

'End credits in *Indian 2* will surprise all,' says  
**SHANKAR**

During the arguments, the advocate of the petitioners allegedly raised concern over allowing police officials into the judge's chamber. The police filed the charge sheet on June 10. After that, the court returned the charge sheet to the police thrice, including on July 10.



ISSUE OF DEFECTIONS

# If there is no advantage, why should BRS move court?

SNCN ACHARYULU  
■ HYDERABAD

Why the BRS worry over defections when there is no advantage with the defectors. Already seven BRS MLAs joined the Congress and some more are on their way. The BRS leadership is making all efforts to prevent the defections. The BRS went to court also against the defectors. Against this backdrop, BRS senior leader and former minister T Harish Rao commented that there will be no advantage with the defections. He said that 12 Congress MLAs defected to the

BRS after 2018 Telangana Assembly elections and in the 2023 Assembly elections, 10 of them were defeated. According to Harish Rao, with the defections the defectors and political parties also have no advantage. If the political parties give tickets in the Assembly elections, the defectors will be defeated and with this, the political party also will lose some seats. So, with the BRS MLAs' defections the defected MLAs and the Congress party also have no advantage in the coming Assembly elections if the defectors will be given the

Assembly tickets. Then the advantage will be to the BRS as it is the main Opposition party. On one side the BRS is saying that there will be no advantage with the defections and on the other side the BRS is making every effort to prevent the defections and criticising the defected MLAs. As per the BRS theory, with the defections of party MLAs, the Congress will have no advantage and it will become advantageous to the BRS. When the Congress has no advantage with the defections, the BRS need not worry over the defections of party MLAs.

When there is no advantage with the defections, why the BRS encouraged the defections when it was in power? the political observers question. Perhaps after the defeat in the Assembly elections, the BRS might have come to know this fact, political observers feel. Meanwhile, BRS working president and former minister KT Rama Rao said that the Congress MLAs did not defect, but they merged with the BRS. So, if the BRS MLAs merge with the Congress, it is not wrong. The BRS MLAs also may do the same after reaching the required number.

## Nirmala assumes office as TGIIIC chairperson

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC working president T Jagga Reddy's wife Nirmala Jagga Reddy assumed office as Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited chairperson on Thursday at its office located at Bhasheerbagh. IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu and senior Congress leader Jetti Kusuma Kumar were present. Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, Health Minister Damodara Raj Narsimha congratulated Nirmala Jagga Reddy. Nuthi Srikanth Goud took charge as BC Finance corporation and, N Preetham took charge as SC Corporation chairman and others amidst the leaders, friends and fans.

## ‘Will take action against those who looted national wealth’

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar stated that the heirs of Veerappan, who looted national wealth through red sandalwood smuggling in Tirumala Tirupati, will be held accountable.

He emphasised, "There is no question of letting these criminals go," and assured that appropriate action will be taken based on the report. He noted that a regime of devotees who constantly chant Govinda's name has arrived in Tirumala. Bandi Sanjay criticised that until recently, "Those who did not believe in God and had no regard for dharma were in power, looting the assets of Lord Venkateswara and putting the public in trouble."

He pointed out that during



the previous administration, the heirs of Veerappan looted national wealth worth thousands of crores through red sandalwood smuggling in the Seshachalam hills. "This issue will be brought to the attention of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and a report will be sought on it," he said. During his visit to Tirumala with his family on his birthday, Bandi Sanjay offered special prayers to Lord Venkateswara.

He expressed his happiness

at visiting the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam, saying, "I prayed for the well-being of the people of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, and for the prosperity and happiness of all Indians."

He sought blessings for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts to establish India as a global leader. Bandi Sanjay criticised the previous regime for using the TTD as a rehabilitation centre for political unemployables and for exploiting TTD for political gains. He emphasised, "We are not against any religion but opposed the looting of Lord Venkateswara's assets for personal gain and defiling Tirumala." He vowed that such an anarchic regime is over and that a regime of sincere devotees chanting Govinda's name has taken over.

## ‘Viksit Bharat’ goal can be achieved by having smaller families: Nadda

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister J P Nadda said on Thursday that the goal of 'Viksit Bharat' can only be achieved when the health of India's families is well maintained and this can be accomplished by the smaller families, he stated.

He said the Centre and the states need to collectively work to ensure that women can exercise their right to make family planning choices and are not burdened by unwanted pregnancy.

Nadda virtually held a meeting with the states and the Union Territories (UTs) on the occasion of World Population Day. The theme of the event was 'Healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies for the wellbeing of mother and child'.

He said the Centre and the states should also ensure that the unmet needs of contraceptives are met especially in the high burden states, districts and blocks.

Highlighting that one-fifth of global population is India's, he stressed on the need to celebrate World Population Day as a reaffirmation and recommitment to working towards



population stabilisation. "The goal of Viksit Bharat can only be achieved when the health of India's families is well maintained, which can be achieved by smaller families," he stated.

"The Centre and the states need to collectively work to ensure that women can exercise their right to make family planning choices and are not burdened by unwanted pregnancy, and to ensure that unmet needs of contraceptives are met especially in the high burden states, districts and blocks," he said.

The objective of the family planning (FP) programme needs to be 'Birth by choice and by informed choice', he stated.

## Errors in Gruha Jyothi applications can be set right

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has facilitated the correction of the USC (electricity connection) number at Praja Palana service centres.

The government is providing 200 units of free electricity to eligible household electricity consumers under the Gruha Jyothi scheme. As part of this scheme, zero bills are being issued by applying the

scheme to the USC (Electricity Connection) number submitted by consumers at Praja Palana programmes.

However, beneficiaries of this scheme face problems in availing benefits due to discrepancies in linking the food security card and service connection when they change houses. Considering the requests from various quarters the government has made provisions for correcting the USC

(electricity connection) number.

In this context, Musharraf Farooqui, the Chairman and MD of the Southern Telangana Power Distribution Company, who was on a tour of the erstwhile Mahbubnagar district, visited the Praja Seva Kendra at the Nalgonda Rural Mandal Praja Parishad office and reviewed the registration process of Gruha Jyothi beneficiaries.

## Kardashians to Mike Tyson expected at Ambani wedding



PNS ■ MUMBAI

Top celebrities Kim and Khloe Kardashian, boxer Mike Tyson, former UK prime ministers and global business tycoons are expected to attend the wedding of Anant Ambani, youngest son of Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani, in Mumbai on Friday. After four months of star-studded pre-wedding celebrations, Anant Ambani, 29, will tie the knot with Radhika Merchant, daughter of pharma tycoons Viren and Shaila Merchant. The guest list is a mix of Indian and international celebrities, politicians and corporate bigwigs, sources aware of the matter said.

Mukesh Ambani and his wife, Nita, in the past had lavish weddings for their other children too - Beyoncé performed at daughter Isha Ambani's 2018 nuptials that boasted of guests like Hillary Clinton and John Kerry, and a year later Coldplay's Chris Martin performed at Akash's pre-wedding bash in St Moritz, Switzerland and Maroon 5 at his wedding in Mumbai.

## KCR sending his MLAs to Cong as per his plan: NVSS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP vice-president NVSS Prabhakar alleged that BRS party chief K Chandrasekhar Rao was sending BRS MLAs to the Congress as per a plan. He said that the BRS was defeated in the last Lok Sabha elections claiming to be a national party.

Addressing the media at the State BJP office on Thursday, Prabhakar said that people have given a fitting lesson to KCR who said that his party is the third front. He reminded that in the recently held Lok Sabha elections, there was a contest between the BJP and the Congress and it was clear from the results that there was

no chance for a third party.

He also said that the people have shown through the parliamentary elections that there is no chance for a third party in Telangana. He complained that KCR's defeat started only after the TRS was renamed as BRS under the name of Third Front.

He said that the TRS, which started as a movement party, was politically weak for the first time, retained its existence for the second time, and then called itself the third front. He said that the BRS party has no future in the coming period. Therefore, KCR is accused of inducting BRS legislators into the Congress and keeping them as a shield to protect his leadership, he alleged.

## RYTHU BANDHU FUNDS Govt to issue notices to owners of non-agri lands

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The TG government will issue notices to Rythu Bandhu fund recipients who took money for lands used for non-agricultural purposes. The government will ask them to return the Rythu Bandhu funds taken for those lands and steps will be taken to recover the money if it is not returned.

## Book on PM Modi launched

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The book "Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi" was launched in the city by Dr Ramaswami Balasubramaniam, a development scholar and author known for his pioneering work with rural and tribal communities in Karnataka. This latest book was launched at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad campus on Thursday, with the Dean, Madan M Pillutla, delivering the inaugural address.

## KTR is the reason for the destruction of Hyd: Ponnamp

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar alleged that the former Minister KT Ramarao was the reason for the destruction of Hyderabad. Prabhakar made it clear that the government will release job calendar certainly.

Speaking to the media at Gandhi Bhavan on Thursday, Ponnamp Prabhakar said that it is not proper to BRS leaders, who alleged till fee days that the delay taking place in recruiting jobs, to demand for

examinations postponement.

Appealing to students not to fall pray to political leaders, Ponnamp Prabhakar assured that the government will solve the justified demands of students.

He said that the Congress leaders won't use the language that used by the former CM and ministers.

He warned that the Congress leaders too know such languages used by KCR.

He said that there are public representatives such as post graduates and doctors.

## DSC soon, says Govt Whip Ramachandra

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Government Whip Ramachandra Naik said that there would not be any postponement of DSC and that the government will conduct another DSC as soon as possible.

Speaking to the media at the CLP media hall on Thursday, Ramachandra said the KCR

family is trying to incite students. He said that KCR and KTR are creating disturbances in the state fearing that their corruption may come out.

"Once again the KCR family is trying to incite students, he said. Bonafide students are learning in libraries. However, BRS student union leaders are inciting students," he said.

He said that BRS leaders are reading the script prepared by BJP leaders to get BRS MLC Kavitha released from jail.

He said that KCR helped contractors from AP by misusing public funds.

BRS leaders are afraid of the SC scam as their very existence may be threatened if DSC exams are conducted, he said.

## Stresses Oct...

Continued from page 1

including boilers, turbines and generators and urged the speeding up of work wherever there were delays.

He checked out steam blowing operations in the Unit-2 Boiler in the Central Control Room and operated some blows himself.

He also inspected the boiler auxiliaries, turbine auxiliaries, natural draft cooling towers, transformer yard and the 400 KV switchyard and asked BHEL to synchronize the units of Stage-I by August 25 or September 25.

Ronald also thoroughly inspected the railway line, marshalling yard, coal handling plant, ash handling plant and asked concerned agencies to get ready these systems by the time of unit synchronization.

He strictly instructed BHEL and related agencies to accelerate BTG works of Stage-II as they are behind schedule. Later, he reviewed activity-wise equipment commissioning schedules and asked TGGENCO engineers and BHEL officials to coordinate with working agencies and avoid slippages.

## ‘Realise revenue...

Continued from page 1

He observed that land and property rates have significantly increased in the state and recommended steps to enhance revenue from registrations and stamps accordingly.

He also directed officials to curb the illegal transport of sand and minerals and to plug leakages.

Regarding electric vehicles, the Chief Minister suggested officials should study whether the withdrawal of temporary tax subsidies and subsequent tax collection have impacted sales.

## Apologise for...

Continued from page 1

KTR also accused Rahul Gandhi of exploiting students for political gain stating, "Rahul Gandhi used students to grab power." He criticised the Congress for using the unemployed as election fodder and failing to deliver on job promises.

He accused Revanth of having an autocratic mentality intolerant even of social media posts. He pointed out the police attacks on journalists and students.

"The question is whether attacking the public is Praja Palana or the so-called Indiramma Rajyam which the Congress promised to bring back," he said.

KTR warned that the names of police officials involved in these attacks are being recorded by students

and they will be held accountable in future.

He criticized the Congress for cancelling welfare schemes and for failing to keep promises given to the people. He highlighted the party's permission for seven new private universities which he claimed was a move contrary to their earlier stance.

Emphasizing the achievements of the BRS, KTR said that around 1,62,000 government posts had been filled and the process to fill another 40,000 posts was launched. He highlighted that the BRS government provided 95% local reservation in government jobs.

He said that the party successfully produced many leaders who are now serving as public representatives, chairmen, mayors, and district-level presidents.

## ‘Check police...

Continued from page 1

"We are witnessing an alarming trend in which the police are raiding the homes of BRS cadres due to frivolous complaints about social media posts. This undermines free speech and democratic dissent," KTR stated.

He emphasised that the Telangana Police is known for its professional conduct and urged immediate action to prevent a few overzealous officers from tarnishing the department's reputation.

"I request the urgent intervention of the Telangana DGP to halt these illegal acts. While some police officers may believe that they are serving the ruling dispensation, their actions are damaging the integrity of the Police Department," KTR noted.

## Telangana Assembly session...

Continued from page 1

The review meeting started at 11 am and continued till evening. Although the Assembly session is set to start on July 24, the duration of the session has not been clarified. A full-fledged budget is expected to be presented during this session. There will also be discussions on

## Why Cong failed to get...

Continued from page 1

He said that political equations had changed during the Lok Sabha elections. During the Assembly elections, it was the Congress versus the BRS, however, it was the BJP versus the Congress during the Lok Sabha elections, he said.

issues like the Rythu Bharosa scheme.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka had earlier indicated that decisions regarding policies would be made after discussions in the Assembly.

Reliable sources said that the state government may announce the job calendar during this session.

He told the Kurian Committee that the BRS and the BJP decided to contain the Congress and so the BRS fielded weak candidates in some constituencies.

Kiran told the Kurian committee that BRS votes went to the BJP and so the Congress won only eight LS seats instead of the expected 12.



SABITA NAGAR SETTLEMENT TO BE RELOCATED

# HMDA Commissioner inspects Kokapet Neopolis layout

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Metropolitan Commissioner of HMDA Sarfaraz Ahmed, along with Gouthami, Joint MD of MRDCL and other officials inspected Kokapet Lake (Kotha Cheruvu). They enquired about the STP operated by HMWSSB, the bund area and inlets into the water body.

The Commissioner also inspected the Kokapet Neopolis Layout and reviewed the development activities. During the inspection, he examined various land parcels within the layout, including those allotted or auctioned. He addressed issues with Road No. 4 of the layout, which could not be completed due to the existing Sabita Nagar settlement. He instructed the preparation of a draft map and proposal for straightening the road and enquired about the status of relocating the settlement.

The development of the Trumpet Interchange was also reviewed, including the balance works and hindrances due to existing overhead lines. He instructed the officials to enhance greenery within the



Right of Way (ROW) of roads and open spaces in Neopolis and Goldenmile Layouts. He emphasised completing pending works and making the areas ready for inauguration as soon as possible.

During the visit, the Commissioner discussed restoration and development activities around the lake, such as the construction of walking and cycling tracks, plantation, and other facilities under the CSR scheme with Raheja IT Company. He enquired about the nalas upstream and

downstream of the lakes, patrolling police outposts, CCTV cameras, and other protection measures. He also discussed tourism and sailing club activities and the estimated sewage water generated in the lake's catchment area. He stressed the need for proper sewage diversion and maintenance of existing STP capacities.

Concerns were raised about the dying fish in the lake. The Commissioner instructed officials to identify the causes in coordination with the Fisheries department and take steps to prevent untreated sewage from entering the lake. He also inspected the proposed park location at Durgam Cheruvu, suggesting eco-friendly development without harming the natural habitat. A theme park over 33 acres at Durgam Cheruvu was proposed in consultation with TGIIC.

The Metropolitan Commissioner inspected HMDA parks, lands, and development works in Raidurgam, Kokapet, and Kothalguda of Rangareddy district. He visited the Goldenmile and Neopolis projects, reviewed the progress, and instructed engineers to complete the park work on time.

## Four-month basic course on Constitution in Telugu

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, has announced on Thursday that it offers a four months basic course on Indian Constitution in Telugu in online mode.

The course has been developed with 32 videos, which include walk the talk, panel discussion, interview and case study.

It focuses on providing a sound theoretical footing as well as practical insights into the working of the Indian Constitution.

It also highlights the contributions of Bar and Bench from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

The eligibility criteria for the course is 10th or SSC pass students and the fee is Rs 1,500. Interested candidates may visit [www.nalsarpro.org](http://www.nalsarpro.org) and apply for the course.

# Pioneer journalist gets Hybiz Media Award

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The media industry honoured journalists at the 4th Edition of the Hybiz TV Media Awards (HMA), which took place at the HICC-Novotel in HITEC City, with a spectacular celebration.

Shikha Duggal, the Assistant Chief Editor of *The Pioneer*, won the award for "Best Story by a Woman Journalist" among the other categories. Minister of Irrigation & CAD, Food & Civil Supplies Uttam Kumar Reddy gave her the honour.

Shikha had submitted her all-inclusive interview with Nawab Raunaq Yar Khan, the IXth Nizam of the Asaf Jahi Dynasty, in order to be considered for the award. The conversation covered a wide range of topics, including his early years in Hyderabad, uniting cultures, living as the head of the family for a Nizam today and many more personal anecdotes.

Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy emphasised the gov-



Shikha Duggal of *The Pioneer* receiving the award for 'Best Story by a Woman Journalist' from Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy

ernment's steadfast support for the media during the function, highlighting the media's critical role as the cornerstone of democracy.

He expressed his gratitude to the media for their noteworthy contributions at the Hybiz TV Media Awards, which honoured achievements in print, broadcast and digital media.

The event was attended by a number of dignitaries,

including the chairman of the BC Commission, Vakula bharam Krishna Mohan Rao; M Ravindar Reddy, the director of marketing for Bharathi Cement; V Rajasheshkar Reddy, the president of Credai Hyderabad; Gedela Srinu Babu, the CEO of Pulsus Group; Manepalli Rama Rao; Eenadu I. Venkat; KRP Reddy; Hybiz TV & Telugu Now Founder MD Raj Gopal; CEO Dr J Sandhyarani and others.



## Ten OU students achieve Patent Examiner positions

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Osmania University on Thursday announced that 10 students from the Department of Biomedical Engineering at University College of Engineering (A) have been selected as Examiners of Patent and Design (Group-A) at the Indian Patent Office, Government of India. Out of the 53 positions available nation-wide, 10 have been secured by OU students, showcasing the exceptional caliber of the students from the Biomedical Engineering department.

This remarkable achievement comes after their success

in the highly competitive national-level examination conducted by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Government of India.

Prof. P Lakshminarayana, Registrar of Osmania University, extended congratulations to the students for their outstanding accomplishment. Prof. Sriram Venkatesh, Secretary of TSICHE, also conveyed his best wishes to the students. Prof. P Chandrasekhar, I/C Principal, along with Prof. M Malini, expressed their pride in the students' success and announced that they will be honoured at an upcoming departmental event.

## GCCs account for 50% of leased office space in Hyd

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A research by Knight Frank has revealed that Hyderabad recorded an office transaction volume of 2 million square feet in the second quarter of 2024.

The Global Capability Centres (GCCs) accounted for over 50% of the leased office space in the city. About 23% of the overall office absorption made by GCCs in the country were executed in the city's office market.

Due to the absorption by GCCs, Hyderabad's commercial market recorded 11% of the 18.5 mn sq ft of transactions across eight cities in the country during the second quarter.

Flex office spaces, leased office spaces of 0.54 mn sq ft in the second quarter of this year, attributing 25% of the leasing activities in the office market of Hyderabad. Third-party IT services and India facing business leased office spaces of 0.7 mn sq ft and 0.5 mn sq ft respectively in the city market.



## ISKCON Rath Yatra tomorrow

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) centre, Miyapur will organize Jagannath Rath Yatra on July 13, according to Ramdas Parbhu, the president of ISKCON temple, Miyapur.

Speaking to the media on Thursday, Ramdas Parbhu said, "A vibrant and cherished tradition is scheduled to take place from Chandanagar at 2 pm on Saturday and the

Ratha procession will proceed through main streets of Madinaguda, Allwyn Cross Road, Miyapur Cross Road, JP Nagar and ens at Viswanath Gardens."

The event attracts thousands of devotees from 10 countries, symbolizing unity, devotion and community spirit. Elaborate arrangements for devotees would be made for supply of drinking water and Pulihora prasadam throughout procession points, he added.

## DCA seizes overpriced medicine

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Drug Control Administration (DCA) on July 10 seized an overpriced medicine at Nagole.

During a raid on a medical store, officials seized 'CANDIFACE-200 capsules' sold under brand name 'CANDIFACE-200 capsules' which was under price control as per Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 and the price of product shall be in accordance with the 'Ceiling Price' fixed by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), Government of India.

The medicine was being sold at a maximum retail price of Rs 275 for 10 tablets. The ceiling price fixed by the Central government, including wholesale price index (WPI) for the product 'Itraconazole capsules 200 mg' is Rs 22.12 for one capsule (ceiling price).

Hence, maximum retail price (MRP), including GST 12%, should not be more than Rs 24.77 for one capsule (MRP=Ceiling Price+GST). The firm overpriced the product. Firm charged excess of Rs 27.30 for 10 capsules.



GHMC Commissioner Amrapali Kata speaking to the people at Sundarayya Park in Bagh Lingampally on Thursday

## Authorities directed to solve Sundarayya Park issues

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Amrapali Kata has directed authorities to take immediate steps to solve the problems in Bagh Lingampally's Sundarayya Park on Thursday.

Commissioner Amrapali conducted an inspection along with Zonal Commissioner Ravi Kiran. She inspected the proposed construction site of Phase 2 of the flyover from Sundarayya Park, Mother Dairy Park and VST to Bagh Lingampally. Walkers in the park asked the Commissioner to address the toilet repairs

due to stagnant rainwater in Sundarayya Park. The Commissioner immediately ordered officials to solve the problems suggested by the walkers. The officials were also ordered to complete the progress on Strategic Nala Development Programme (SNDP) works.

Amrapali also suggested that steps should be taken for the development of Mother Dairy Park. Earlier, it was decided to undertake flyover construction in two phases from VST to Bagh Lingampally. But in the first phase, the steel bridge from Indira Park to VST has become available.

# IIT-Hyderabad to organise Innovation Day on July 5

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IITH) announced on Thursday that it will host the second edition of the Innovation Day on July 15 where students and faculty can showcase their tech transfer ready innovations and startups. The event will feature pitch sessions, panel discussions and talks, exhibitions and networking opportunities.

With the second edition of Innovation Day, IITH is expanding the institution's motto of 'Inventing & Innovating in Technology for Humanity' by ensuring that the event is accessible to deaf and hard-to-hear individuals. It facilitates participation and engagement for everyone with



the support of an incubated startup SignAssistive AI, which has developed a technology that translates real-time conversations into digital avatar-based gestures and Indian sign languages.

Scheduled on the same day is the MeitY Grand Challenge 2024 finale, organised by the iTIC Incubator at IIT Hyderabad and SINE, IIT-

Bombay. This national initiative aims at fostering innovation in key areas such as Digital Twin & Simulation, Low & No Code, and Generative AI. The finale event will feature pitching from the top 10 teams across the country to win attractive cash prizes of Rs 4 lakh, grant support, access to iTIC's prototyping lab and comprehensive mentorship.

Prof BS Murty, Director IIT-Hyd, said, "While we continue to break new grounds in innovation, our dedication to accessibility means everyone can be part of our technology development, innovations and entrepreneurship journey. It's amazing to witness the impact firsthand and know that our leadership in this area is making a real difference."

## CSIR-NGRI chief scientist Subash elected Global Vice-Chair of SEG

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Dr Subash Chandra, Chief Scientist at CSIR - National Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI), Hyderabad, has been elected Global Vice-Chair of the Society of Exploration Geophysics (SEG) Near Surface Geophysics Technical Section (NSTS) for a two-year term starting at IMAGE'24 in Houston on Thursday. As Vice-Chair, he will be involved in developing and implementing a strategic vision and organising technical section activities.

An expert in groundwater research, Dr Chandra specialises in airborne electromagnetics (AEM), aquifer

mapping and converting geophysical data into hydrogeological models. He pioneered airborne geophysics in India for high-resolution 3D aquifer mapping, notably used in the arid northwest regions under the Ministry of Jal Shakti. His AEM research in the Ganga plains discovered a paleo river near Prayagraj, enhancing understanding of river-aquifer interactions.

He has received the National Geosciences Award (2017) for his contribution to airborne electromagnetic aquifer mapping, is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, India (2023), and an Associate Fellow of the Telangana Academy of Science.



# Industry experts stress Green Chemistry for pharmaceuticals

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Industry experts stressed on Green Chemistry being an essential component of the pharmaceutical industry, stating it would help produce cost-competitive chemical products.

Metlapalli Srinivasu, Vice-President - Corp. EHS & ESG, Seven Pharmaceuticals Limited, addressed a session on Green Chemistry and the way forward. "At present, Green Chemistry is the buzz word across the pharmaceutical industry. It aims to design and produce cost-competitive chemical products and processes that attain the highest level of the pollution-prevention hierarchy by reducing pollution at its source," Srinivasu stressed.

He further said, "Green



Metlapalli Srinivasu addresses a gathering at the FTCCI

Chemicals are those that are less hazardous to human health and the environment are less toxic to organisations."

The pharma expert spoke at the Environment Stewardship programme organised by Federation of Telangana Chamber of Commerce and

Industry (FTCCI). The Environment Committee Chair, G Bala Subramanyam said, "Environment now is one of the most sought-after professions. The money put into sustainability is not an expenditure, it is a reward and recognition."

## Free training for women in e-auto driving

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Durgabai Mahila Shishu Vikasa Kendra (DMSVK), which operates under the Telangana Mahila Cooperative Development Corporation, Hyderabad, announced to offer free electric auto-driving training for women in Hyderabad on Thursday.

The main objective behind the training programme is to empower socially and economically disadvantaged women with various types of vocational training, as part of which, Movo Social Initiative has been appointed as technical partners to impart motor driving skills to

women. Women belonging to the age group 18-45 years without any driving experience can join or engage in the training programme. Interested candidates should carry the Aadhaar card.

The programme also provides assistance in obtaining a valid driving licence (including licence fee). Placement support will be provided with remuneration as per labour law in Hyderabad.

The training period is 45-60 days. Interested candidates can contact DMSVK manager 7660022507 or MOVO team at Kukatpally - 8978099499.

## Medical exam for Group IV candidates from July 16 to 26

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC) has announced on Thursday that the PWD (OH) candidates, who have been picked up for verification of certificates for Group-IV services, would get medical examination by the Medical Board at Osmania General Hospital from July 16 to 26.

The OH candidates are advised to appear before the Medical Board at room number 507, old building, Osmania General Hospital, Afzalgunj, Hyderabad at 09:00 am sharp with requisite medical examination fee in cash along with attested copy of original PH certificate, hall ticket of the Group-IV services examination, medical certificate in respect of OH Candidates which is made available in Commission's Website and three latest passport size photographs.

# GHMC takes action on request made at Prajavani

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Upon receiving a water contamination complaint from residents of Kausar Colony reported in Prajavani, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) officials responded and took action.

Residents of Kausar Colony raised concerns about polluted water in Balkapur Nala, affecting nearby borewells. They requested the GHMC to divert drains away from Balkapur Nala to safeguard their borewells, as the drains from Jubilee Hills are also pumped into the nala.

Recognising the urgency of the situation, the GHMC officials initiated siltation work at the new pond in Balkapur Nala. According to GHMC officials, construction of box drains from the new outlet of Balkapur Nala will soon be completed to prevent water contamination and ensure the safety of residents' borewells, along with protection from flooding during the rainy season.



## YouTuber sent to judicial custody over child abuse video

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Nampally court on Thursday sent youtuber Praneeth Hanumanth to a 14-day judicial custody over a child abuse video.

Hanumanth sparked a controversy by sexualising the father-daughter relationship through remarks made by him and his friends while reacting to a video.

The Andhra Pradesh YouTuber was on Wednesday nabbed by the Telangana Cyber Crime Bureau from Bengaluru. Hanumanth was booked under Sections 67B of the IT Act (Information Technology Act), POCSO Act (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act), Section 79 of the IT Act and Section 294 of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanahita (BNS). He has been lodged in the Chanchalguda jail. The YouTuber's reaction led to concerns over child safety and prompted a response from Telangana Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy.



**PNS ■ WARANGAL**

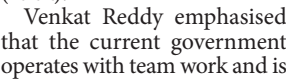
According to a senior police official, when the woman's family was sleeping outside their house, the accused attacked them with a knife resulting in



The woman told media that the accused killed her parents and also attacked her and her brother. A case was registered and investigation is on.

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Addressing the engineers, he promised to discuss allotment of 2000 square yards of land with the government for the construction of the Institute of India Building. He assured the engineers that the government focuses on accountability rather than just accounts and is serious about resolving employees' issues. He also mentioned plans to involve retired engineers in the construction



not monopolistic. He criticised the past administration for neglecting the needs of the southern Telangana people suffering due to the pollution of the Musi River, comparing it to the cleaning efforts of the Sabarmati under the Namami Gange initiative. The Congress government, he asserted, will cleanse the Musi River to protect public health. He also

Speaking to the engineering experts present, Venkat Reddy highlighted the importance of engineers throughout history

Dr DN Reddy, former NIT  
Warangal Director PG Shastri,  
Dr G Venkat Subbaiah, MA  
Kareem, S Jaswanth Kumar

**PNS** ■ **MEDAK**

Marks of rat bite on feet

On being alerted by students, their parents, relatives arrived at the school on Thursday morning and staged

The students who took ill following suspected food poisoning and now suffered rat bite expressed reluctance to stay in hostel. The parents demanded that the District Collector inquire into the incident and take action against those responsible for negligence on the part of the authorities.



Global Business Services, HSB&C and Amazon. He is currently working as an advisor to Artificial Intelligence company Lucia AI. He spoke on the topic of 'Using Data Science and Machine Learning in the Public Transport System.' He said, "It is a great thing that TGSRIT

Company CVO Dr Ravinder, Joint Director Apurva Rao, Executive Directors Munishekhar, Krishnakanth, Finance Advisor Vijayapushpa, CPM Usharani, CME Venkanna, RMs, Deputy RMs and DMs participated in the programme.

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Naveen was booked under Sections 8(c) r/w 20(b)(ii)(B), 29 of NDPS Act 1985 and section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanahita (BNS).

**PNS** ■ NALGONDA

Deputy superintendent of police P Rajasekhar said that the two suspects threatened and insulted her. They abused her over mobile phone and she took the extreme step unable to bear their harassment.

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

It includes 110 farm units designed as heirloom properties.

**PNS ■ HYDERABAD**

Hyderabad Collector Anudeep

workers. Special teams are being sent to provide treatment and prevention of diarrhea only." Venkat further said, "Door-to-door fever survey is being conducted and a vaccine

against elephantiasis is being distributed at anganwadi centers, UPHC, Basti Davakhana and Community Halls. Children aged 9 months to 15 years will be administered.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

Revenue (Land Acquisition) Department

FORM - VI

(PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION)

(Under Section 11 (1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013 and as per the state rule 19 and sub-rule (1))

Collector's Office File No. G1/4166/2022      Date: 03-07-2024

Revenue Divisional Officer's file No. B/70/2024      Date: 21-06-2024

Gazette No. 87/2024      Date: 03-07-2024

The Government of Telangana/Dist. Collector: Siddipet has decided to acquire Ac.6.15 % guntas in Ankampeta village of Siddipet Rural mandal of Siddipet district for public purpose for excavation of 6R Distributary of RMC of Sri Komaravelli Mallanna Sagar Reservoir as part of its Package-12 and for the excavation of minor canal 2R. As the government felt that there is a need to acquire the said land, it issued a notification as per the Section 11 (1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013.

The I & CLD (LA) department of the state government, by an order GO Ms.No.35 dated 30-06-2017 exempted the social impact assessment and food security as per the rule 10-A.

Therefore, a preliminary notification has been issued to acquire Ac.6.15 % guntas of land in Ankampeta village of Siddipet Rural Mandal of Siddipet district to initiate land acquisition work as shown in the following schedule.

SCHEDULE

Village: Ankampeta    Mandal: Siddipet (Rural)    District: Siddipet

Sl. No	Sy. No	Extent of land acquisition	Name of the Pattadar/ Enjoyer	Type of Land	East	West	North	South	Boundaries Tress/ Pipes/ Drains / Well etc. on land
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	182	0.02	Benjaram Rejireddy S/o Narsareddy (E)	Patta	181	V/B	181	179	29-Neelagiri
2	182	0.04	Benjaram Sugunamma W/o Bapureddy	Patta	181	V/B	181	179	85-Neelagiri
3	182	0.14	Manda Mallavia W/o Malliah	Patta	181	V/B	181	179	There are open gardens in the high cut/ 1-Medoga 4-Veppa 1-Kanuga
4	181	0.13	Vasuri Lakshmi W/o Balaiah	Patta	180	182	-	179	1-Pipeline 4-Neelagiri 1-Tamrand 1-Water Kandi
5	180	0.07	Jinka Yellaiah S/o Malliah (Pattadaru) Jinka Nareesh S/o Yellaiah (Enjoyer)	Patta	179	181	-	179	4-Teak
6	180	0.06	Jinka Yellaiah S/o Malliah (Pattadaru) Jinka Mahesh S/o Yellaiah (Enjoyer)	Patta	179	181	-	179	1-Pipe line
7	180	0.10	Jinka Yadagiri S/o Yellaiah	Patta	179	181	-	179	1-Pipeline 1-Kanuga
8	180	0.02	Rangu Tirupati S/o Malliah (Pattadaru) Rangu Sekhar S/o Malliah (Enjoyer)	Patta	179	181	-	179	
9	179	0.08%	Korrala Kanakavva W/o Yadagiri	Lavani Patta	-	V/B	182	-	1-Teak
10	179	0.20	Peddigani Buchavva W/o Rajaiah	Lavani Patta	-	V/B	182	-	4-Veppa 34-Kanuga 16-Neelagiri 24-Medoga 25-Mango
11	179	0.04%	Jinka Manevva W/o Yellaiah	Lavani Patta	-	V/B	182	-	4-Veppa
12	188	0.03%	Vattipalli Madhusudhan Reddy S/o Venkatreddy	Patta	149	179	-	179	
13	188	0.09%	Vattipalli Yadava Reddy S/o Balreddy	Patta	149	179	-	179	230-Neelagiri 3-Veppa
14	149	0.06	Vattipalli Shyamala W/o Venkatreddy	Patta	152	188	-	179	2-Teak 200-Neelagiri
15	149	0.01	Vattipalli Yadava Reddy S/o Balreddy	Patta	152	188	-	179	
16	Rasta	0.03	Road	Govt.	148	188	-	179	
17	152	0.06%	Kasireddy Raju Reddy S/o Narayana Reddy	Patta	153	149	118	179	10-Teak 1-Bore
18	148	0.12	Kasireddy Sravanthi W/o Raju	Patta	147	Ro ad	145	152	1-Drip 1-Neelagiri 2-Mango 1-Sha nanga
19	148	0.02%	Kasireddy Narsimhareddy S/o Ramaiah (E)	Patta	147	Ro ad	145	152	1-Mango
20	147	0.07	Kasireddy Balreddy S/o Venkat Reddy (E)	Patta	-	148	145	153	2-Teak 180-Neelagiri 1-Bore
21	147	0.03	Kasireddy Nirmala W/o Venkat Reddy	Patta	-	148	145	153	10-Neelagiri 2-Veppa 1-Bore
22	147	0.05%	Kasireddy Kondalreddy S/o Raghava Reddy (Pattadaru) Kasireddy Suresh Reddy S/o Raghavareddy (Enjoyer)	Patta	-	148	145	153	6-Veppa 4-Teak 45-Neelagiri
23	147	0.09%	Kasireddy Amarendra Reddy S/o Kishan Reddy (Enjoyer)	Patta	-	148	145	153	4-Namaga 4-Teak 2-Veppa 200-Neelagiri
24	145	0.07%	Bairi Srissha W/o Rajireddy (E)	Patta	144	Ro ad	-	147	2-Neelagiri 1-Veppa
25	144	0.13%	Vattipalli Yadava reddy S/o Balreddy (P) Vattipalli Kishatava W/o Bal Reddy (E)	Patta	142	145	138	-	1000-Neelagiri 1-Bore
26	144	0.07	Vattipalli Madhusudha Reddy S/o Venkat Reddy	Patta	142	145	138	-	1-Pipeline 1-Bore 3-Teak 1-Veppa
27	143	0.05%	Bairi Rejireddy S/o Narayanaareddy	Patta	142	-	-	144	
28	142	0.25	Vattipalli Malareddy S/o Narsareddy	Patta	V/B	138, 144	141	-	1-Pipeline 1-Bore
29	142	0.13	Vattipalli Rejireddy S/o Narsareddy	Patta	V/B	138, 144	141	-	1-Veppa 1-Shanaga
30	141	0.04	Bairi Lavanya D/o Kishatreddy	Patta	142	-	Ro ad	142	
31	Rasta	0.03	Road	Govt.	V/B	-	129	142	141
32	129	0.10	Vangapalli Raju S/o Tirupati	Patta	V/B	-	-	Ro ad	1-Veppa ad 1-Teak
33	179	0.05	Jinka Devavva W/o Saailu	Lavani Patta	-	V/B	182	181	8-Neelagiri 3-Veppa
Total Extant    6.15%									
The notification is made under Section 11 (1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013 for payment of the compensation to the land owners as per the law.									
The plan of the land and other details can be inspected at the offices of the Special Deputy Collector, Land Acquisition, Unit-1, Siddipet by concerned personnel during working hours on any working day. The Government of Telangana/District Collector, Siddipet is pleased to authorise the Special deputy collector, land acquisition, Unit-1, Siddipet to enter and survey land, to excavate land, to dig bore wells and to do all acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in Section 12 of the said Act.									
Under Section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase etc or create any encumbrance on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the District Collector, Siddipet.									
Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person interested within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 (1) of the Act before the Land Acquisition Officer in writing.									
Sd/- Tahsildar, Siddipet Dist.			Sd/- Sp. Dy. Collector (LA) Siddipet (Rural) Unit-1, Kaleswaram Project Mandal			Sd/- Collector Siddipet District			Sd/- Dist. Collector Siddipet District
DIPR No.116/LAPP-V/2024-25									



INDIA CORNER


### Police arrest opium drug racket's kingpin from Shimla

The Shimla Police on Thursday here arrested the alleged kingpin of opium drug racket, a native of Nepal, they said. On July 3, a police team had arrested two Nepalese nationals with 1.5 kg opium. During investigations, the police got information about the alleged kingpin and arrested him from Narkanda, police officials said. The accused has been identified as Ravi Giri (41). Shimla SP Sanjeev Gandhi said the accused has been arrested and booked under Section 29 (abetment and criminal conspiracy to commit an offense) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. "The total amount of financial transactions of the accused is around Rs 3.40 crore since 2022. Further investigations are underway and all illegal movable and immovable properties will be identified and seized," he said.



### UP: 17 doctors dismissed over absence from work

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak on Thursday dismissed 17 doctors for remaining absent from duty without information. In a post on X, Pathak, who also holds the medical and health portfolio, said treating and curing the sick is a service to God and there cannot be any negligence or indiscipline in it. "It is a great fortune to get the responsibility of serving the people and providing health services. Serving patients is like serving God. There is no place for any kind of negligence or indiscipline in this. I have given instructions to the Principal Secretary, Medical and Health, to dismiss 17 medical officers working in various districts of the state for being negligent in providing medical services to the general public and remaining absent from duty for a long time without informing," Pathak said. He however did not share the names of the doctors who have been dismissed.



### 13 Indian fishermen arrested by Sri Lanka Navy for alleged illegal fishing

The Sri Lankan Navy on Thursday arrested 13 Indian fishermen and seized their trawlers for allegedly poaching in its territorial waters, taking the number of Indian nationals apprehended this year by the island nation in such incidents to 252, an official statement said. The fishermen were arrested, and their three trawlers were seized north of the Delft Island, Jaffna, the Sri Lanka Navy said in a press release. The Sri Lanka Navy and Coast Guard conducted the special operation leading to the apprehension of the 13 Indian fishermen, it said. Those apprehended were brought to the Kankesanthurai Harbour and will be handed to the Mailadi Fisheries Inspector for further legal proceedings. "The Navy has seized a total of 35 Indian trawlers and 252 Indian fishermen poaching in Sri Lankan waters in 2024 and subsequently handed them over to authorities for legal proceedings," the press release said.



# ‘India pitches for infusing new energies into BIMSTEC grouping’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday called on seven-nation BIMSTEC grouping to infuse new energies, resources and a fresh commitment to bolster cooperation among the Bay of Bengal countries.

The appeal was made by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar while hosting his counterparts from BIMSTEC member states at a two-day retreat in the national capital.

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) brings together seven countries of South and Southeast Asia for multifaceted cooperation.

Besides India, BIMSTEC comprises Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan. Jaishankar said BIMSTEC should harbour higher aspirations.

"For India, BIMSTEC represents the intersection of its 'Neighbourhood First' outlook, the 'Act East Policy' and the



'SAGAR' vision," Jaishankar said in his opening remarks on the first day of the retreat.

"Each of these endeavours is being proposed with a specific focus on the Bay of Bengal, where collaborative potential has long remained under-realised," he said.

"Our challenge is to change that for the better, and to do so rapidly," he added.

India has been making concerted efforts to make BIMSTEC a vibrant forum for regional cooperation as initiatives under SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) were not moving

forward for a variety of reasons. India has been cooperating with the countries of the Indian Ocean region under the broader policy framework of SAGAR or Security and Growth for all in the Region.

BIMSTEC foreign ministers' retreat is aimed at exchanging ideas openly, candidly and fruitfully.

"We all benefited from the last such exercise in Bangkok. This one now has a particular importance as it serves to prepare strong outcomes for the summit to be held later in the year," Jaishankar said.

"Our message should be clear - that we are all determined to infuse new energies, new resources and a new commitment into cooperation among the Bay of Bengal nations," he said.

Thailand is the current chair of BIMSTEC and it is set to host the annual summit of the grouping later this year.

Jaishankar said the first part of the discussions in the retreat will revolve around connectivity, cooperation in trade and business, collaboration in health and space, digital public infrastructure, capacity building and societal exchanges.

"I hope in the second part of our deliberations, we could focus more sharply on the possible outcomes of the forthcoming summit," he said.

BIMSTEC foreign ministers had last met in a similar format in Bangkok in July last year.

The charter of the grouping came into effect on May 20. "Global and regional developments also make it imperative that we find more solutions amongst ourselves.

## Nepal can't progress without close relations with India

PNS ■ KATHMANDU

The Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) on Thursday said the landlocked Himalayan nation can attain economic prosperity only by maintaining close friendly relations with India, asserting that it will not allow any activity directed against the southern neighbour from the Nepalese soil.

The remarks by a senior leader of the party led by former prime minister K P Sharma Oli came on the eve of a confidence vote in Parliament which may see him return as the politically fragile Himalayan nation's premier once again.

"CPN-UML doesn't believe that Nepal can progress or the interest of Nepalese people could be promoted by pursuing anti-India policy," Dr Rajan Bhattarai, the Foreign Affairs Department chief and Standing Committee member of the CPN-UML, told PTI in an interview.

# INDIA bloc will raise Manipur issue with full force in Parl: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress and the INDIA bloc will raise the need for peace in Manipur with full force in Parliament to put pressure on the government to end this tragedy, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said on Thursday, days after his visit to the violence-hit state.

He also reiterated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should visit Manipur and appeal for peace.

Gandhi made the remarks in a post in Hindi on X as he shared a video of his interactions with the people of Manipur during his day-long visit to the restive state on Monday.

"I have visited Manipur three times since violence broke out there, but unfortunately there is no improvement in the situation -- even today the state is divided into two parts. Houses are burning, innocent lives are in danger and thousands of families are forced to live in relief camps," the former Congress chief said.



The prime minister should personally visit Manipur, listen to the problems of the people of the state and appeal for peace, Gandhi said.

"The Congress party and INDIA bloc will raise the need for peace in Manipur with full force in Parliament to put pressure on the government to end this tragedy," the Congress leader said.

During his stay in Manipur, Gandhi had visited three relief camps in different districts of the BJP-ruled state and interacted with people belonging to both the warring ethnic groups -- Meiteis and Kukis -- who were displaced by the violence. Gandhi had also visited

Manipur weeks after ethnic violence broke out in the northeastern state on May 3 last year. He also began his 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' from the state in January 2024.

In the video, Gandhi is seen interacting with people at various relief camps. The people narrate to him their plight and fears and urge him to fight for them and raise their voice.

The Congress leader is seen in the video telling the people that his party and its MPs had raised the problems the people of Manipur were facing in the Parliament session that has just gone by and promised to raise the issues again in the upcoming session.



# Ex-Agniveers to get quota, age relaxations: CISF, BSF chiefs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The chiefs of CISF and the BSF on Thursday said 10 per cent posts of constables will be reserved in their respective forces for former Agniveers in line with a decision by the Union Home Ministry.

The remarks by CISF Director General Nina Singh and her BSF counterpart Nitin Agrawal came amid fresh spotlight on the Agnipath recruitment scheme for short-term induction of personnel in the Army, Navy and the Air Force.

"The Union Home Ministry has taken an important decision regarding the recruitment of ex-Agniveers. Accordingly, the CISF is also preparing the process of the recruitment of ex-Agniveer," Singh said.

The chief of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) said 10 per cent jobs will be reserved for ex-Agniveers in all

future appointments of constables.

"In physical tests also, they will be given exemption along with the relaxation on the age. In the first year the age relaxation is for five five years and in the subsequent year, the age relaxation will be three years," she told DD News.

"Ex-Agniveer will be able to take advantage of this and the CISF will ensure that. This will be beneficial for the CISF too as the force will get trained and disciplined personnel," Singh said.

In June 2022, the government rolled out the Agnipath recruitment scheme with an aim to bring down the age profile of the three services.

The Agnipath scheme provides for recruiting youths between the age bracket of 17-and-half years and 21 for four years with a provision to retain 25 percent of them for 15 more years.

## Cong will rectify mistakes committed in LS polls: DK

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Thursday said the Congress party would evaluate and rectify the mistakes it committed in the Lok Sabha elections in the state.

He said the exercise is aimed at taking on the BJP-JDS combine.

Speaking to reporters at the KPCC office, Shivakumar, who is also the Congress state president, said the party increased its tally from one seat in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections to nine in 2024, but that fell short of the expectation of at least 14 to 15 seats.

"The performance will be evaluated by the party in the presence of the AICC fact-finding committee. This process is taking place across the country. We are sharing our reports for the four geographical regions of the state. We will discuss and find out the shortcomings," Shivakumar said.

The deputy chief minister said though the party fielded good candidates in the recent Lok Sabha elections, it did not translate into favourable results.

"We need to understand the subtle factors which have influenced the results.

# SC seeks Centre's response on rising suicide cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Terming the rising number of suicides a "social issue", the Supreme Court on Thursday granted four weeks to the Centre for filing a comprehensive reply to a PIL seeking effective implementation of a public health programme for prevention and reduction of suicides.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra took note of the submissions of lawyer and petitioner Gaurav Kumar Bansal that effective steps are needed

to deal with the rising number of suicide cases and asked the Centre to file a comprehensive affidavit.

"It is a social issue, let them (Centre and authorities) file a counter affidavit," the CJI said. The top court, on August 2, 2019, had issued notices to Centre and all states and Union territories on the PIL.

The plea has also sought a direction to all the states and Union territories to start a project for providing support and advice through call centres and helplines to persons with suicidal thoughts.

Referring to data provided by



Delhi Police, the petition said 140 cases of suicides of children below 18 years were recorded between 2014 and 2018.

The plea said the failure of the authorities in "drafting, designing and implementing

# UP court acquits Jaya Prada in 2019 poll code violation case

PNS ■ RAMPUR (UP)

An MP-MLA court here on Thursday acquitted former MP and actor Jaya Prada in an election code violation case registered in 2019.

The actor was the BJP candidate from Rampur in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and was defeated by Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan.

The MP-MLA court Judge, Shobhit Bansal, acquitted Jaya Prada in the case lodged against her at Kemri police station in Rampur under IPC section 171 G (false statement in connection with an election),



senior prosecution officer Amarnath Tiwari said.

The 62-year-old former MP, who won the Lok Sabha election from Rampur in 2004 and 2009 on a Samajwadi Party ticket, was present in the court while the judgement was pro-

nounced.

Talking to reporters after her acquittal in the case, Jaya said, "I want to thank the honourable court for acquitting me in the case. I have been a two-time MP from Rampur... I never said anything wrong or made any such comment."

"I want to tell the public that I have represented Rampur and will always stay in Rampur. 'Satyamev Jayate' (Truth alone triumphs)," she said.

Senior prosecution officer Tiwari told reporters that the case against Jaya Prada was registered after she allegedly made remarks on Azam Khan.

# British Indian MPs swear oath on ‘Gita’, ‘Gutka’, ‘Bible’

PNS ■ LONDON

Newly elected Indian-origin MPs to the House of Commons have been pledging their allegiance to the British Crown as a symbol of loyalty to the country, choosing to swear on holy texts or to affirm their oath during the first week of a new Parliament.

A new copy of the 'Bhagavad Gita' presented to Speaker Lindsay Hoyle by Shailesh Vara, former Conservative Party member of Parliament who lost his Cambridgeshire seat in last week's general election, featured early on as Rishi Sunak was among the first British Indian MPs to take his

oath as Leader of the Opposition on Tuesday.

Holding the text in his right hand, the former prime minister read out the customary text: "I swear by Almighty God that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles, his heirs and successors, according to law. So help me God."

First-time MP Kanishka Narayan, who is the first Indian-origin member of Parliament to represent Wales in the Westminster Parliament after winning the Vale of Glamorgan seat for Labour, also chose the 'Gita' for his oath, as did new Tory MP from Leicester Shivani Raja.



Bob Blackman, a Tory veteran who represents Harrow East in London and has chaired the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for British Hindus, chose to hold both the 'Gita' and the 'King James Bible' for his oath-taking ceremony.

"This 'Bhagavad Gita' has been specially blessed in a temple in India and will be used by Hindu MPs entering Parliament following this General Election and those who will enter in the generations to come," said Shailesh

Vara, when he recently presented the holy text blessed at the Mayapur temple headquarters of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON).

Some of the British Sikh MPs such as Tan Dhesi and first-timers Gurinder Singh Josan, Harpreet Uppal, Satvir Kaur and Warinder Singh Juss chose to swear their oath to the Sikh scriptures but without holding any text in their hands.

Preet Kaur Gill, with her head covered with a red scarf, chose to hold the cloth-wrapped 'Sundar Gutka' prayer book during her swearing-in.

Sojan Joseph, the mental

health nurse from Kerala who has been elected Labour MP from Ashford in Kent, chose the 'New Testament' biblical text to swear his oath. Meanwhile, the 'King James Bible' was chosen by re-elected Conservatives Priti Patel and Claire Coutinho, as well as Liberal Democrat Munira Wilson.

MPs can opt for a non-religious affirmation, as did the two new Independent MPs with their roots in India, Shokat Adam and Iqbal Mahmood, along with many others including Tory MP Gagan Mohindra and Labour's Lisa Nandy and Seema Malhotra.

# BRICS Parliamentary meet: LS Speaker Birla pitches for reforms in UNSC, WTO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday made a strong pitch for greater democratisation of global governance structures such as the UN Security Council and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Addressing the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in St. Petersburg in Russia, Birla said India was committed to uniting emerging markets and developing countries, and affirmed its dedication to the principles of mutual respect, understanding, equality, solidarity, openness, inclusiveness and consensus.

He was speaking at the first plenary session on the theme of "The BRICS Parliamentary dimension: prospects for strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation".

Birla also welcomed the four new members -- Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates -- into the BRICS Parliamentary Forum.

"BRICS, largely representing the interests of the developing world, stands for

greater democratisation of the global governance system, and for reforming the international organisations such as the UN Security Council, WTO, at the global level," the Lok Sabha speaker said.

Birla stressed on the importance of enhancing cooperation among BRICS members and other multilateral forums, and cited the Indian philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' -- "the world is one family".

He said parliamentarians play a crucial role in advancing the agenda of growth and sustainable development, and asserted that the BRICS Parliamentary Forum was pivotal in this context.

Birla called for the need to strengthen the BRICS Parliamentary Forum and welcomed India's stance of collaboration among BRICS parliaments to enhance cooperation and solidarity, reform global governance, improve multilateral organisations, promote economic recovery and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

He also met Tulia Ackson, President of the International Parliamentary Union



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Going strong @75

The 2024 NATO summit concluded with pledges to support Ukraine and strengthen defence preparedness

Seventy-five years ago, 12 nations gathered in Washington, DC to sign the North Atlantic Treaty, better known as NATO aiming to safeguard their collective defence amid the rise of communism under Soviet Union. This year, 32 NATO Allies convened once more in Washington, DC to make critical decisions on ensuring the protection of the member countries. In these 75 years a lot has changed. The Soviet Union does not exist and the Warsaw Pact has been disbanded. But NATO is alive and taking on new challenges in the emerging world order. The 2024 NATO Summit concluded after three days of high-level discussions and strategic deliberations among the member states. Basically, a product of cold war era, NATO has been pivotal in addressing pressing global security challenges, reaffirming commitments to collective defence, and exploring new avenues of cooperation among the member states. One of the primary focuses of the summit was of course reinforcing NATO's collective defence posture. In response to



escalating tensions and conflicts in various parts of the world, NATO leaders agreed to bolster their military capabilities and readiness. This includes increased defence spending by member states, the deployment of additional troops to Eastern Europe, and the enhancement of cyber defence mechanisms. NATO members reaffirmed their commitment to expanding partnerships beyond its traditional geographical boundaries. The summit saw increased engagement with non-member countries, emphasising the importance of global security cooperation. Key partners, including Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand, participated in discussions on shared security concerns

and collaborative initiatives. In the new world order China and Russia have emerged a formidable player in the world arena. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine remained a critical issue at the summit. NATO reiterated its unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. NATO has remained steadfast in its support to Ukraine and has supported Ukraine's war efforts but just about avoiding direct confrontation with Russia and widening the scope of war. India so far has maintained a safe distance with NATO. It has charted its own nonaligned path steering clear of either of the two blocs NATO and now defunct, The Warsaw Pact. India, though not a NATO member, has been closely monitoring the developments of the summit. As a major player on the global stage, the outcomes of the NATO summit have several implications for India's strategic interests and foreign policy. India has been increasingly engaging with NATO members on various fronts, including defence and security cooperation. The emphasis on collective defence and partnerships at the summit opens avenues for India to deepen its strategic ties with NATO countries. Joint military exercises, intelligence sharing, and defence technology collaborations could see a significant boost, enhancing India's defence capabilities.

### PICTALK



Anganwadi workers conduct inspection of stored water to curb the spread of dengue during monsoon

PTI

## The synergy between culture and economy

Culture and economy are deeply intertwined, each influencing and enhancing the other. This can lead to sustainable economic progress

Culture and economy are deeply intertwined, each influencing and shaping the other in multiple ways. This synergy can be observed through various lenses, from local community impacts to global economic trends. Cultural assets such as traditions, arts, and heritage sites can drive economic growth. Cities with rich cultural histories often attract tourism, which stimulates local businesses and generates revenue. For example, the cultural heritage of cities like Paris and Rome makes them top tourist destinations, contributing significantly to their economies.

The creative sector, including music, film, fashion, and design, is a major economic driver. These industries not only create jobs and generate income but also foster innovation and attract investments. The global success of Hollywood and the fashion industry in Milan and New York are prime examples of how culture fuels economic activity. Governments often implement cultural policies to boost economic development. By investing in cultural infrastr-



structure such as museums, theatres, and festivals, they create vibrant communities that attract residents, businesses, and tourists. These investments can lead to urban regeneration and increased property values. A culturally diverse workforce brings various perspectives and skills, fostering creativity and problem-solving. This diversity can enhance a company's ability to innovate and adapt to changing markets, making economies more resilient to shocks. Globalisation has increased cultural exchange, leading to the spread of ideas, goods, and services across borders. This cultural exchange can open new markets for businesses and create opportunities for economic partnerships. For instance, the glob-

al popularity of K-pop and Japanese anime has created vast economic opportunities for South Korea and Japan. Cultural education enhances human capital by fostering critical thinking, creativity, and communication skills. These qualities are essential in the modern economy, where knowledge and innovation are key drivers of success. Investing in cultural education can thus contribute to a more skilled and adaptable workforce. Maitreya Dadashri, the force behind the summit also shared this vision, "The synergy between culture and economy forms the foundation of sustainable development. We envision a future where spiritual and economic prosperity evolve hand in hand," he said.

Countries and cities often use culture to brand themselves and build soft power. Cultural diplomacy, through international cultural events, exchanges, and collaborations, can enhance a nation's global image and influence, attracting foreign investment and tourism. Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal echoed this senti-

ment at the Maitri Cultural Economy Summit 2024. "The Modi government has been dedicated to nurturing culture to harness its economic potential," he said. He emphasised that India's cultural economy is deeply rooted in the ancient wisdom of the Vedas and Puranas, making it an intrinsic part of the nation's identity. Cultural tourism in cities like Ayodhya, Varanasi, and Puri, along with major events such as the Kumbh Mela, play a significant role in contributing to the GDP.

In conclusion, the synergy between culture and economy is a powerful combo that drives both societal and economic progress. By recognizing and fostering this relationship, policymakers, businesses, and communities can harness cultural assets to achieve sustainable economic growth and development. This was aptly summed up by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari when he said that importance of cultural economic governance must be the cornerstone of our policies.

(The writer is a social activist and business consultant; views are personal)



PRABHA GUPTA

## Will Democrats nominate Joe Biden

As the Democratic Party prepares to nominate him, questions linger about Biden's ability to lead, the party's strategy and potential challengers

U.S. President Joe Biden's underwhelming performance in the 2024 presidential debate last week raised concerns due to his apparent fatigue, forgetfulness, and confusion. This has caused uncertainty among supporters despite Biden's attempts to reassure them in the post-debate period. Even last week, during a speech in Madison, Wisconsin, he initially said he would "beat Donald Trump again in 2020" before correcting himself to "2024," which added to the uncertainty. According to the Spanish newspaper El Pais, Biden has defended himself about three things. First, his support stayed pretty much the same after the debate. Secondly, most party voters want him to continue. The last point is that other options are not better. President Biden has demonstrated resilience in the face of pressure to step down. He confidently declared at a rally in Madison that he would run and win again, which cheered his supporters and reassured sceptics. President Biden's improved performance in his public appearances post-debate has the potential to significantly reshape his chances in the upcoming election and the prospects of the Democratic Party.

This shift in dynamics could bring a sense of hope and anticipation to the party. Next month, the Democratic Party will nominate President Biden as its 2024 Presidential candidate in a virtual convention. This event will officially confirm Biden's candidacy and establish the party's campaign strategy. If Biden stays in the race, it will be tough for any other candidate to win the Democratic nomination. This is because the party rules give Biden a big advantage. These rules include specific guidelines for delegate allocation and superdelegate influence. If Biden were to resign, who would take his place? With only four months before the 2024 election, finding the right person takes a lot of work. This shows how serious the situation is. Kamala Harris, the current Vice President and Joe Biden's running mate is the top contender for the

upcoming presidential election. Many believe that she has the advantage. However, her lack of popularity could be a significant challenge, as 49% of Americans disapprove of her according to polling averages. Republicans hope Harris will become the Democratic presidential nominee, believing it will benefit Trump's campaign.

The Trump campaign has launched an ad with the slogan: "This November, vote Republican. Stop Kamala." A recent poll by Reuters/Ipsos showed that Michelle Obama could win against Trump in November. However, Michelle has repeatedly said she does not aspire to be President, so it's doubtful she will run. Several names are being floated to replace President Biden.

This includes at least six governors: Gavin Newsom from California, Gretchen Whitmer from Michigan, Josh Shapiro from Pennsylvania, J. B. Pritzker from Illinois, and Ro Khanna, a representative from California. Each of these potential candidates has their strengths and weaknesses. For instance, Gavin Newsom is the favourite. Their potential to run for office would have dif-



IF BIDEN WERE TO RESIGN, WHO WOULD TAKE HIS PLACE? WITH ONLY FOUR MONTHS BEFORE THE 2024 ELECTION, FINDING THE RIGHT PERSON TAKES A LOT OF WORK. THIS SHOWS HOW SERIOUS THE SITUATION IS

ferent effects on the Democratic Party and the upcoming election. After the debate, polls from CNN, The New York Times, and The Wall Street Journal showed that Biden is six points behind Trump in the country. Biden is also trailing in the most crucial states he won in 2020. Furthermore, other states he won—Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, and Virginia—now seem uncertain.

In 2020, four months before the election, Biden was 9 points ahead in the polls. However, he eventually won the election with 51.25% of the popular vote, compared to Trump's 46.8%. This data suggests Biden may face a more challenging race in 2024 than 2020. When asked whether he could run the country for another term, he told ABC in a recent interview, "I believe so; I wouldn't be running if I didn't think I did. Look, I'm running again because I believe I understand best what has to be done to take this nation to a completely new level. We're on our way." Polls reveal that voters are more concerned about whether the 81-year-old President could manage another four years in the

White House than his 77-year-old predecessor.

Biden needs to be more competent to win in November. Biden was confident when he said, "If the Lord Almighty came down and said, 'Joe, get out of the race,' I'd get out of the race," but added, "The Lord Almighty's not coming down." So, it is up to God Almighty to go down and ask him to keep out of the race. Trump quietly observes Biden's challenging position. India has had a good rapport with both Trump and Biden. There is also bipartisan support. Therefore, it is unlikely that their South Asia and India policies will change, given the growing economic influence of India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also has a good rapport with both of them. Biden is facing challenges as he moves toward November. Trump has raised a lot of money and still has support from his party despite some court decisions going against him. Both candidates are trying to harm each other's reputation. Elections are unpredictable, especially with four months to go. Anything could happen.

(The writer is a popular columnist; views expressed are personal)



KALYANI SHANKAR



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### USE OF DIGITAL TECH IN HEALTHCARE

Madam — Apropos the article "Transforming healthcare with digital technologies," published on July 9, this is my response. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgent need for digital transformation in the healthcare sector. According to the 2018 Digital Trends report by Econsultancy, only 7% of healthcare and pharmaceutical companies have gone digital, compared to 15% in other industries. The pandemic has underscored the importance of digitizing medical services, which can reduce costs and improve quality. For instance, Austria's e-Medication system has been running successfully for years, allowing patients to access their electronic medical records anytime and anywhere. Similarly, doctors in Sweden and Denmark send e-prescriptions to pharmacies. The UK's National Health Service is working with Google to deploy AI in healthcare. Digital transformation empowers patients to manage their treatment independently and ensures that medical histories are readily accessible in emergencies, eliminating the need for physical files.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

### RAGA AS LEADER OF OPPOSITION

Madam — During the last week, Rahul Gandhi visited Hathi, Manipur, and Rae Bareilly, expressing his opinions on various incidents as the Leader of Opposition. This reflects a mature Indian democracy and raises expectations for his role in the next budget session. A 2012 government note described the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha as the "Shadow Prime Minister of India." Since becoming LoP, Gandhi has targeted Modi inside and outside Parliament. However, with great power comes great responsibility. Gandhi must maintain the sanctity of his position, opposing questionable government policies without obstructing proceedings. He should ensure government accountability, pro-

### Upgrade teaching standards in new technology



During the IT industry boom, many engineering colleges in India emerged without updated curricula, industry linkages,

or adequate student-faculty ratios. Except for IITs, some NITs, and a few private colleges, these institutions have failed to produce job-ready graduates.

A survey by Aspiring Minds revealed that 86% of engineers are unemployable in the knowledge economy. Most private engineering colleges now focus on AI, ML, DS, and IoT, but 90% of their teachers lack fundamental knowledge in these fields. Teachers need continuous professional development through refresher courses and orientation programs to stay current. Teaching AI and Data Science requires a different approach than programming them. Addressing the gaps in teaching standards, particularly in emerging technologies, is crucial for preparing future engineers and maintaining the quality of education in India.

M Suresh Babu | Hyderabad

pose alternatives, and facilitate smooth functioning of the House. Gandhi's recent actions have portrayed him as a proactive leader, but he must be mindful of his conduct. The effectiveness of his maiden speech as LoP is debated, but it undeniably stirred significant responses from the Prime Minister and Union ministers. The upcoming budget session will be keenly watched to see if the Opposition can maintain its momentum.

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

### ADDRESS MOB LYNCHING IN UP

Madam — In 2023, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced a provision for the death penalty for mob lynching under new criminal laws. However, this commitment seems hollow in practice. In Shamli district, Uttar Pradesh, scrap dealer Firoz Qureshi was lynched by a mob, yet local authorities downplayed the incident as a mutual dispute.

When journalists Zakir Ali Tyagi and Wasim Akram Tyagi reported on the

lynching, they faced FIRs for allegedly disturbing communal harmony.

The Press Club of India has rightly called for the cancellation of these FIRs, emphasizing that reporting publicly available information is a cornerstone of authentic journalism. The arbitrary use of laws to intimidate journalists violates Article 19(1)(A) of the Constitution. Upholding journalistic freedom is essential to maintaining a democratic society.

Mob lynching must not be tolerated because it represents a severe breakdown of the rule of law and undermines the foundations of a civilized society. It fosters a climate of fear and impunity, where individuals take the law into their own hands, leading to tragic and often fatal outcomes. Such acts of violence erode trust in legal institutions, perpetuate communal hatred, and jeopardize the safety and rights of individuals.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

PM MODI'S STRATEGIC VISIT

PM Modi's visit to Russia underscores the importance of Russia in India's foreign policy




KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

This week marked several high-profile meetings amongst senior leaders around the globe, discussing primarily various conflicts and possible outcomes. PM Narendra Modi, in his first state visit during his third stint, visited Russia and Austria. The State visit by the India PM was the first since the Ukraine war and underscores the primacy of Russia in India's state of affairs. Meanwhile, all North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) leaders assembled in Washington DC to discuss global geopolitics. Ukraine and the Middel East featured prominently in all the discussions, even though the flavours were significantly different.

The India-Russia joint statement following President Putin and PM Modis' bilateral meetings read "The Sides highlighted the imperative of peaceful resolution of the conflict around Ukraine through dialogue and diplomacy including engagement between both parties. They noted with appreciation relevant proposals of mediation and good offices aimed at peaceful resolution of the conflict by international law and based on the UN Charter in its entirety and totality. "Earlier, PM Modi during one of the televised speeches of the two leaders told his Russian counterpart "peace is of utmost importance" and solution to Ukraine could not be found on the battlefield. He expressed serious concern regarding the bombing of a children's hospital in Kyiv and said "When innocent children are murdered, one sees them die, the heart pains and that pain is unbearable." Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, with whom PM Modi has had several telephone calls in the past, called the Russia state visit by India "a blow to peace efforts."

NATO Secretary General, Mr Stoltenberg in the run-up to the NATO summit said "Allies will agree a financial pledge for Ukraine", and that he also expects more immediate military support to Ukraine." Ukraine is moving closer to NATO ". The close relationship with NATO was one of the reasons Russia came marching into Ukraine. It was a tightrope walk for PM Modi, in Russia, given the relatively new strategic relationships, he has developed in his last decade of being at the helm, crucial among them being the India-US partnership. It would be worth mentioning that



In the wake of the war in Ukraine, India has not yet verbally criticised Russia, for its aggression and has also stayed away from multilateral resolutions against Moscow. In the first few months, of Russia's attack on Ukraine, several US top leaders had criticised India's stance regarding the war, and even a threat of sanctions was discussed. However, with deft diplomatic efforts made by both long-term partners, the high-decibel criticism was restricted to closed-door meetings. PM Modi's state visit to Russia opened some of the past heartburn regarding Ukraine in Washington. US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said "US has raised concerns with India regarding its relationship with Russia". He added "We would urge India, as we do any country when it engages with Russia, to make clear that any resolution to the conflict in Ukraine needs to be one that respects the UN charter, that respects Ukraine's territorial integrity," This comes at a time when the US has been seen to be one of the most important allies of India in the recent past.

Interestingly President Putin upon re-election chose to visit Beijing in one of his first official trips and followed it with a bilateral last week, on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Kazakhstan. China and Russia have mutually agreed to be friends without any limitations, and are widely seen as challengers to what they allege as the US-led democratic order. India and China are on an extremely rough patch due to the military aggression on India's borders. India managed to walk the tight rope for now, but at some point of time it will have to balance it out with more actionable statements on world conflicts.


*(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)*

# India and US support for the Dalai Lama and Tibetans upsets China

## India and America's identical and unequivocal stance on Tibet has rattled China, highlighting the evolving geopolitical dynamics in Asia

In a significant diplomatic move, both India and the United States have extended their support to the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan cause, provoking a strong reaction from China. The adoption of the Resolve Tibet Act by the US Congress and a recent high-profile meeting between a bipartisan American Congressional delegation and the Dalai Lama in Dharamshala have amplified the tensions between the US, India, and China. This article explores the strategic and ideological implications of these developments.

**A Diplomatic Convergence:** The backdrop of this development is the increasingly strained relationship between the United States and China.



K S TOMAR

The US Congress's passage of the Resolve Tibet Act, which promises comprehensive support for the Tibetan cause, marks a clear stance against China's policies in Tibet. The meeting between the American delegation and the Dalai Lama further underscores this commitment. In a related move, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with the US delegation, who congratulated him on his historic third-term

election victory and praised the fairness and transparency of the recent Indian general elections. Modi's subsequent Twitter post highlighted the strong bipartisan support for advancing the India-US strategic partnership. Notably, the post did not mention the Dalai Lama, though it was clear the topic was a significant aspect of the discussions. India's hosting of the Tibetan government-in-exile in Dharamshala places it in a unique position concerning the Tibetan cause. The Indian government has historically balanced its support for Tibet with its broader strategic and economic relations with China. The timing of the meetings suggests a coordinated diplomatic effort to highlight shared values and mutual

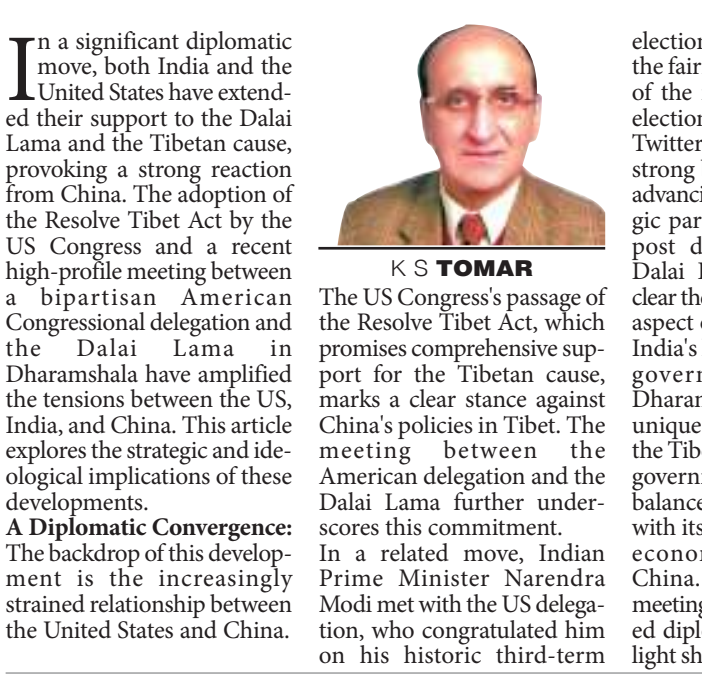
interests in countering China's assertive policies. **Strategic Ramifications:** The convergence of American and Indian interests reflects the evolving geopolitical landscape in Asia. Both nations share concerns about China's growing influence and assertive behavior, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. By reinforcing their strategic partnership, the United States and India signal their commitment to a rules-based international order, countering China's ambitions. In response, China is likely to intensify its efforts to strengthen alliances and expand its influence in the region. This could involve deepening ties with Pakistan, increasing engagement with other South Asian nations, and accelerat-

ing Belt and Road Initiative projects to secure strategic footholds. Additionally, China might enhance its military posture along disputed borders with India, particularly in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, to assert territorial claims. Beyond immediate strategic calculations, these meetings highlight the broader ideological contest between democratic values and authoritarian governance. The Dalai Lama, a symbol of non-violent resistance and spiritual leadership, embodies values resonating with global advocates of democracy and human rights. Engaging with him reinforces the US and India's commitment to these principles. China, facing scrutiny over its

human rights record in Tibet, Xinjiang, and Hong Kong, is placed in a defensive position. In the global influence battle, soft power and moral authority are becoming increasingly important. The Dharamshala and Delhi meetings enhance the soft power of the United States and India, positioning them as champions of human rights and democratic values. **The Path Forward:** As the geopolitical chessboard in Asia becomes more complex, the interplay between diplomacy and deterrence will be crucial. The United States and India, through coordinated diplomatic actions, are setting the stage for a more assertive and collaborative approach to countering China's influence. This involves not only

strengthening bilateral ties but also fostering broader coalitions with like-minded countries in the Indo-Pacific region. The high-level US delegation, led by Republican Rep. Michael McCaul and including prominent figures like Democratic former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, discussed the relevance and significance of the Resolve Tibet Act. President Joe Biden, a strong advocate for Tibetan rights, is expected to approve the Act. China's reaction has been predictably strong, warning the United States against sending the "wrong signal." The Chinese embassy in India emphasized China's stance on Tibet as an internal matter, condemning any perceived

interference in its domestic affairs. **Conclusion** India and America's identical and unequivocal stance on Tibet has rattled China, highlighting the evolving geopolitical dynamics in Asia. The historical breach of trust by China in 1962, replicated in 2020 during the Ladakh confrontation, underscores the challenges in Sino-Indian relations. Prime Minister Modi's efforts to normalize ties with Beijing have not yielded desired results, reflecting the ongoing tension. Adopting a more nuanced approach to diplomacy may help mitigate tensions while advancing China's strategic goals. *(Writer is a political analyst; views are personal)*



# A call for civility and integrity in democracy

The elected representatives must adhere to constitutional principles and the high standards set by the framers of the Constitution

J S RAJPUT

The Constitution and its makers Deserve Respect. S. Rajput In a functional democracy, election times could indeed become a celebration time, not only the competing candidates and their partiers, but also for the for entire country, which may involve votes, and future voters. Imagine a situation in which every candidate remains respectful to all others, and is ever conscious of his words and their usage in every interaction, interview and interpretation of the views of his competitors. Everyone who enters the election fray is duty-bound to remember that there is a generation of younger people watching closely how they conduct themselves in competitive conditions, and the extent to which they are conscious of their conduct and behaviour, both in public and private. Though it is a major responsibility of the family and school to shape the growing up of the children, the significance of the role of society and particularly those keen to lead the society could never be ignored.

It is not only the 'Acharya' whose conduct is under watch and is emulated, children in their sensitive years learn from numerous sources, and no one is out of their ambit of keen observation. Having seen, observed and participated in the elections that were just over, one may find all these 'expectations' just 'utopian, to be aspired for, but with full understanding that these would never be fulfilled! After the election results, the parliament meets, and there is only a superficial bonhomie of a few minutes, followed by the same old routine of distrust, and a sense of shyness, the creation of hurdles and ensuring that the nation must once again get ready to suffer continuous shouting in both the Houses of parliament and regular walk-outs! Is it amazing – and sadly enough, amusing – that the elected representatives of the great Indian democracy just cannot sit together and find out ways and means to sit together, express themselves, and arrive at inferences that are for the good of their voters? How could they ignore that they are the legatees of Gandhi, Ambedkar, Rajendra Prasad, Rajagolachari, and that illustrious lot that prepared the Constitution, and had cre-

ated conditions to enable them to get elected, enjoy all the perks and privileges that have been acquiring bulging proportions? A veteran of the freedom struggle once told me he finds it repulsive when people go to Raj Ghat before beginning their so-called fasts, political dramas and whatever you may call it. I share his anguish. Many others would also be doing so. Those who indulge in such frivolities could remember what Dr Ambedkar had mentioned in his concluding speech in the Constituent Assembly on November 25, 1949: "If we wish to maintain democracy not merely in form, but also a fact, what must we do? The first thing in my judgment we must do is hold fast to constitutional methods of achieving our social and economic objectives. It means we must abandon the bloody methods of revolution. It means that we must abandon the method of civil disobedience, non-cooperation and satyagraha." He goes on to point out that even with the Constitution in place, the nation, its people in general and those occupying constitutional positions in particular must never forget: "...however good a constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called to work it, happen to be a bad lot. However bad a constitution may be, it may turn out to be good if those who are called to work it, happen to be a good lot.... The Constitution can provide only the organs of the State such as the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. The factors on which the working of those organs of the State depends are the people and the political parties they will set up as their instruments to carry out their wishes and their politics." Not only Dr. Ambedkar, but other stalwarts were also equally concerned oabouthow things may take shape in future.

Speaking on November 26 of 1949, the final remarks of the President of the Constituent Assembly could be the guiding light for every member of parliament, irrespective of his party affiliations: "Whatever the Constitution may or may not provide, the welfare of the country will depend on how the country is administered. That will depend upon the men who administer it. It is a trite saying that a country can have only the Government it deserves. If the people who are elected are capable, and men of character and integrity, they will be able to make the best even of a defective Constitution. If they are lacking in these, the Constitution cannot help the country. After all, a constitution like a machine is a lifeless thing. It acquires life because of the men who control it and operate it, and India needs today nothing more than a set of honest men who will have the interest of the country before them". There can be no better articulation of the anxiety and anguish that every concerned Indian citizen experiences at this juncture of history. India needs awakeners not only in every section of Indian society." The newly elected MPs could rally move towards an illustrious political career if they just internalize the thoughts, ideas and ideals of three of the illustrious Indians: Gandhi, Rajendra Prasad and Ambedkar; the ARG" This could become their tribute and salutations to the three of them, and that would equip them to plunge into the service of the people and India. Scholars and institutions must launch serious analysis of certain aspects of how the democratic process has fared in its actual practice, in sustaining its credibility amongst the voters. They could also find out with academic fidelity – and inform the

people what has eroded Gandhian values that were supposed to become the cornerstone of the Indian Democracy after the Constitution of India was prepared with un-heard of dexterity and socio-economic and cultural comprehension by its framers, all of whom were distinguished freedom fighters, known for their sacrifice, non-accumulation, and commitment to a cause. Not only in India, the greatness of the contributions of Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar is acknowledged globally. It is indeed intriguing for numerous people how those who swore by his name all the time to give a zing to their political ambitions, blatantly ignore some of his basic premises which were an outcome not only of his intellectual prowess but also a precise and incisive comprehension of life he had led! Take the example of reservations for the SC/SC communities. It is the responsibility of the members of the Parliament and State assemblies to fact-check the extent to which reservations have helped the target groups. How long shall the unscrupulous among the politicians shall be allowed to play the games of caste, creed, religion, region and even language? If all this is permitted to continue, it would be impossible to create an India that projects social cohesion and religious amity. Revert back to the sixties of the last century, Gandhi had gone but had not vanished from the psyche of the people, young persons were convinced that the caste system would be eliminated during the next two to three decades. Yes, that was the spirit of the Constitution of India, that was the India of Baba Saheb's Dreams! *(Professor Rajput works in education, social cohesion and religious amity; views are personal)*



MONEY MATTERS

## Gold price rises on jewellers' buying, positive overseas trend

Gold price rose Rs 50 to Rs 75,100 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday driven by jewellers' buying and a firm trend in the international markets, according to All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal had settled at Rs 75,050 per 10 grams on Wednesday. Silver prices also climbed by Rs 100 to Rs 94,500 per kg. It had closed at Rs 94,400 per kg in the previous session. In sarafa markets, the yellow metal was trading at Rs 75,100 per 10 grams, up by Rs 50 against the previous close, the association said. Traders said gold rallied due to fresh demand from local jewellers and a firm trend in overseas markets. In the global markets, spot gold was trading higher at US\$ 2,389.20 per ounce, up by US\$ 9.50 per ounce. Gold prices firmed for a third consecutive session with investors awaiting US inflation data due later in the day for more insights on the Federal Reserve's interest rate path, Manav Modi, Senior Analyst, Commodity Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd (MOFSL), said.



## ED arrests company promoter in Rs 25,000 cr bank loan fraud

The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday said it has arrested the director of an insolvent automotive equipment manufacturing company as part of a money laundering probe linked to an alleged Rs 25,000-crore bank loan fraud case. Arvind Dham, the promoter and one of the directors of the Amtek Group, was taken into custody on Tuesday (July 9), it said in a statement. A special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Delhi sent him to seven days Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody after he was produced before it on Wednesday. The money laundering case against the company and its directors stems from a CBI FIR that was registered on written complaints from the IDBI Bank and the Bank of Maharashtra, the ED said. It was alleged that loans were diverted through cheating, fraud and criminal breach of trust, causing a wrongful loss of worth Rs 673.35 crore to the banks, the agency said. The Supreme Court in February, while deciding a public interest petition against the Amtek Auto group of companies, directed the ED to investigate the case.



## Rupee falls 5 paise to close at 83.56 against US dollar

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## ISF members add 2.20 lakh flexi jobs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Industry body Indian Staffing Federation (ISF) on Thursday said it added 2.20 lakh new flexi jobs to reach 16.6 lakh in 2023-24.

The data was shared as part of its 'Annual Employment Trends 2024' report launched by V Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor to Government of India, and Ramesh Krishnamurthi, Additional Secretary, Union Ministry of Labor and Employment, ISF said in a statement.

"Flexi staffing industry witnesses 15.3 per cent year on year growth in new jobs during FY24. ISF members added 2.20 lakh new flexi jobs in FY24. ISF collectively added 2.20 lakh new flexi jobs during this period reaching 16.6 lakhs," the statement said.

ISF President Lohit Bhatia said the staffing industry added 30,000 new flexi employment opportunities in the last quarter of FY24.

## 'Question of change in stance on interest rate quite premature now'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said the question of change of stance on interest rate is quite premature given the gap between current inflation and 4 per cent target.

"Given the gap between current inflation and 4 per cent target, question of change of stance is quite premature...when we move towards 4 per cent CPI (retail inflation) on a sustained basis is when we will get the confidence to think about a change in stance," Das said in an interview to CNBC-TV 18.

He said the inflation journey is progressing as per expectations, but added that it is the last mile of the journey towards 4 per cent, which will be the most difficult or sticky.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation has been projected at 4.5 per cent with quarter-wise projec-



tions at 4.9 per cent in Q1 (April-June), 3.8 per cent in Q2, 4.6 per cent in Q3, and 4.5 per cent in Q4, RBI had said in its June bi-monthly report.

The Reserve Bank, which has been mandated to ensure inflation remains at 4 per cent

(with margin of 2 per cent on either side), mainly factors in CPI while arriving at its monetary policy.

He had said headline inflation softened further during March-April, though persisting food inflation pressures offset the

gains of disinflation in core and deflation in the fuel groups. Despite some moderation, pulses and vegetables inflation remained firmly in double digits.

Vegetable prices are experiencing a summer uptick following a shallow winter season correction. The deflationary trend in fuel was driven primarily by the LPG price cuts in early March. Core inflation softened for the 11th consecutive month since June 2023. Services inflation moderated to a historic low and goods inflation remained contained.

Concerning GDP, Das said many growth drivers are playing out their role and the growth momentum was very strong in the fourth quarter of last financial year which continues to be strong in the first quarter.

The June policy also revised the GDP growth projection for the current fiscal upwards to 7.2 per cent from 7 per cent on rising private consumption and revival of demand in rural areas.

## India's oil, gas exploration offers US\$ 100 bn opportunity: Puri

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday called for stepping up the oil and gas hunt to cut India's reliance on imports and making available fuel at an affordable and sustainable way.

Speaking at the Urja Varta conference, he said the exploration and production (E&P) sector is integral in the journey towards energy self-sufficiency, which is critical for sustained economic growth.

"E&P offers investment opportunities worth US\$ 100 billion by 2030," he said.

Stating that India's exploration and production potential still lies untapped, he said, "I find it strange that India is so heavily reliant on oil imports despite the abundant geological resources available to us."

The Indian sedimentary basins hold about 651.8 million tonnes of crude oil and 1138.6 billion cubic meters of natural gas, he said. Puri said only 10 per cent of our sedimentary basin



area is under exploration, which will rise to 16 per cent by 2024-end after the current bid ends.

"The focus of our exploratory endeavours must pivot towards discovering 'Yet to Find' resources," he said. India imports over 85 per cent of its crude oil needs. Crude oil is converted into fuels like petrol and diesel in refineries.

"The government is doing its part to catalyse investments in E&P. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has instituted sweeping reforms, empowering stakeholders to contribute to

our nation's progress," he said, adding "We intend to increase India's exploration acreage to 1 million sq. km. by 2030."

The minister said since its inception in 2015, the Discovered Small Field (DSF) Policy has garnered investments of approximately US\$ 2 billion and brought in 29 new players in the field.

"The opening up of the erstwhile no-go areas has paved the way for exploration activities in previously restricted zones, fostering investments, notably in regions such as the Andamans," he said.

## India's veg oil imports up 18% in June to 15.5 lakh tonnes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Import of vegetable oils, comprising edible and non-edible oils, rose 18 per cent in June to 15.5 lakh tonnes on higher imports of crude palm oil and crude sunflower oil, according to trade data.

Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) data showed that import of vegetable oils during June 2024 stood at 15,50,659 tonnes compared to 13,14,476 tonnes in the year-ago period. Edible

oils import increased in June to 15,27,481 tonnes from 13,11,576 tonnes in the same month last year. However, the imports of non-edible oils jumped to 23,178 tonnes from 2,300 tonnes during the period under review.

During the first eight months of 2023-24 oil year ending October, the imports of vegetable oils fell 2 per cent to 1,02,29,106 tonnes compared to 1,04,83,120 tonnes in the corresponding period of the previous year.

## RBI permit banks to use ratings of Brickwork Ratings India

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday permitted banks to use ratings by Brickwork Ratings India Private Limited for loans of up to Rs 250 crore. The RBI, in October 2022, asked banks and other regulated entities not to obtain any fresh ratings from Brickwork Ratings India.

The Certificate of Registration granted to Brickwork Ratings India as a Credit Rating Agency (CRA) was cancelled by market regulator Sebi in October 2022.

After a review of the October 2022 circular, the RBI on Wednesday permitted banks to use the ratings of the

"In respect of fresh rating mandates, the rating may be obtained from the CRA for bank loans not exceeding Rs 250 crore. In respect of existing ratings, the CRA may undertake rating surveillance irrespective of the rated amount till the residual tenure of such loans," it said

CRA for risk weighting their claims for capital adequacy purposes, subject to certain conditions.

"In respect of fresh rating mandates, the rating may be obtained from the CRA for bank loans not exceeding Rs 250 crore. In respect of existing ratings, the CRA may

undertake rating surveillance irrespective of the rated amount till the residual tenure of such loans," it said.

The Reserve Bank has also issued another circular, tweaking norms related to remittances to International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) under the Liberalised Remittance



Scheme (LRS). On a review, RBI said it has been decided that "authorised persons" may facilitate remittances for all permissible purposes under LRS to IFSCs for availing financial services or financial products as per the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019, within IFSCs.

At present, remittances under LRS to IFSCs can be made only for making investments in IFSCs in securities except those issued by entities/ companies resident in India (outside IFSC), and payment of fees for education to foreign universities or foreign institutions in IFSCs for pursuing courses

## Economic vision of new govt, political theme key aspects to watch in budget

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The new government's economic vision and management of the "political theme" will be among the key aspects to watch in the upcoming Union budget, a Japanese brokerage said on Thursday.

The brokerage said the second half of the year will see "muted returns" on the equities front, and reiterated its year-end target of 24,860 points on Nifty, which is only about 3 per cent higher than the current levels.

The fiscal glide path beyond FY26, when the government has committed to reduce the fiscal deficit to 4.6 per cent, will also be a key theme to look at, Nomura's India Economist Aurodeep Nandi told reporters.

Reminding of the 100-day programmes of the new government prepared by various ministries ahead of the elections, Nandi said getting some idea of the economic vision of the new government will be a key area to watch.

After the election setback, the "political theme" of the budget by the new government dependent on coalition partners will also be keenly watched, he said.

Specifically, how the new government manages the demands from Bihar and Andhra Pradesh - the home base of allies Janata Dal and TDP, respectively - will be watched, Nandi said.

## Vodafone Idea seeks waiver of Rs 24,700 cr bank guarantee from DoT

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Debt-ridden Vodafone Idea has reached out to the Department of Telecom to seek waiver on a financial bank guarantee worth Rs 24,747 crore for spectrum payment due in September 2025, according to sources.

Vodafone Idea (VIL) needs to securitize the annual instalment one year before the due date of the payment.

"Vodafone Idea has reached out to DoT seeking waiver for financial bank guarantee (FBG) worth Rs 24,747 crore which it has to pay in September 2025. The FBG

needs to be deposited one year before the due date as per spectrum auction rules," a source, who did not wish to be identified, said.



An email query sent to Vodafone Idea elicited no response. The payments are for frequen-

cies that VIL purchased in auctions that were conducted before 2022. VIL in 2022 opted for a four-year moratorium to pay for the spectrum allowed under a government relief package. The moratorium period for the spectrum payment obligations related to spectrum auctions conducted until 2016 ends between October 2025 and September 2026.

The company also opted for a moratorium on AGR payments. The moratorium ends in March 2026.

VIL is required to provide bank guarantees at least 13 months prior to the expiry of the relevant moratorium period.

## Sensex, Nifty close marginally down amid profit-taking ahead of key financial results

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex and Nifty closed marginally down in a rangebound session on Thursday as investors booked profits in heavyweights ahead of the announcement of key financial results for the June quarter. Retreating from early highs, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed lower by 27.43 points or 0.03 per cent at 79,897.34. As many as 15 Sensex shares closed with gains while the rest declined.

The index climbed 245.32 points to hit a high of 80,170.09 in early trade but later lost



momentum due to selling in index heavyweights. The barometer hit a day's low of 79,464.38, down by 460.39 points from the last close.

The NSE Nifty edged down

8.50 points or 0.03 per cent to settle at 24,315.95. The broader index gyrated between a high of 24,402.65 and a low of 24,193.75 in day trade.

"The main indices are trad-

ing in a narrow range, struggling to justify its premium valuation ahead of the Q1 earnings season, which is forecast to be subdued," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

Among Sensex shares, Bajaj Finance fell the most by 1.48 per cent. Mahindra & Mahindra (1.24 per cent), NTPC (1.14 per cent) and Nestle (1.05 per cent) were also among the major losers. HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Sun Pharma, Power Grid, UltraTech Cement, Bharti Airtel, RIL and Larsen & Toubro also declined.

## Insurers expect more tax benefits for health insurance

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

More tax benefits for health insurance under the new tax regime, relaxation in payment norms for MSMEs and incentives for the agri-tech sector are among the expectations of stakeholders from the first budget of the Modi 3.0 government.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the full Budget for fiscal 2024-25 on July 23, which will be the first major policy document of the new government.

Anup Rau, Managing Director and Chief Executive



Officer of Future Generali India Insurance Company, said the deduction limit on health insurance premiums under Section 80D of the Income Tax Act has remained unchanged for the past nine years despite the fact that there has been a significant rise in healthcare

costs across the country.

"It would be best if the limit for medical insurance is linked to inflation and gets revised automatically every year or once in a couple of years. Also, the benefits need to be extended to the New Tax regime since increasing health insurance

penetration is critical. So, we hope the upcoming Budget to announce some hike in the deduction limit on health insurance premiums," Rau said.

Tapan Singhel, MD & CEO of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, said reforms like offering health insurance to employees at negotiated rates, reducing GST on health insurance premiums, and offering tax benefits like increased Section 80D exemption limits would make health insurance more affordable and accessible, especially for the 'missing middle' segment of our population. "Additionally, for senior citizens, removing the limit on

deductions for health insurance premiums would significantly ease their financial burden," Singhel said. The finance minister is likely to lay out the government's economic agenda in the budget.

On expectations from the Sitharaman's budget, D S Negi, CEO of Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre (RGCIRC), said the focus on reforming cancer care in India is crucial and it is important to prioritise funding for advanced treatments like immunotherapy and personalised medicine, ensuring more patients can access these cutting-edge therapies.

## ixigo, AU Small Finance Bank launch co-branded RuPay travel credit card

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Travel distribution platform ixigo and AU Small Finance Bank on Thursday announced the launch of RuPay variant of their premium co-branded travel credit card, offering the customers UPI-based payments and rewards.

The RuPay variant offers a range of features such as the facility to link RuPay credit card on UPI using any UPI payment app, a comprehensive insurance cover of up to Rs 2 lakh, including personal acci-



dent insurance and permanent disability cover, and reward points on UPI transactions, ixigo said.

"With seamless UPI integra-

tion and comprehensive insurance coverage, this card is designed to meet the evolving needs of modern travellers, especially those from tier 2,3 & 4 cities," ixigo quoted Alok Bajpai, Group CEO & Rajnish Kumar, Group Co-CEO as saying.

In addition, the cardholders will get 1,000 reward points, Rs 1,000 ixigo money reward on completing their first transaction within 30 days, and a fuel surcharge waiver of 1 per cent and 10 per cent reward points on train transactions.







*what's brewing?*

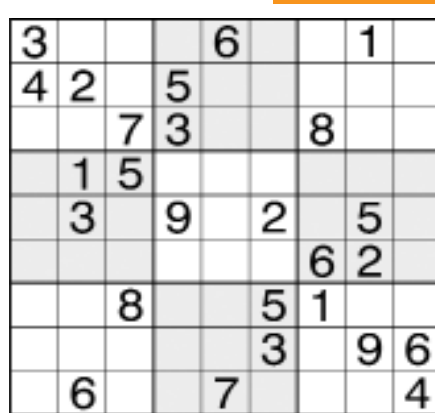
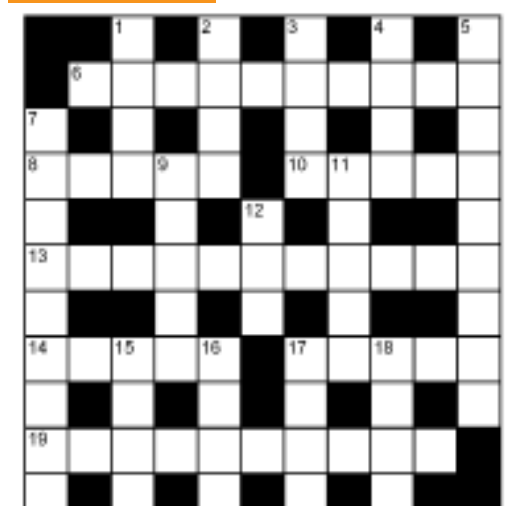
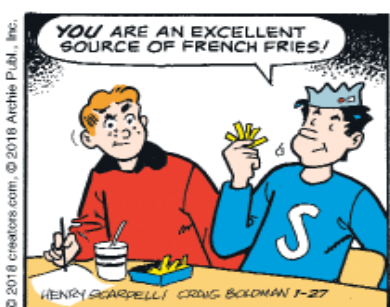


**H**unger can strike anywhere and anytime. And in these moments, there's often confusion about what to eat. Presenting the perfect solution to this – the new range of KFC Rotis. These deliciously unique Rotis, *ko kahin bhi khao*. No matter where you are or what time of the day it is, choose from the range of 5 exciting flavours including Thai Spicy, Korean Tangy, American Nashville, Indian Tandoori and Indian Spicy Veg. The latest menu offerings come at an unbelievable price of INR 99/- only. Consumers can pick any of the new KFC Rotis at just INR 99/-.

**C**leartrip, announced the launch of its latest offering, 'Cleartrip for Work' (CFW). This solution, specifically curated for business travellers, urban entrepreneurs and startup founders, provides access to exclusive corporate flight fares and additional benefits. CFW stands out for its hassle-free, one-click onboarding process and ease of use. Users can sign up using their mobile number and access its features directly from the Cleartrip home page, making it incredibly convenient, especially for frequent fliers.

Ankura Hospital in Kukatpally, Hyderabad, opened its 120-bed facility. With 50,000 square feet of space, the recently opened facility is dedicated to providing the same high-quality treatment for which Ankura is known.

The Government of India and Tour Times have partnered to open the first Tour Times Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train Customer Center at Paryatak Bhavan, Tourism Plaza in Begumpet. Customers can now schedule their upcoming departures to different parts of India with this new hub. Ramesh Ayyanghar, Head of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Tour Times and Kishan Rao, IAS (Retd), Vice Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of Yadagiri Gutta Temple Development Authority, led the inaugural event. Through this programme, visitors from Telangana can begin to benefit from the Bharat Gaurav Trains on August 7.



Yesterday's solution									
2	8	5	7	3	6	1	4	9	
3	4	7	9	1	5	6	2	8	
9	1	6	8	2	4	5	7	3	
8	9	4	2	7	1	3	6	5	
7	5	1	6	8	3	4	9	2	
6	3	2	4	5	9	7	8	1	
4	2	3	5	9	7	8	1	6	
1	6	9	3	4	8	2	5	7	
5	7	8	1	6	2	9	3	4	

6 Good-looking	7 Yummy brown stuff
8 Feeling cheerful	9 A part of something
10 One third of twenty-four	11 A house made of snow
13 This many-legged creature is the young form of a butterfly	12 A gorilla is one
14 Queues	15 Tidy and well arranged
17 An animal to ride	16 Observes
19 People on journeys	17 Fifty percent
	18 Very uncommon

WORD LIST 10

- 1 Come to a halt
- 2 Mix black and white to  
make this
- 3 A throbbing pain
- 4 Make music with the voice
- 5 Periods of a hundred years







## TOOFAN SEALS RELEASE DATE

Vijay Antony's latest film, *Toofan*, is set to hit theaters worldwide on August 2, announced the makers on Thursday. Produced by Kamal Bora, D. Lalitha, B. Pradeep, and Pankaj Bora under the Infinity Film Ventures banner, this film follows their previous collaborations, *Raghavan* and *Hathya*, which also starred Vijay Antony. Directed by Vijay Milton, *Toofan* is a poetic

action entertainer that promises a compelling narrative. The film tells the story of a man who transforms the future of a society that initially dismissed him. Set on an island, the movie was shot in Andaman and Diu Daman. The songs and trailer have already garnered significant attention, and the team is hopeful for a similarly enthusiastic reception upon its release.

## Kavin, Nayanthara join forces

Actor Kavin is set to embark on his next cinematic journey with a new film directed by Vishnu Edavan, an assistant director to the acclaimed Lokesh Kanagaraj.

The film's official pooja ceremony is scheduled to take place in Chennai tomorrow, marking the auspicious beginning of the pro-

ject.

The shooting for the film is slated to commence on July 22, promising a fresh and engaging storyline. Nayanthara will star as the female lead, adding star power and anticipation to the project.

Produced by 7 Screen Studio, the film is expected to be a major highlight in Kavin's career.



## Kanguva 2 announced!

Studio Green's highly anticipated film, *Kanguva*, starring Suriya, is generating immense excitement among fans. The newly released teaser offered a tantalising glimpse into its thrilling world, heightening anticipation for the movie. In a thrilling development, the makers have officially announced a sequel, *Kanguva 2*.

Producer KE Gnanvel Raja revealed in a recent interview that *Kanguva* will be a two-part film, with the first installment concluding on an exhilarating note that sets the stage for the sequel. Production for *Kanguva 2* is scheduled to begin by the end of 2025, with a planned release in the first half of 2027, either in January or during the summer.

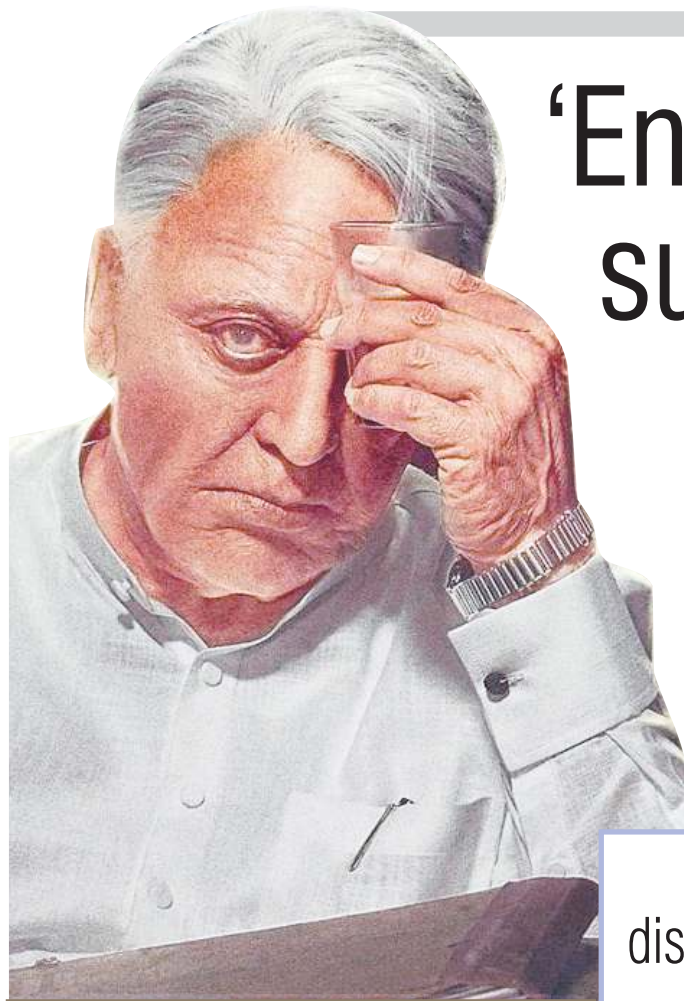
The sequel's script is currently underway, with shooting set to start towards the end of next year or early 2026. The sequel is expected to hit

theaters in early 2027, likely in January or April. The teaser has already intensified excitement for the film, and fans are eagerly awaiting the trailer.

In *Kanguva*, Suriya takes on a never-before-seen avatar for his 39th film as a lead actor, showcasing multiple distinct personas. The newly released poster of Suriya has only added to the growing buzz around the film.

Joining Suriya in the cast are Bobby Deol and Disha Patani, making their Tamil debuts, along with Natarajan Subramaniam, Jagapathi Babu, Yogi Babu, Redin Kingsley, Kovai Sarala, Anandaraj, Ravi Raghavendra, K. S. Ravikumar, and B. S. Avinash.

Studio Green has partnered with top distribution houses to ensure a massive global release for *Kanguva* on October 10, 2024.



## Kiran Abbavaram's KA audio rights bagged by Saregama

The renowned audio label Saregama has secured the music rights for Kiran Abbavaram's highly anticipated period thriller *KA*. Produced by Chinta Gopalakrishna Reddy under the banner of Srichakraas Entertainments, the film is noted for its impressive production values. Directed by the duo Sujith and Sandeep, *KA* is set in a rural backdrop and promises a gripping action-filled narrative.

The film's music, composed by Sam CS, is expected to enhance the cinematic experience with its rich soundscapes. With filming completed, the focus has now shifted to post-production.

*KA* is scheduled for a grand theatrical release in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada. Since its announcement, *KA* has received substantial positive attention and is marked as Kiran Abbavaram's exciting comeback.



## 'End credits in *Indian 2* will surprise all,' says Shankar

After nearly 28 years, Kamal Haasan is preparing for the release of the highly anticipated sequel to *Indian*, titled *Indian 2*. The film is set to hit theaters on July 2.

At a press conference for *Indian 2* in Kochi, director S. Shankar teased an exciting surprise for fans—those who see the sequel in theaters might get a special preview of *Indian 3*.

Shankar revealed that there is a possibility the trailer for *Indian 3* will be

shown during the end credits of *Indian 2*. He indicated that if the post-production for *Indian 3* stays on track, audiences could get a sneak peek of the next installment in cinemas.

The director also shared plans to release *Indian 3* within six months of *Indian 2*'s debut, provided everything proceeds smoothly. Shankar noted, "If the VFX work is completed on schedule, it's feasible to release within six months. And, as a special treat, you

might see the trailer for *Indian 3* at the end of *Indian 2*.

*Indian 2* features Kamal Haasan, Siddharth, Rakul Preet Singh, SJ Suryah, Bobby Simha, and Priya Bhavani Shankar, and continues the story of Senapathy—a freedom fighter turned vigilante dedicated to combating corruption and societal ills.

Kamal Haasan initially announced *Indian 2* in 2017. The project faced setbacks when Sri

Venkateswara Creations withdrew due to escalating production costs, and Lyca Productions subsequently took over. Filming, which began in January 2019, was disrupted by a tragic accident and the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to a two-year delay.

Red Giant Movies later joined as co-producers, and filming was completed in March 2024. Directed by Shankar, *Indian 2* was produced with a budget of Rs 250 crores.

## Mythri Movie distributors to release *Darling* in TG

Mythri Movie Distributors LLP is set to release the upcoming film *Darling* in the Nizam region.

This film, a family entertainer, is produced by K. Niranjan Reddy and Smt. Chaitanya, with debutant Aswin Raam at the helm. It stars Priyadarshi and Nabha Natesh in the lead roles.

This marks Mythri Movie Distributors LLP's latest venture following their successful collaborations on the Pan-India sensation *Hanu-Man*—which they distributed in Nizam—and major hits such as Prabhas' *Salaar* and Vijay Sethupathi's *Maharaja* in the same region. Their track record in Nizam distribution has been notably successful, and they now bring *Darling* to this territory.

Meanwhile, the film *Darling* was censored and the movie was awarded with a U/A certificate. The final duration of the movie is 2:20 hours, which is ideal for the movie of the genre. The core point and unique narration are the major highlights of the movie which is now capitalizing on positive censor reports.

As we already saw, Priyadarshi and Nabha Natesh played their parts brilliantly. While Darshi played an innocent husband, Nabha stole the show as Lady Aparichitudu who torments her hubby with a split personality disorder. Aswin Raam's writing was remarkable, he dealt with the subject convincingly. *Darling* is a full-meal family entertainer with adequate hilarity and emotional climax. 3 songs and BGM scored by Vivek Sagar are an added attraction. The movie has some surprising guest roles as well. The film's theatrical trailer has already created a buzz, showcasing its promise as a hilarious and engaging family entertainer.

*Darling* is scheduled for release on July 19th.



## Venkatesh, Anil Ravipudi's film to release for Sankranti

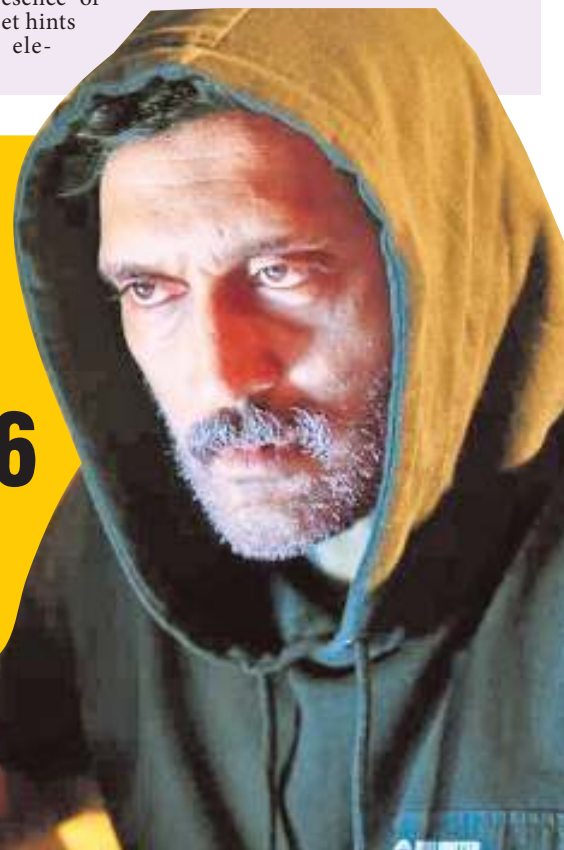
Victory Venkatesh, the hit-making director Anil Ravipudi, and the successful production house Sri Venkateswara Creations are reuniting with a shared Sankranti spirit. This trio is collaborating for the third time, aiming to deliver another blockbuster. The upcoming film, Production No. 58 from SVC, is set to hit theaters during the Sankranti festival, as announced by the makers.

The film was launched with much fanfare recently, and the regular shoot has now begun in Hyderabad. The main cast is currently filming in a palace setting, with a making video revealing a dynamic work atmosphere. The presence of large guns on set hints at the crime ele-

ments featured in the movie.

This new project is an exceptional triangular crime entertainer, focusing on three key characters: the protagonist, his ex-girlfriend, and his remarkable wife. Meenakshi Chaudhary and Aishwarya Rajesh will star alongside Venkatesh.

The film boasts a talented team of technicians. Bheems Ceciroleo is composing the music, Sameer Reddy is handling the cinematography, A. S. Prakash is the production designer, and Tammiraju is the editor. S. Krishna and G. Adhinarayana are contributing as co-writers, with V. Venkat serving as the action director.



## Case No. 15 hits theatres on July 26

Mark your calendars for July 26, as the highly anticipated suspense crime thriller *Case No. 15* is set to premiere in theaters worldwide. Directed by Tadakala Vankar Rajesh, this film promises to keep audiences on the edge of their seats with its gripping storyline and powerful scenes.

Ajay delivers a standout performance, while Ravi Krash brings a unique portrayal of a police officer to the screen. The film features exceptional music by John and stunning cinematography by Anam Venkat, enhancing the cinematic experience.

Produced with meticulous attention to detail, *Case No. 15* is sure to be a memorable watch. BG Ventures and Kalyangari the forces together have brought this film to life.

## Suriya's 44<sup>th</sup> film next scheduled in Kerala

The next schedule for actor Suriya's highly anticipated 44th film is set to take place in Kerala. The week-long shoot is scheduled from July 19 to July 25, during which pivotal fight scenes will be filmed.

This segment of the shoot is expected to feature intense action sequences, adding to the film's excitement and anticipation. The production team is gearing up to capture these dynamic scenes in picturesque locations across Kerala, enhancing the film's visual appeal.

Fans can look forward to an official update on the film later this month, which is expected to reveal more details about the project. Stay tuned for further announcements on this high-profile film as it progresses towards its next major milestone.





# STARC EXPRESSES DISPLEASURE AT BEING DROPPED FOR T20 WC GAME AGAINST AFGHANISTAN

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australian pacer Mitchell Starc has expressed his displeasure at being dropped for the crucial T20 World Cup Super Eights match against Afghanistan in the Caribbean, saying he was not one bit amused by the team management's decision. The 2021 T20 World Cup champions suffered a shocking 21-run loss to Afghanistan, which dealt a massive blow to Australia's chances of entering the semifinals. Australia had replaced Starc with Ashton Agar for the match but the left-arm spinner, despite tying down the Afghanistan batters, could not take any wickets. "No -- two World Cups in a row," Starc was quoted as saying by Sydney Morning Herald on Willow Talk podcast when quizzed about his omission and whether he was amused by the decision. "Just the match-up, they (team management) saw previous games on that ground in St Vincent with spin playing a part and obviously Ash (Ashton) and the left-armer enticing them to make a change," he added. This was the second occasion in a row where the Australian pacer was dropped for a T20 World Cup match against Afghanistan, with the previous one being in Adelaide in 2022 where also the hosts failed to reach the last four stage. Agar and the two Australian



pace spearheads, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins, were unable to break the partnership between openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz and

Ibrahim Zadran, who ended up making 118 runs. "I think Ash bowled pretty well in the powerplay. They probably played the spin quite

well and batting first probably assessed the conditions a little bit better than we did, and had a couple of stumbles that in the end cost us the game," said

Starc. "It was probably the fielding that cost us again that game. That meant we had to win against India and we fell short

there as well." Australia then went on to lose to India in Super Eights and were later eliminated from the competition. Starc also expressed his displeasure with the scheduling of the tournament and pre seeding that saw them advance to the pre determined group despite topping the group stage. "We finished ahead of England (in the group stage) and end up where we were pre-seeded as the second side. All of a sudden, you're in a different group." "The argument was it was because it was so hard to get around the West Indies, so fans knew where your team was playing. "So then why don't you have the chock-a-block tournament at the front... And then spread it out at the back end? We had the two night games and the third was a day game, so it wasn't the best preparation. We had a delayed flight out of St Vincent, it was a 90-minute drive from the airport to the hotel in St Lucia, and then we had a 10 o'clock toss. He added that the travelling between venues in the West Indies is always difficult. "I think that was probably maybe a misread [by organisers], the fact that the front half of the tournament was more spread out, and then you hit the super eights and ... travel around the West Indies is probably not the easiest thing to do, certainly not to travel home from."



## Shocked by that amazing catch: Avesh on Bishnoi's wonder grab in India's win against Zimbabwe

PTI ■ HARARE

Ravi Bishnoi's fielding has always had a touch of athleticism but he took it to a different plane in the third T20I against Zimbabwe when he leapt to pluck a screamer off Avesh Khan to dismiss Brian Bennett, leaving his India teammate in awe. India defeated Zimbabwe by 23 runs on Wednesday to take a 2-1 lead in the five-match series but the talk in the dressing room was Bishnoi's astonishing catch to dismiss the Zimbabwe top-order batter, reducing the hosts to 19 for 3 in the fourth over. The pacer said he was left "shocked" for a moment. "When he took the catch, I don't think he got the reaction time. I also did not get the reaction time (to see what happened). I was, in fact, shocked how he took that catch," said Avesh, who took two wickets as India restricted Zimbabwe to 159/6 in the chase of 182. Avesh added that the wicket

should be credited to Bishnoi's account for the sheer effort. "He is a good fielder, works a lot on his fielding. The catch that he took, the scoreboard will show that it was taken by me, but it should be credited in his (Bishnoi's) account," added Avesh in a video posted by BCCI. India skipper Shubman Gill said it was a truly amazing effort from Bishnoi and showed that the leg-spinner was enjoying his fielding. "Very happy with the team's win to go 2-1 up in the series and the catch that Bishi (Bishnoi) took was absolutely remarkable. It was truly delightful to watch. "Cricket is definitely a team sport and it's more so a team sport when you're fielding. So, it's very important to have fun when you are fielding. If you are having fun then you are always in the game," added the captain. Washington Sundar said he had the best view of the catch as he was positioned at mid-on.



### I could have done better in tennis than badminton, says Saina

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Traillblazing Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal feels she would have perhaps excelled more as a sports person if she had picked a tennis racquet instead of playing badminton. Nehwal has an impressive resume as a badminton player. Not only she became the first Indian woman shuttler to be ranked No. 1 in the world, she was the first woman athlete from the country to win an Olympic medal. "Sometimes I feel that it would have been good if my parents had put me in tennis," Saina said during her "Her Story-My Story" talk at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. "There is more money and I had more strength I think. I could have done better in tennis than badminton," she

added. While Saina has inspired many to take up badminton, the 34-year-old herself didn't have anyone to look up to when she picked the racquet at the age of 8. "When I started, I didn't have any role models to look up to. No one to look up to and say 'I want to be world number one or be an Olympic medallist,' I hadn't seen anyone do that in badminton before me," Saina said. Beside the London Olympics bronze, Nehwal also won a silver and a silver at the World Championships and multiple Commonwealth Games gold, including two in the women's singles. She urged the youngsters present to explore a career in sports. "I always tell children to

concentrate on games. China wins 60-70 medals. We only get 3-4. There are so many doctors and engineers, their names don't come in newspapers," she said. "I want girls to especially to come forward and start getting fit and get into sports. Now we are there for the children, there are world number ones, Olympic champions and so many medallist to look up to," she added. Reflecting on her career, she said her hard work compensated for the lack of talent. "I loved hard work, I was not the most talented person, I need to practice a lot. If a talented player is doing something 100 times I had to do it 1000 times. But I like hard work. My coaches like my never give up attitude."

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly was on Thursday unveiled as the owner of the Kolkata Royal Tigers ahead of the Indian Racing Festival 2024, scheduled between August and September this year. Apart from the debutant Kolkata racing team, the event will see participation from seven other outfits based at Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Goa, Kochi, and Ahmedabad. The racing festival encompasses two main championships — Indian

Racing League (IRL) and the Formula 4 Indian Championship (F4IC). Expressing his enthusiasm for the association, Ganguly, the former BCCI president said: "I am truly excited to embark on this journey with the Kolkata team in the Indian Racing Festival. "Motorsports has always been a passion of mine and together with the Kolkata Royal Tigers, we aim to build a strong legacy in the Indian Racing Festival and inspire a new generation of motorsport enthusiasts." Akhilesh Reddy, Chairman and Managing Director of



Racing Promotions Pvt Ltd (RPPL), welcomed Ganguly to the racing fold. "We are thrilled to announce Sourav Ganguly as the owner of the Kolkata franchise. His visionary leadership and commitment to excellence, shaped by years of legendary cricketing success, brings unparalleled dynamism to the Indian Racing Festival," he said. It may be recalled that veteran India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has recently acquired stakes in American Gambits, a team that will take part in the second edition of the Global Chess League.

## Mumbai City FC ropes in Greek striker Nikolaos Karelis

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai City FC on Thursday announced roping in Greek striker Nikolaos Karelis ahead of the upcoming Indian Super League season. The 32-year-old, also known as Nikos Karelis, is set for his maiden stint in India. He began his youth career with Ergotelis and made his senior professional debut with them in 2007. Karelis has played for seven more clubs including stints in Russia (Amkar Perm), Belgium (Genk), England (Brentford) and the

Netherlands (ADO Den Haag). Mumbai City FC will be his eighth club. Karelis has netted 103 goals in 361 professional matches along with 29 assists, while his best performance at a club came for Panathinaikos, for whom he scored 36 goals in 114 competitive games. The 2014-15 season was his standout when Karelis scored 19 goals in 50 contests. He won the Greek Cup with Panathinaikos in 2013-14. Later, he also won two titles with the Greek club PAOK in 2018-19 (Super League Greece and Greek Cup). Karelis was last associated with



another Greek club Panetolikos, where he was adjudged its player of the season in 2022-23. "The team has achieved significant success over the past few years, and I am eager to contribute to its continued success in the upcoming season," Karelis said in a release. MCFC head coach Petr Kratky said, "Nikos is a highly talented player who perfectly matches the requirements we expect from our forwards. He has experience playing in various European countries and has consistently proven his calibre in different leagues."

## Carlos faces Daniil and Novak plays Lorenzo in Wimbledon's semis

AP ■ LONDON

Carlos Alcaraz's ability to hit any type of shot, from any position on the court, on any surface, keeps fans on the edge of their seats. Keeps other players guessing, too. Alcaraz delights in all of that - he loves putting on a show just as much as he enjoys knowing he makes the guys on the other side of the net uncomfortable - and figures it can only help him in the Wimbledon semifinals against Daniil Medvedev on Friday. It's beneficial, Alcaraz said, that opponents need to focus on whether he'll be "able to be back (in) the point or ... Able to hit an unbelievable shot." "For me," he said, "it's great that they're thinking about it." Alcaraz, the No. 3 seed, is seeking a second consecutive trophy at the All England Club and fourth Grand Slam title overall. His triumph last month at the French Open made him, at 21, the youngest man to collect a major trophy on hard, grass and clay courts.

Medvedev, who is seeded No. 5 and defeated No. 1 Jannik Sinner in the quarterfinals, won the 2021 U.S. Open but is just 1-5 in major finals. The other match Friday will be No. 2 Novak Djokovic, who has won seven of his men's-record 24 Slam championships at Wimbledon, against No. 25 Lorenzo Musetti, making his debut in a major semifinal. "Against him, you are probably more stressed, because he's probably the best player ever - or one of the best players ever," said the 22-year-old Musetti, who beat Taylor Fritz in five sets on Wednesday, while Djokovic got the day off because his foe, Alex de Minaur, withdrew with an injured hip. "You walk on court with a different mentality," said Musetti, whose 1-5 record against Djokovic includes a five-set loss at this year's French Open that ended at after 3 a.m. "If I play in a certain way, I could have my shot in the next round."



Alcaraz vs. Medvedev is a rematch from last year's semifinals, when Alcaraz won in straight sets before getting past Djokovic in the final.

It also offers a contrast between a talented attacker (Alcaraz) and a consummate defender (Medvedev). "The most difficult thing

about facing Daniil, or the most special thing about him, is he can reach every ball," Alcaraz said. "Well, he is like a wall. Every ball bounces back."

Asked what Alcaraz's best quality is, Medvedev began this way: "To be honest, everything." That sounds like an

exaggeration. Might not be. "That's where it's tough to play against him, because you know whatever shot you hit,

he can hit a winner from there. So you try to make his life difficult. You try to hit the shot as good as you can. Maybe he goes for it and he cannot make it," said Medvedev, who has won just two of their previous six encounters. "Carlos can do whatever, from any position," Medvedev said, "and that's not easy to play against." Tommy Paul, the 12th-seeded American who lost to Alcaraz in the quarterfinals, put something else on the lengthy list of the Spaniard's attributes. "He moves unbelievably well. He's probably the quickest player. It's very hard to get the ball by him," Paul said. "Grass suits him. He moves incredible on the grass. It's not easy to change direction the way that he does. He stays pretty low. Yeah, I mean, it's not easy." And then, in a nod to the sort of highlight-reel material Alcaraz regularly produces, Paul added: "Half of the job when you're out there is not to let him win one of those crazy points - because when he does, he kind of gets on a roll."