perhaps China, which is triggering a gradual consumer pivot from battery electric vehicles to hybrids. The three broad factors blunting EV penetration are increasing concerns around EV capital costs, especially triggered by lower price realisation for used EVs; uncertainties over government policies on EVs; and a growing shortage of charging stations, especially fast chargers.

Succession: Kin of Indian family business owners not keen on taking reins, shows survey

HSBC said this trend highlights a shift in the traditional approach to succession planning, even as family-owned businesses continue to play a pivotal role in India's economy, contributing approximately 79 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) — one of the highest ratios globally.

HSBC trust the next generation's ability to manage family wealth, 45 per cent of surveyed entrepreneurs (55 per cent of first-generation and 35 per cent of multi-generation) do not expect their children taking over the family business, according to HSBC Global Private Banking's report titled 'Family-owned businesses in Asia: Harmony through succession planning'. The HSBC report has highlighted the preparedness of family-owned businesses in India and across Asia for the future of their enterprise and their wealth, offering key insights into succession planning and intergenerational dynamics. HSBC said this trend highlights a shift in the traditional approach to succession planning, even as family-owned businesses continue to play a pivotal role in India's economy, contributing approximately 79 per cent of the country's

gross domestic product (GDP) — one of the highest ratios globally. Interestingly, only 7 per cent of Indian respondents felt obligated to take on the family business when the business was passed on, reflecting a growing openness to exploring opportunities outside the family enterprise, it said. Kotak Mahindra Bank founder Uday Kotak had recently advised the next generation of business heirs to step into building real-world businesses and flagged concerns regarding the increasing inclination of young business heirs to run family offices and investments instead of starting businesses of their own. According to the HSBC report, this sentiment is supported by strong feelings of encouragement within multi-generational families, with 83 per cent of respondents stating they felt empowered to pursue other

interests when they first took over the business. Despite this shift, the report said that 79 per cent of Indian entrepreneurs still plan to pass their businesses to



family members, aligning closely with global trends (77 per cent in the UK and 76 per cent in Switzerland). Notably, Indian second- and third-generation entrepreneurs feel a strong sense of trust from their predecessors, with 95 per cent reporting they felt trusted when taking over the business — significantly higher than the global average of 81 per cent. India

is on the brink of a significant intergenerational wealth transfer, it said. According to Hurun data, in 2024 India had 334 billionaires in US dollar terms with the number rising 29 per cent year-on-year. Nearly 70 per cent of the list are on the cusp of a \$1.5 trillion intergenerational wealth transfer that equates to more than one-third of India's GDP. This underscores the importance of robust succession planning to ensure the seamless transition of wealth and business leadership. Sandeep Batra, head,

international wealth and premier banking, HSBC India, said: “India's family-owned businesses are balancing legacy preservation with modernity. While there is trust in the next generation to uphold the values and culture of the family business, there is also need for open communication and robust succession planning.” India's family-owned businesses are unique in their longevity, with some thriving for over a century. However, many of these businesses were established in the 1990s, following the government's economic liberalisation, ushering in a generational shift. Second-generation entrepreneurs, often educated abroad and raised in cosmopolitan settings, bring new perspectives to the table. Unlike the humble beginnings of many first-generation entrepreneurs in India, the second generation

has grown up in cosmopolitan urban environments. However, family-business owners do trust the ability of the next generation to maintain the values and culture of the family business, the HSBC report said. Multi-generational family businesses accord a high value to extended family and kinship. Second- and third-generation entrepreneurs in the Indian subcontinent almost unanimously acknowledge the faith that their predecessors placed in them when they took over the business. Like India, second- and third-generation entrepreneurs across the rest of Asia trust the next generation to maintain the values and culture of the family business. Of those who have succession planning in place, India has the highest percentage of entrepreneurs who intend to pass their business on to a family

member, with 79 per cent intending to do so, which puts Indian business owners on a level with their counterparts in the UK (77 per cent) and Switzerland (76 per cent). However, fewer than half of the respondents in Hong Kong share this intention (44 per cent), along with just 56 per cent in mainland China and 61 per cent in Taiwan. Entrepreneurs in Asia, with the exception of India, are not planning ahead to the same degree as their counterparts elsewhere. Entrepreneurs in mainland China (25 per cent), Hong Kong (29 per cent) and Taiwan (27 per cent), plus to a slightly lesser extent Singapore (22 per cent), show the most interest in selling their business as the exit route of the 10 surveyed markets. The sector most favoured for sale globally is electronics (21 per cent), a sector in which Asia accounts for almost two-thirds of world exports.

The efficiency-oriented approach of Green AI allows for its better integration with grassroots organizations, educational institutions and start-ups involved in AI development. The choice between Green and Red AI, amidst the ongoing AI-led technological transformation, will shape not just technological outcomes for India but also environmental and social ones. Green AI can act as a bridge and make the transformative potential of AI to all parts of the country. It can help in better knowledge dissemination, equitable development and in ensuring that the benefits of AI are widely distributed. India needs an AI that respects its rich & diverse culture and Green AI is the way forward.

North Korea's second naval destroyer is damaged in a failed launch at a ceremony attended by Kim

SEOUL (Agency): North Korea's second naval destroyer was damaged in its failed launch to the water this week, state media reported on Thursday, in an embarrassment for leader Kim Jong Un as he pushes to modernize his naval forces. It's not common for North Korea to acknowledge military-related setbacks, but observers say the disclosure of the failed ship launch suggests that Kim is serious about his naval advancement program and confident of ultimately achieving its objectives. During a launching event at the northeastern port of Chongjin on Wednesday, the newly built 5,000-ton-class destroyer became unbalanced and was punctured in its bottom sections after a transport cradle on the stern section slid off first and became stuck, according to the

Korean Central News Agency. KCNA didn't provide details on what caused the problem, the severity of the damage or whether anyone was injured. According to KCNA, Kim, who was present at the ceremony, blamed military officials, scientists and shipyard operators for a "serious accident and criminal act caused by absolute carelessness, irresponsibility and unscientific empiricism." Kim called for a ruling Workers' Party meeting slated for late June to address their "irresponsible errors." "It's a shameful thing. But the reason why North Korea disclosed the incident is it wants to show it's speeding up the modernization of its navy forces and expresses its confidence that it can eventually build" a greater navy, said Moon Keun-sik, a navy expert who teaches at Seoul's

Hanyang University. Moon suspected the incident likely happened because North Korean workers aren't yet familiar with such a large warship and were rushed to put it in the water. The damaged vessel was likely in the same class as the country's first destroyer, unveiled April 25, which experts assessed as the North's largest and most advanced warship to date. Kim called the first vessel, named Choe Hyon — a famed Korean guerilla fighter during the Japanese colonial period — a significant asset for advancing his goal of expanding the military's operational range and nuclear strike capabilities. State media described that ship as designed to handle various weapons systems, including anti-air and anti-ship weapons as well as nuclear-capable ballistic and

cruise missiles. Kim said the ship was expected to enter active duty early next year and later supervised test-firings of missiles



from the warship. Lee Sung Joon, spokesperson for South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Thursday the damaged vessel was likely equipped with similar systems and remains toppled over in the sea. The North Korean report came after recent

commercial satellite images indicated that the country was building its second destroyer at a shipyard in Chongjin.

Beyond Parallel, a website run by the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank, said the satellite imagery of Chongjin's Hambuk shipyard on May 12 showed that a second vessel in the Choe Hyon-class of guided missile destroyers was

under construction.

A report by the North Korea-focused 38 North website assessed last week that the destroyer built at the Chongjin shipyard was being prepared to be launched sideways from the quay, a method that has been rarely used in North Korea. The report said the previous destroyer launched at the western shipyard of Nampo, in contrast, used a floating dry dock. South Korean officials and experts say the Choe Hyon destroyer was likely built with Russian assistance as the two countries' military partnerships are booming. While North Korea's naval forces are considered inferior to South Korea's, analysts still view the destroyer as a serious security threat, as it could enhance the country's offensive and defensive capabilities. Kim has framed the

arms buildup as a response to perceived threats from the United States and its allies in Asia, who have been expanding joint military exercises amid rising tensions over the North's nuclear program. He says the acquisition of a nuclear-powered submarine would be his next big step in strengthening his navy. Hours after releasing the report on the damaged destroyer, North Korea fired multiple cruise missiles from an area near the northeastern town of Sondok, according to South Korea's military. The launches were a continuation of a streak of weapons-testing activities by North Korea in recent years. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff didn't immediately say how far the missiles flew, noting the launches were being analyzed by South Korean and US intelligence authorities.

Hooting not shooting across the India-Pakistan frontier

NEW DELHI: Sometimes the only outsiders that Indian troops posted along the frontier in Kashmir see are Pakistani soldiers eyeballing them across the remote valley high in the rugged Himalayan mountains. Contact between them extends to what Indian soldiers posted to the fortified concrete bunkers call "hooting" -- an occasional taunting shout or whistle echoing across the divide, which can be as little as 30 metres (100 feet) at its narrowest point. That's close enough to hurl a hand grenade or, perhaps more hopefully for the arch-rivals who share a sporting passion, a well-thrown cricket ball. "There is

obviously no interaction with the enemy," an Indian officer deployed along the de facto border, dubbed the Line of Control (LoC), told AFP in a visit to positions organised by the army. Troops on each side are settling back down to an uneasy standoff a month after the deadly April 22 attack on tourists in Kashmir sent relations spiralling towards a war between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan. New Delhi blamed Islamabad for backing the Islamist militants it said were behind the killing of 26 men in the deadliest attack on civilians in Muslim-majority Kashmir in decades. Pakistan denies the charge. Troops along the LoC began exchanging nightly gunfire

two days after the attack, rattling off shots into the dark without causing casualties. India then launched strikes



deep into Pakistan's territory on May 7, triggering four days of intense drone, missile, aerial combat and artillery exchanges. More than 70 people were

killed on both sides, the worst conflict since 1999, before a ceasefire was agreed on May 10. It is still holding

and the LoC is again quiet. Diplomatically, New Delhi and Islamabad seem back to an uneasy peace, trading long-standing accusations that the other supports

militant groups operating in their territory.

Islamabad blamed India on Wednesday for a bomb attack on a school bus that killed six people, which New Delhi called a "baseless" allegation and said it was "second nature for Pakistan to blame India for all its internal issues".

India expelled a Pakistani diplomat on Wednesday, the second since the ceasefire deal. Soldiers from either side eye each other warily across the razor's edge of the LoC that slices through the territory, home to some 17 million people and which each side claims in full.

The Indian officer pointed to a green ridge where he said Indian and Pakistani posts

were about 30-40 metres apart. "There are many such places across the frontline," he said.

"Our soldiers can see and hear the other side at such posts," said the officer, who could not be identified because he did not have official clearance to speak to the media.

"There is even hooting at times, but no conversations." When the hooting does happen, it is sometimes to taunt the other during rare cricket matches between the rival nations. For the Indian forces, the Pakistani soldiers can be the only other humans they see outside their unit for weeks when snow cuts them off in the winter months.

Trump’s Afrikaners are South African opportunists, not refugees: What’s behind the US move



NEW DELHI: South Africans are wearily attuned to governments’ Orwellian misuse of language. After all, South Africa is a country where a one-time government passed a law (the Natives Abolition of Passes and Coordination of Documents Act of 1952) which extended rather than abolishing the notorious pass system. This made it compulsory for black South Africans over the age of 16 to carry a passbook. And the same government passed the Extension of University Education Act of 1959 which made it more, not less, difficult for black students to register at “open” (or white) universities. So perhaps they should not be unduly surprised that the government of the US has imported 49 Afrikaners and labelled them as “refugees”. The claim is that they are escaping from the persecution of Afrikaners – and white people more broadly – in South Africa today. The Trump administration knows perfectly well this claim is a complete fabrication. As President Cyril Ramaphosa and his government have pointed out, there is no evidence whatsoever that Afrikaners or white people more generally are subject to genocide. True, South Africa has one of the highest murder rates in the world. But it is poor black South Africans – not whites – who are principal victims of such deadly violence. Nor are Afrikaners/whites subject to persecution. Along with all other South Africans, their human rights are protected by a constitution. This is no mere piece of paper. Its provisions are (albeit imperfectly, and unlike in the US these days) largely enforced by the courts. Furthermore, genocide implies the deliberate elimination of a people on racial, ethnic, or religious grounds. Therefore, if a genocide of whites and Afrikaners was taking place, we might assume that their numbers would be falling. In fact the reverse is true. The white population has continued to grow (albeit slowly) in

absolute numbers since 1994. Worse, the characterisation of Afrikaners as refugees at a moment in time when the people of Gaza are daily subject to a regime of death, terror, and murder inflicted on them by the Israeli government is not merely an absurdity but a downright insult to those genuinely

subject to genocide. Extensive commentary has correctly highlighted the motivations of the Trump administration. First, the administration has launched an attack on what it terms the “tyranny” of “diversity, equity and inclusion” policies across the entire spectrum of public and private institutions in America. Critics argue this is driven by an appeal to Trump’s white Christian nationalist political base. Because post-apartheid South Africa, rightly or wrongly, has become the poster-country of diversity, equity and inclusion policies internationally, because of its constitutional commitment to non-racialism and diversity, it has been singled out for attack. Secondly, labelling Afrikaners as refugees plays to the insecurities of Trump’s political base. This finds the idea of a white minority being ruled by a black majority government difficult to swallow. Third, characterising Afrikaners as subject to genocide is a very deliberate response to South Africa’s charging of Israel as guilty of genocide against the Palestinian people before the International Court of Justice. But this is unacceptable to the US Christian nationalist right. For them the existence of Israel represents the realisation of Biblical truth -- the return of Jews to the Holy Land. Trump is saying that the US can and will play the same game, using it to clobber South Africa regardless of the groundlessness of the charge. But, being Trump, he will balance pandering to his support base against what economic benefits he can extract from South Africa. But what of the 49 Afrikaners themselves? Why have they chosen to accept the opportunity offered to them by the US government? After all, extensive attention in the South African media has been given to Afrikaners who have defiantly stated that they are committed to staying in South Africa.

'A priest, a paramedic and a music teacher': France detains 55 men in paedophile ring crackdown

NEW DELHI: Fifty-five men have been arrested in France this week as part of an operation to dismantle a suspected paedophile ring operating via the Telegram messaging app, authorities said Thursday. The arrests took place in 42 departments over possession, distribution and regular viewing of pornography involving children "under the age of 10", France's OFMIN, an office tasked with preventing violence against minors, told AFP. The arrests, which followed a ten-month investigation, took place from Monday to Thursday. The suspects, aged 25 to 75, include a priest, a paramedic and a music teacher. The men exchanged messages on Telegram and were in contact with "extremely dangerous" paedophiles who have been in prison since last summer, Quentin Bevan, head of the OFMIN's operational unit, told AFP. The large-scale operation began last summer with the arrest of individuals



suspected of abusing children and posting images on Telegram. "It took ten months of investigation to track down these child abusers," Bevan said. "Ten months of undercover work involving thousands of exchanges, analysis and detection of paedophile images by a task force set up at the OFMIN." The office issued the warrant that led to the arrest of Telegram founder Pavel Durov in Paris in 2024, and he remains under formal investigation by French authorities over illegal content on the popular

service. After days of questioning, Durov was charged with several counts of failing to curb extremist and terrorist content. Investigators have confronted Durov with cases ranging from child abuse to drug trading, scams, arms sales and the hiring of hitmen. Durov has since announced steps appearing to bow to Paris's demands. While Bevan acknowledged progress in Telegram's cooperation with investigators since Durov's arrest, he said the platform was "barely fulfilling its legal obligations".

Philippines says China Coast Guard fired water cannon, 'sideswiped' government vessel

MANILA (Agency): The Philippines fisheries bureau accused the China Coast Guard on Thursday of firing water cannon and sideswiping a Filipino government vessel while it collected sand for a research project. China and the Philippines have engaged in months of confrontations in the contested South China Sea, which Beijing claims almost entirely, despite an international ruling that the assertion has no legal basis.

Wednesday's encounter happened near a group of small sandbanks in the

Spratly Islands where two Filipino ships were collecting sand samples "as part of a marine scientific



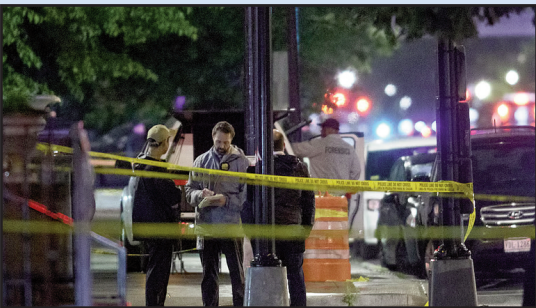
research initiative", the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources said in a

statement. "At approximately 0913H, CCG vessel 21559 water cannoned and sideswiped the

personnel." It was the first time water cannon were used against Philippine vessels near the disputed Sandy Cay reef, the bureau added. The "aggressive interference, dangerous maneuvers, and illegal acts" damaged the Philippine ship's port bow and smokestack, according to the bureau's statement. The Philippines scientific team was still able "to complete its operations in Pag-Asa Cays 1, 2 and 3", the statement said, using the Philippine term for the Sandy Cays. China's foreign

ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said she was not aware of the incident. "What I can tell you is that the Chinese Coast Guard always enforces the law in accordance with laws and regulations," she said. Last month, the Philippines slammed as "irresponsible" a Chinese state media report claiming that Sandy Cay 2 was put under China's control. Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said that the country's coast guard had "implemented maritime control" over Tiexian Reef in mid-April.

Two Israeli embassy staffers killed in shooting near Jewish museum in Washington DC



WASHINGTON (Agency): Two staff members of the Israeli Embassy in Washington were shot and killed Wednesday evening while leaving an event at a Jewish museum, and the suspect yelled, “Free, free Palestine” after he was arrested, police said.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar identified the victims as Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim. Lischinsky was a research assistant, and Milgrim organized visits and missions to Israel. They were leaving an event at the Capital Jewish Museum when the suspect approached a group of four people and opened fire, Metropolitan Police Chief Pamela Smith said at a news conference.

The suspect, identified as Elias Rodriguez, 30, of Chicago, was observed pacing outside the museum before the shooting, walked into the museum after the shooting and was detained by event security, Smith said. When he was taken into custody, the suspect began chanting, “Free, free Palestine,” Smith said. She said law enforcement did not believe there was an ongoing threat to the community.

The stunning attack prompted Israeli missions to beef up their security. The shooting comes as Israel has launched another major offensive in the Gaza Strip in a war with Hamas that has heightened tensions across the Middle East and internationally.

“These horrible DC killings, based obviously on antisemitism, must end, NOW!” President Donald Trump posted on social media early Thursday. “Hatred and Radicalism have no place in the USA.”

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem announced the deaths in a post on X after the shooting outside the Capital Jewish Museum, which is located steps away from the FBI’s field office in the nation’s capital.

Attorney General Pam Bondi said she was at the scene with former judge Jeanine Pirro, who serves as the US attorney in Washington.

Danny Danon, Israel’s ambassador to the United Nations, called the shooting a “depraved act of anti-Semitic terrorism.”

Police offered no details late Wednesday night on a potential motive for the shooting. A news conference was expected later Wednesday.

“We are confident that the US authorities will take strong action against those responsible for this criminal act,” Danon said in a post on X. “Israel will continue to act resolutely to protect its citizens and representatives — everywhere in the world.”

‘Control freak’ Victoria Beckham claims, ‘I’m not perfect, but a good mum’ amid feud with son Brooklyn and his wife Nicola Peltz



Former Spice Girl star, Victoria Beckham, recently appeared for an interview with Reviewed by OSA to discuss her upcoming Netflix documentary, her fashion brand, and most importantly, the role she plays in her house as a wife and as a mother, insisting she ‘tries’ her best to balance those with her professional life. For the day, the 51-year-old was joined by her youngest daughter, Harper. Her comments come just days after David Beckham’s 50th birthday that threw the seemingly perfect family’s image into the spotlight for a brewing feud inside, after reports that the oldest kid of the Beckham clan, Brooklyn, and his wife Nicola Peltz, skipped the celebration and have drifted away from the family because of David and Victoria’s alleged ‘toxic’ behaviour. The interview kickstarted with the host wishing a belated birthday to the fashionista who recently turned 51 on April 17. During the conversation, the luxury brand owner casually mentioned, “I’d like to think I’m a good mum, a good wife. I try to be the best that I can,” when asked “Who is Victoria Beckham.” After briefly discussing her brand, saying she has big dreams and calling herself a ‘very positive person with positive energy,’ she added that she always carries this optimistic aura even when things are tough, and said, “I work hard. I like to think I’m a kind person. I’m very positive. I love a good energy.” After pioneering the world of fashion, Victoria also released her beauty line, and she opened up about her childhood insecurity with her skin where she used to hide, and said that she learned from the best in the “industry,” adding that she had her fair share of battles with difficulty even at this stage, but the habit of being “super focused” on work is what keeps her going. She went again to double down on her claims that “she is a wonderful mother” after the host praised her for “handling family business well while looking after kids and David.” “I’m not trying to be perfect, I’ve never been perfect.

Neeraj Ghaywan opens up about receiving feedback from Martin Scorsese on Homebound screenplay, ‘It still hasn’t sunk in’

At this year’s Cannes Film Festival, filmmaker Neeraj Ghaywan is experiencing what many directors only dream of. His film Homebound not only premiered in the prestigious Un Certain Regard section, but also came with creative input from legendary filmmaker Martin Scorsese. In a conversation with The Hollywood Reporter India, Ghaywan opened up about the surreal experience of receiving detailed notes on his screenplay from Scorsese himself. “Well, the notes came in over e-mail, and... and detail. In detail. Because he started out on the script, and he said advised me to shave off a lot of the exposition. And, you know, this is the first time I’m



actually writing a full screenplay. So that was a little daunting, because every filmmaker wants to say a hundred things in the same film,” Ghaywan shared. “So those things, and try to put restraint on some of the arcs that he said may impede your main narrative. Those points were really bang on because it helped me, like, pave the screenplay.” He added that Scorsese’s guidance didn’t end with the script. “We actually went with a very big screenplay, and also during editing, like, he had such wonderful things to talk about. Like say how to make it shorter, make it to the point, and every bit of it. Sometimes it was such disbelief, you know, like to even comprehend that, ‘Hello, he is talking about my film.’

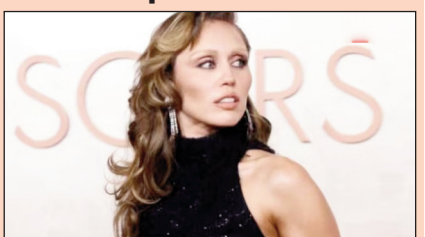
Which villains will be seen in Spider-Man-4? Here’s all that we know about Peter Parker’s next challenge

The rumour mill is working overtime yet again, and this time it’s churning out stories regarding the villains we can expect to see in the upcoming Spider-Man movie, Brand New Day. Out of all the places in the world, The Disney Blockbuster Consumer Products Presentation provided the fans with some insight into all the possible characters that could be standing in the way of Peter Parker and justice in the fourth film of the franchise. A user on Instagram who attended the presentation posted details about the event and the hints that they dropped during it. While the post is now deleted, it wasn’t long before major publications picked it up and started breaking down all the information they had been provided with. The villains that have been named as a possibility for Spider-Man 4 include the Scorpion, Boomerang, and Tombstone. Scorpion and Tombstone have already been seen in the animated film Spider-Man: Into the



Spider-Verse, playing the role of Kingpin’s henchmen. While this information is still standing on a shaky foundation, there is news about who Stranger Things actor Sadie Sink is going to play in the movie, and it originates from a much more credible source. While appearing on the podcast The Hot Mic, industry insider John Rocha talked about his discussion with someone from the Marvel camp, and he revealed that Sadie is likely to play the character of M a y d a y P a r k e r o r Spider-Girl. Mayday is the daughter of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson who belongs to the ‘Marvel Comics 2’ universe. Technically t h e redheaded troublemaker has already graced the screens, as she was seen as an infant in Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse and was introduced as the daughter of Peter and Mary from Earth 616, which is considered the original timeline. If we look at the current information available to us about the three Spider-Men that appeared in the last film, it is most likely that Sadie will be playing the daughter of Tobey Maguire’s Peter Parker and Kirsten Dunst’s Mary Jane, who technically belong to Earth 96283. Even in the film Spider-Man: No Way Home, Tobey’s Peter talks about his relationship with Dunst’s Mary and says to Garfield’s Peter, “I wouldn’t give up. It took a while, but we made it work. I and MJ.

Miley Cyrus opens up about ‘traumatic’ health scare that nearly made her quit music: ‘Excruciating experience’



Popstar Miley Cyrus recently opened up about the ‘traumatic’ health scare she dealt with mid-performance back in 2023 on New Year’s Eve. The 32-year-old, who has been quite vocal about her personal life after opening up about her dynamic with dad Billy Ray Cyrus, sat for an interview on The Zane Lowe Show and detailed the ‘excruciating’ experience that nearly made her quit the music scene altogether. Miley is currently working on her next studio album, titled Something Beautiful. The album will feature Brittany Howard and Naomi Campbell. Back in 2023, Miley was scheduled to ring in the new year with country singer Dolly Parton, Paris Hilton and singer Sia. “I had a pretty traumatic experience on a show that I was doing with Lorne [Michaels],” Miley recalled the unexpected and painful moment that happened as soon as stepped in to co host NBC’s “Miley’s New Year’s Eve Party,” with Dolly Parton.

A Working Man movie review: Jason Statham switches jobs, not genre, in another grit-and-growl thriller

The David Ayer directorial never quite crackles, but it doesn’t fumble either. The pacing is taut, but emotionally, the film feels like a flatline punctuated by action beats.

In a world where cinematic universes stretch thinner by the year and franchise fatigue lurks around every marquee, there is something oddly comforting about walking into a Jason Statham movie. You know what you’re signing up for: tight T-shirts, tighter punches, and the occasional, gruffly-delivered one-liners. With A Working Man, Statham returns in full force, playing a salt-of-the-earth bruiser caught up in a web of crime. The film, directed by David Ayer and co-written with Sylvester Stallone, is exactly what you expect, but not quite enough of what you hope. Jason Statham has carved a corner in the action hero pantheon. If Tom Cruise is the daredevil philosopher-king of high-concept action, Statham is the neighbourhood tough guy who shows up with a steel-toed boot and unfinished business. He isn’t chasing immortality or IMF conspiracies, he’s just trying to live a quiet life. In A Working Man, his Levon Cade is a former special ops soldier-turned-construction worker who wants nothing more than to raise his daughter in peace. This setup—a reformed man drawn back into violence when someone he cares about is in danger—is as old as cinema itself. Indian audiences might recognise the echoes of Fateh in spirit, if not tone. What differentiates this film, at least superficially, is its attempt at grounding the story in a blue-collar milieu, perhaps a nod to Stallone’s working-class roots. But the narrative, for all its grime and grit, never quite lets go of its glossy action-hero sheen. The core plot kicks off when Jenny, the daughter of Levon’s boss (played by a surprisingly subdued Michael Peña), goes missing. Levon, reluctant but duty-bound, dives headfirst into the criminal underworld, unleashing a series of brutal takedowns that would make John Wick blink. The violence is visceral, the choreography functional but unremarkable. While there’s a certain satisfaction in watching Statham bulldoze his way through goons, there’s little inventiveness in the way it’s all stitched together. Ayer, who previously gave us the bruising End of Watch and the scattershot Suicide Squad, brings a workmanlike quality to the direction here.



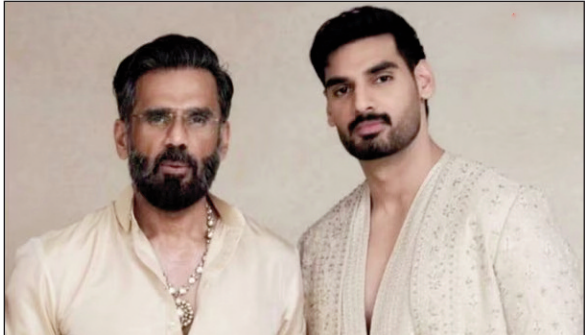
At Cannes, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan wore a Manish Malhotra necklace adorned with 500-carat Mozambique rubies, uncut diamonds, set in 18k gold

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan made yet another striking appearance at the ongoing Cannes Film Festival this year. The actor walked the red carpet on Wednesday, in a beautiful Manish Malhotra ivory saree, paired with precious ruby necklaces. Fans also noticed the thick line of sindoor (vermillion) on her head. While waving to her fans, Aishwarya posed for pictures with a namaste while walking on the red carpet. In a recent social media post, designer Manish Malhotra revealed details about her outfit and jewellery at Cannes 2025. Taking to his Instagram handle, Manish shared a few pictures of Aish’s look and called her the ‘Beautiful Indian queen of Cannes’. He wrote in the caption, “At the 78th Cannes Film Festival (@festivaldecannes), the undisputed icon of the Cannes red carpet, the beautiful Aishwarya Rai Bachchan (@aishwaryarabachchan_arb), makes a striking return in a visual statement that honours Indian handloom— a meditation in ivory, rose gold, and silver: a handwoven Kadwa ivory Banarasi handloom #mymmsaree. The Kadwa brocade technique stands as a true testament to the unmatched skill of Indian weavers. Originating from the famed looms of Varanasi, this intricate method involves crafting each motif separately, often using multiple shuttles and supplementary threads.” Detailing her Banarasi saree further, Manish added, “The saree features handwoven brocade motifs and hand-embroidered zari detailing in real chandi (silver), further extending the sanctity of the fabric. Draped alongside is a sheer white tissue handwoven dupatta, edged with real gold and silver zardozi embroidery. The ensemble marks a deliberate departure from conventional red carpet codes, reintroducing the saree not as nostalgia, but as contemporary couture. A bold assertion from the brand, rewriting what Indian ceremonial dress can signify on the global stage. He also revealed that Aishwarya’s necklaces were more than 500 carats of rubies and uncut diamonds. “Paired with heirloom high jewellery from @manishmalhotrajewellery featuring , over 500 carats of Mozambique rubies and uncut diamonds in 18k gold and the renaissance of ruby statement rings this look foregrounds textile as language, and craftsmanship as power,” the designer’s caption concluded. Aishwarya Rai Bachchan reached Cannes with her daughter Aaradhya Bachchan on Tuesday.



‘Dhajjiyan uda dunga’: Suniel Shetty threatens to expose Bollywood folks running negative campaigns against son Ahan

Actor Suniel Shetty voiced his anger at those who’ve allegedly spread negativity about his son, Ahan, in the press. He said that he will expose each and every person responsible for these negative campaigns, and threatened to hold a press conference where he will reveal their names publicly. He said that Ahan has been accused of having a large entourage by individuals



said that the movie will probably be rewatched for years and years on important occasions such as

Independence Day and Republic Day, and that it’s important for Ahan to put his best foot forward. Suniel also said that Ahan had numerous offers on the table, but chose to do Border 2 because of his love for the nation and the family’s connection to the series. He said, “I told him that this movie will keep him alive (in the minds of the audience) for decades to come, like the first Border has kept me alive. Ahan let go of a lot of opportunities because of this film; he missed out on a lot because of the ego of others. He was thrown out of those films, and he was blamed for it in the press. They said that he has a 10-person entourage; people paid lots of money to get negative articles written about him. Do you think I don’t have connections? Do you think I can’t do the same thing?”

Why MS Dhoni and Fleming rate ‘AK47’ Anshul Kamboj high

New Delhi (Agency): In the Haryana dressing room, Anshul Kamboj goes by the nickname ‘AK 47’. During the Ranji season, his teammates would often chant ‘AK47’ as he ran in to bowl and there is a small story behind that. “When they asked for a number, everyone was picking their birth date or a lucky number. But I was looking for something unique that will match by name. So I picked 47 because it is also rhyming well...now everyone calls me that.” In 2024, he picked all ten wickets in an innings against



Kerala, and has been growing from strength to strength since. This year he has starred for Chennai Super Kings and has earned praise from Dhoni and Fleming. Kamboj has been named in the India A squad

on the tour of England, and if he performs well there, there is a chance he can sneak into the main national squad as well. “He’ll do well on that tour (of England) if he gets conditions that seam a bit and a little bit of swing,” Fleming

said at the end of the game against Rajasthan Royals. “He’ll be an absolute handful. He has got some real potential with both white and red ball. We’re happy with his development and the opportunity he has taken this year.” There were some concerns about the drop in his pace early on in this season but Fleming believes he is in good space right now. “His speeds have been around 138, 139 (kph). He is deceptive and the ball always seems to hit the gloves harder. His big strength is his length and he just gets the ball to wobble.

Bruno Fernandes offers to leave Man Utd to help club rebuild

BILBAO (Agency): Bruno Fernandes has offered to leave Manchester United if the club need to cash in on him in order to rebuild after the heartbreak of their Europa League final defeat by Tottenham. United lost 1-0 in Bilbao on Wednesday courtesy of a Brennan Johnson goal, compounding a miserable season for the club. Manager Ruben Amorim said after the defeat that if the club no longer wanted him he would quit "without any conversation about compensation". Now his captain, 30, has followed suit, aware of United's need for an overhaul of the playing staff despite financial constraints. "I have always been honest. I've always said I will be here until the club says to me that it's time to go," said Fernandes. "I'm eager to do more, to be able to bring the club to the great days. On the day that the club thinks that I'm too much or it's time to part ways, football is like this, you never know it. "But I've always said it and I keep my word in the same way. If the club thinks it's time to part ways because they want to do some cashing in or whatever, it is what it is and football sometimes is like this." Fernandes has been United's standout player for United this season but failed to make



"Very sad day"
He said the defeat was a crushing blow. "We wanted to win more than anything in this final," he said. "It's a very sad day because we've done some very good things in this competition until today. "But today (Wednesday) was the day that mattered, the most important day of the competition. It was the day we could have been in the history of the Europa League, but it's not like that. And football is cruel, and it's been our turn to lose." The midfielder, who joined United in 2020, insisted his compatriot Amorim was still the right man to lead United, despite a terrible record since arriving at Old Trafford in November. United have won just six league games on his watch and are 16th in the Premier League, destined for their lowest finish since relegation in 1974. "We (the players) just agreed that he's the right man," said Fernandes. "He has done a lot of good things. We know that the manager is looked at by the results. "Obviously we see more than that as players. We know for everyone it will be about him bringing back the positivity in the club. "To try to bring the club back to fight for trophies, fight for the big trophies. And we all agree that he's the right man."

DC's Mukesh Kumar fined 10% of match fees for Code of Conduct breach



MUMBAI (Agency): Delhi Capitals pacer Mukesh Kumar has been fined 10 per cent of his match fees for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during his team's loss against Mumbai Indians here, Mukesh was also handed one demerit point for his level 1 offence under Article 2.2 which deals with "abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during a match". Delhi Capitals lost to MI by 59 runs here on Wednesday. The loss meant DC were knocked out of the playoff contention with MI sealing the last available spot. "Mukesh Kumar admitted to the Level 1 offence under Article 2.2 and accepted the Match Referee's sanction," an IPL release stated. For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding. On Wednesday, Mukesh gave away 48 runs in his four overs while picking up two wickets. He conceded 27 runs, including three sixes and two fours, in his last over.

Tottenham beats Man United 1-0 for Europa League title and ends long trophy drought

SPAIN (Agency): Tottenham's title drought is finally over. Spurs beat Manchester United 1-0 to win the Europa League final and lift its first European trophy in more than four decades on Wednesday. It is the first major title for Tottenham since it won the English League Cup in 2008, and first European triumph since it won its second UEFA Cup — the equivalent of the Europa League now — in 1984. Brennan Johnson squeezed in the winner at the end of the first half to help Spurs salvage a dismal season in which it will finish near the bottom of the Premier League standings. "This is what it's all about," Johnson said. "This club hasn't won a trophy for 17 years. This is what it means; it means so much. Ever since I came here it's been,

'Tottenham are a good team but can never get it done.' We got it done." The title guarantees Spurs a spot in

Liverpool in the Champions League final. Tottenham finished its Europa League campaign



next season's Champions League, and brings some much-needed relief for manager Ange Postecoglou after he struggled to keep his team on track all year. The victory in Europe's second-tier competition comes six years after Tottenham fell short against

with 10 wins, three draws and two losses. No team has won more games in the UEFA Cup-Europa League than Tottenham, according to UEFA. Its 98th victory in the competition on Wednesday moves it clear of the joint record of 97 it previously

held with Roma. The defeat adds pressure on United coach Ruben Amorim, whose team sits in 16th place — just ahead of Tottenham — in the Premier League. The club won't play in any European competition next season. "I am not going to talk about the future, tonight we need to deal with the pain of losing this match," Amorim said. "We were the better team and the guys tried everything to win the game." United came close to equalizing the match on Wednesday when a header by Rasmus Hojlund was acrobatically cleared at the goal line by Tottenham's Micky van de Ven in the 68th. Deep into stoppage time, a header by Luke Shaw prompted a difficult save by Tottenham goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario.

Next IOC president Kirsty Coventry hands over the baton in planning for Brisbane 2032 Olympics



BRISBANE (Agency): Kirsty Coventry has completed a ceremonial baton change before she takes over as International Olympic Committee president next month, handing off oversight of preparations for the Brisbane 2032 Games during a three-day inspection visit to southeast Queensland state. Mikaela Cojuangco Jaworski replaced Coventry as head of the IOC's coordination commission for the 2032 Summer Games after the Olympic swimming champion from Zimbabwe was elected to take over from Thomas Bach in the sporting organisation's job. All three were part of the IOC team that met in Brisbane and the Gold Coast for their first on-the-ground update on the

planning overhaul from local organizers. “I’m here to formally hand over the baton, or the Olympic flame ... boomerang!” Coventry said as she introduced Jaworski at an IOC coordination commission news conference Thursday at Brisbane’s Suncorp Stadium. "I hope that I’m leaving some good vibes.” Coventry made her Olympic competition debut at the Sydney 2000 Games and has family living in Australia. She said feels right at home after chairing the coordination commission since soon after the IOC awarded the 2032 Games to Brisbane in 2021. “I’m very excited about what Brisbane 2032 is going to do,” she said. "Not just for the region, but for Australia and for the world.”

It took more than 1,000 days and at least three major concept changes before a newly elected Queensland state government settled on a comprehensive venue plan in March. That includes a new 60,000-seat stadium and an aquatics center to be built in parklands close to downtown Brisbane, as well as proposals to share events with regions outside the capital. The surprising call to host rowing in a crocodile-inhabited river in Rockhampton on the central Queensland coast has attracted concern and criticism from the public and sports administrators. Veteran IOC Olympic Games executive director Christophe Dubi said there's time for local organizers and sports federations to consider all options and collaborate on specifics for venues, and there's absolutely no need to panic with seven years until the Brisbane Games. “No one else but the federation can say the field of play is ready,” he said, noting who had the final sign-off on sports venues as the planning for the Olympics evolve.

Chambal gets men’s & women’s T20 teams in expanded Madhya Pradesh league

The Chambal Ghariyals (alligators) are the newest team to join the mushrooming Madhya Pradesh state T20 league, as the town will soon field teams in both men and women at the June 12 beginning tournament. In its second edition, the MP league which was a roaring success in its first year, has expanded to include teams from Chambal and Bundelkhand. The Madhya Pradesh League (MPL) is set to return for its latest season, commencing June 12 with matches being held in Shrimant Madhavrao Scindia Cricket Stadium in Shankarpur, Gwalior. The onset and advance of monsoons and delay in the conclusion of the Indian Premier League (IPL), forced a relocation from Indore to Gwalior, which hosted the first edition last year. Originally, the league was set to commence on May 27 in Indore, aligning with the IPL's earlier scheduled conclusion on May 25. Plenty of IPL stars are products of the local MP league and expected to turn out for their teams.

Matteo Berrettini pulls out of French Open due to injury



PARIS (Agency): Matteo Berrettini has pulled out of the French Open due to an unspecified injury and will be replaced in the main draw by a lucky loser, organizers said on Thursday. Play at Roland-Garros begins on Sunday at the clay-court Grand Slam. The No. 28-ranked Italian retired against Casper Ruud in the third round of the Italian Open last week. Two weeks before, he withdrew from his third-round match against Jack Draper in Madrid due to an abdominal injury. Berrettini was the 2021 Wimbledon runner-up but has been held back by nagging injuries since then. Last year, he withdrew from the Australian Open on the eve of the tournament with a right foot injury. Two years ago, he withdrew from the Italian Open to recover from a stomach muscle tear. The big-serving Berrettini also reached the 2019 U.S. Open semifinal and has 10 career titles.

Man United faces more financial turmoil after Europa League final loss



New Delhi (Agency): The financial consequences of Manchester United losing in the Europa League final should be painful and affect the club for years. It was a zero-sum game Tottenham won 1-0 on Wednesday: Winner goes into the Champions League — plus the UEFA Super Cup game in August — and loser is out of Europe next season and gets nothing. United lost a drab match despite, as football finance expert Kieran Maguire noted on Thursday, having higher revenue than Tottenham and spending 64% more on wages for a more expensively acquired squad of players. Tottenham also beat United twice in the Premier League this season, and in the domestic League Cup. “If I was teaching this at management school (I) would conclude that there is something seriously wrong with the culture of the

organization ... which is set by senior management,” Maguire wrote on X. Beyond the loss of sporting opportunities and reputational prestige, the club owned by the Glazer family from the United States and British billionaire industrialist Jim Ratcliffe has short and long-term financial hits ahead. No Champions League play next season is an instant loss of at least 80 million euros (\$90 million), and approaching 150 million euros (\$169 million) for a run deep into the knockout stage. United also misses out on the 4 million euros (\$4.5 million) Tottenham will get from UEFA for playing the Super Cup against the Champions League titleholder — either Inter Milan or Paris Saint-Germain — on Aug. 13 at Udinese's stadium in Italy. The winner gets a bonus of 1 million euros (\$1.1 million).

Suryakumar Yadav’s 73-run knock against Delhi: A throwback to pre-360 degree life

New Delhi (Agency): The first beam of light from Suryakumar Yadav's bat to the third-man fence flashed in the penultimate ball of Mumbai Indians innings. The 42nd ball he faced against Delhi Capitals, he crouched and dabbed a wide yorker past the wicket-keeper to the sprawling real estate behind third man and fine-leg where T20 batting's greatest field-space-time manipulator, in the post AB-era, finds a bulk of his runs. It took his most familiar boundary route to realise that he had taken the most unfamiliar path to travel this far. Then, the innings, an outlier in his album of improvised destructibility, captured his firm grounding in the pre-modern times, a throwback to the pre-360-degree life of Suryakumar. Before SKY, there existed Surya. He burst forth as a proper red-ball cricketer in Mumbai leagues in the late aughts, when playing straight and scoring big fetched the greatest rewards in the game, when T20 cricket had not yet transformed the geography of batting and initiated the era of disruptive shot innovation. He made his

first-class debut in 2010, and eight long years would pass before he fully evolved into a T20 giant. He was not so



much of a 360-degree exponent as a classical stroke-maker. This innings of methodical aggression was SKY's ode to Surya, punctuating his brilliance at hitting in the orthodox V, and finding the conventional pockets of gap, but still hitting at a strike rate of 170, still confounding bowlers and still winning games. Sizing up the surface, sluggish and where the odd

ball gripped and spat, he blindfolded himself to the temptations behind the wicket-keeper, the one-

side, he was content sneaking singles and twos. The innings was Dhoni-like in rendition. Gritting out and hanging on, punishing the loose balls, and going berserk in the endgame. At one stage, he was 22 off 21 balls; the next 22 earned him 51. Intermittently, he opened his stance, wandered in the crease, threatened to scoop and ramp, but those were all theatrics to distract bowlers and force them to bowl fuller at him, his safest zone for him to uncork the most productive shots on the surface. The fundamentals were pegged around the same basic movement, opening out his front foot to create that power-hitting base, the eyes and head still, limbs balanced and his mind processing a picture of the angles and spaces in the field, recalibrated minutely as the ball entered his arc. The same elastic wrists that guide and glide the ball past the fielders behind him attain a sudden fury. His first six off the night captured the essence. He danced down the track to Mustafizur Rahman's slower ball and clumped it over his head, a flat and furious swipe, similar to AB de Villiers' hits

on similarly slow surfaces where he can harness the bowler's pace. When there is no impetus on the ball, Surya, like AB, generates their own momentum with strong shoulders and a stable lower body. Rarely was Suryakumar spotted off-balance when he imparted incredible power into his strokes. The way out of the rut was in his own game, waiting to be discovered. So he turned the clock back, reacquainted with the Surya of maidans and rediscovered the runs and boundaries. So he adopted a more traditional approach, the zenith being the 73 not out against DC. “This is one innings which I was hoping for a long time: a difficult situation, to bat through to the end. It was a slightly slow wicket with the weather around. We wanted to take it deep, talked about that during the practice sessions, planned for it and batted accordingly,” he explained to the host broadcasters during the innings break. But the 360-degree avatar would not be far behind, waiting to resurface and consume helpless fast bowlers in its raging flames.



Uninvited guests have made Asia's largest auto testing track their home

Bhopal (Agency): Nilgais have made their home in the 3,000 acre campus of the National Automotive Test Track (NATRAX) located in Pithampur near Indore, the economic capital of Madhya Pradesh, and in view of the increasing risk of accidents, the campaign to save these wild animals from this campus and release them in their natural habitat has been intensified. Giving information about this on Wednesday, officials said that about 50 Nilgais rescued from the NATRAX campus of the Union Ministry of Heavy Industries have recently been released in the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, a habitat of leopards. He said that 'Boma technique' is being used to save the Nilgais. He said that Pithampur's NATRAX (National Automotive Test Tracks) is the largest auto testing track

of its kind in Asia, through which the strength of Sanctuary." Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary is the



vehicles and their parts is tested on world-class standards before they are launched in the market. Indore's Ralamandal Sanctuary Superintendent Yohan Katara told PTI, "We have rescued about 50 Nilgais from Netrax in Pithampur in the last five days and released them in Gandhi Sagar Wildlife

new home of cheetahs in the country where two cheetahs 'Prabhas' and 'Pavak' were released on April 20. This sanctuary is spread in Neemuch and Mandasaur districts of Madhya Pradesh and its distance from Netrax in Pithampur is about 300 km. Katara said, "At present, there are estimated to be 90 more Nilgais in Netrax. Our

Saving the lives of Nilgais with 'Boma technique'

Jaiswal said that in the last two years, more than 80 Nilgais have been safely rescued from Netrax complex and sent to their natural habitat. He said that in this complex, Nilgais are being saved through 'Boma technique' with the help of trained employees of the Forest Department. 'Boma technique' is a method of wildlife management which is especially famous in Africa. Under this technique, animals are brought to a special enclosure so that they can be caught for transfer or other purposes. Let us tell you that Netrax was formally launched in Pithampur on 28 January 2018 and before the big fence was erected in its huge premises, Nilgais had made it their home. He told that due to the availability of natural habitat, food and water in the Netrax premises, the number of Nilgais kept increasing year after year.

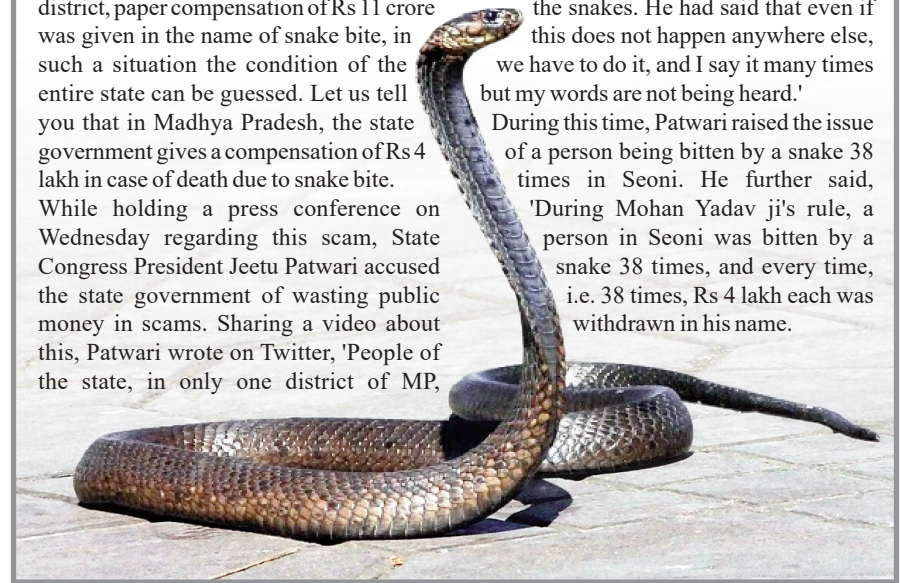
campaign to rescue these wild animals from this complex and release them in their natural habitat will continue. Manish Jaiswal, Director of Netrax, said, "No accident has happened so far due to Nilgai in our complex, but the danger of accidents due to this wild animal is clearly

present.' He further said, 'Vehicles of national and international vehicle manufacturers often run at a speed of 200 to 300 kilometers per hour during testing on our track. We are lucky that no vehicle running on the track has collided with a Nilgai during testing till now.'

A person died 38 times due to snake bite, compensation of Rs 4 lakh each time; Congress said 'snake scam' happened in MP

Bhopal (Agency):A shocking case has come to light in Madhya Pradesh, in which a single person was bitten by a snake 38 times and the administration issued compensation of Rs 4 lakh each time in his name. After which Congress has accused the state of having a 'snake scam'. This scam has come to light in Seoni district, in which the government treasury was defrauded of crores of rupees by repeatedly submitting death claims in the name of a person. Congress says that in just one district, paper compensation of Rs 11 crore was given in the name of snake bite, in such a situation the condition of the entire state can be guessed. Let us tell you that in Madhya Pradesh, the state government gives a compensation of Rs 4 lakh in case of death due to snake bite. While holding a press conference on Wednesday regarding this scam, State Congress President Jeetu Patwari accused the state government of wasting public money in scams. Sharing a video about this, Patwari wrote on Twitter, 'People of the state, in only one district of MP,

snakebite victims were given paper compensation of Rs 11 crore. Imagine, what would be the state of government corruption in the remaining 54 districts?' During the press conference, PCC Chief Patwari said, 'We must have seen and heard about many types of scams, corruption and thefts, but what has not happened anywhere in the world, has happened in Madhya Pradesh. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav ji had given a statement and asked the forest department employees to count the snakes. He had said that even if this does not happen anywhere else, we have to do it, and I say it many times but my words are not being heard.' During this time, Patwari raised the issue of a person being bitten by a snake 38 times in Seoni. He further said, 'During Mohan Yadav ji's rule, a person in Seoni was bitten by a snake 38 times, and every time, i.e. 38 times, Rs 4 lakh each was withdrawn in his name.



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.

Woman killed in UK: 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 reportedly 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.

If Ambedkar's statue is not installed in HC, Manu's statue will also not be allowed to remain; Bhim Sena jumps into statue controversy and threatens

Bhopal (Agency): There has been a controversy going on for the past several days in the Gwalior bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court regarding the installation of the statue of Constitution maker Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. A group of lawyers is opposing the installation of this statue here. Now Bhim Sena has also entered this controversy. Bhim Sena's national president Nawab Satpal Tanwar, who lives in Gurugram, says that if Baba Saheb's statue is not allowed to be installed in Gwalior High Court, then Manu's statue installed in Jaipur High Court of Rajasthan will also not be allowed to remain. Tanwar gave this threat by

releasing a video. In a message shared on social media regarding this controversy, the Bhim Sena chief said, 'If Baba Saheb Ambedkar's statue is not installed in Gwalior High Court of Madhya Pradesh, then Bhim Sena declares that Manu's statue will also not remain in Jaipur High Court of Rajasthan. Your mother did not feed you enough milk and your father does not have the guts to stop you from installing the statue of our Messiah, our God, Param Pujya Baba Saheb Ambedkar Ji in Gwalior High Court of Madhya Pradesh.' After this, the Bhimsena chief made controversial comments and further threatened, "When your



fathers and grandfathers did not have the guts to write the Constitution of India, Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar Ji, the son of a Dalit,

our path, it will be better for your health.' At the same time, in another message shared on social media, Satpal instructed the Bhim Sainiks to reach Gwalior and Jaipur, saying that perhaps now the time has come to sacrifice for the honor of our Messiah. In this message, Satpal said, 'Bhim Sainiks of Madhya Pradesh, you prepare to reach Gwalior. Bhim Sainiks of Rajasthan, you prepare to reach Jaipur High Court. Perhaps now the time has come to sacrifice ourselves for the honour and self-respect of our Messiah Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar ji.' The Bhim Sena chief further wrote, 'Perhaps now the time has come near to fully

implement the Indian Constitution written by Baba Saheb in the honourable judiciary. Perhaps now the time has come near to uproot the laws of Manu which have taken root in the honourable judiciary. Bhim soldiers, be ready to sacrifice your lives when the time comes. Bhim Sena will take a decision very soon and give orders, brave soldiers of Bhim's army, you be ready.' According to reports, in the year 2018, two women of Bhim Sena Bihar had blackened the statue of Manu installed in Jaipur High Court, after which this issue had heated up a lot. Both the women were identified as residents of Aurangabad, Bihar.

Gone in 15 mins – here's DTC's new plan to remove buses that break down on Delhi roads

Delhi (Agency): The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has identified 30 locations where its CNG-run buses frequently break down, causing traffic disruptions daily, said officials. On average, 100 to 123 DTC buses break down daily, most at critical spots like ISBT Kashmere Gate, Minto Bridge underpass, Sarai Kale Khan, Rajghat, ITO, Vikas Marg, Civil lines, Dhaula Kuan, AIIMS flyover, Baba Kharak Singh Marg, Ashram, and Dhaula Kuan near Subroto Park police station, among others, officials added. (see box) "Many buses under DTC and cluster bus services bought during the 2010 Commonwealth Games have completed their service tenure. Several of these buses are being operated after the annual maintenance contract (AMC) has expired, leading to frequent breakdowns...", said a senior official. More than 2,500 buses – currently plying even after the expiry of AMC – will go off the roads by the end of this year, said officials. "When buses break down, it not only affects the frequency of the service but

also causes traffic congestion. To address this, the DTC has analysed past incidents where buses have

used to remove it, which took about 3 to 4 hours... Now, a team will remove the bus with the help of a crane

of breakdown vehicles from roads, particularly during heatwave conditions and rainy season."



had breakdowns, and identified 30 critical locations... These areas are key arterial stretches that see heavy traffic movement...", said the official. To resolve the problem, the DTC has formed quick response teams (QRT) and deployed 30 cranes at these locations so that affected buses are removed within 15 minutes of breakdown. "Earlier, whenever a bus used to break down, a team from the concerned depot

within 15 minutes and take it to a nearby depot for repair," said the official. In a 34-page standard operating procedure (SOP), issued recently, the DTC said, "The key aim is reducing the response time in removing the blockade caused by breakdown... The scope of this SOP is to serve as a standard protocol for all levels of staff – from control room officers and depot managers to QRTs and crane operators – for the removal

The corporation has also devised roles and responsibilities for each level of its staff. For instance, the regional officials will oversee the implementation of the SOP, coordinate with concerned departments, Delhi Traffic Police and others. The control room, managed by two deputy managers (Traffic), will report to a nodal officer, operate a 24x7 control room, collect information on all breakdowns and

waterlogging alerts, and deploy the nearest QRT to a breakdown location within 5 minutes. The depot managers, meanwhile, will conduct daily inspections of vehicle readiness, counsel drivers about waterlogged areas and spots prone to breakdown, among others. The QRTs, which will function under the control room, will reach a spot within five minutes of receiving an alert on a bus breaking down. It will tow the bus while also assisting in minor repairs or making alternate arrangements for the transfer of stranded passengers to other buses. During monsoon, these QRTs will also monitor waterlogging in these locations and inform the control room so that drivers can avoid such routes, said officials. Besides the QRT teams, DTC has set up 100 field operations monitoring teams to ensure smooth operation of buses, prompt response to breakdowns, and regular feedback for corrective action. Also, four regional-level teams and 70 depot-level bike teams will fix repairs like brake failure and others.

Woman creates fake Instagram profile to check if husband had affair, arrested

Delhi (Agency): Suspecting that her husband was having an affair with another woman, a 26-year-old woman from East Delhi's Ghazipur created a fake Instagram profile and sent her husband a follow request. Her suspicion, however, landed her in trouble as the woman was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly impersonating another woman who she thought was having an affair with her husband and uploading her morphed pictures, said police. According to a police officer, the incident came to light when a 30-year-old woman filed a complaint stating that someone had created a fake Instagram account in her name and was posting her morphed photographs. Police then tracked the SIM card linked to the account. It was found that the SIM was registered in Ghazipur, where the accused was traced and arrested. Police said that in 2023, the accused got married to a man, who works in Nangloi and lives there with a relative. She had allegedly been suspecting an affair between her husband and



the complainant ever since she saw an old photo of them. "The photo was taken before they were married. The accused then saw that her husband and the complainant followed each other on Instagram," a police officer said. The accused allegedly logged into her husband's Instagram account and sent lewd messages to the complainant, who then blocked his profile, said police. It was then that the accused allegedly created the complainant's fake profile. "She took photos from the complainant's account and morphed them to post on the fake account. She then started interacting with the friends of the complainant on Instagram to get more information about her and customise the account accordingly," the officer said. The accused sent her husband a follow request and waited to see if he would accept.