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Public has taught BJP a lesson in Lok Sabha polls: Akhilesh **Yadav** 5

RBI GUV DAS TO ANNOUNCE MONETARY POLICY TODAY 8



'Love Mouli will resonate across demographics, particularly **WITH YOUTH'** P11

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The BJP did not win due to the charity of anyone but because people voted for it as they had faith in Modi. People opposed the Congress as it did not implement its six guarantees. Why didn't the Revanth government take action against KCR? No Congress leader is speaking about the Kaleshwaram scam now. That reveals who struck a secret deal. The BJP never had any tie-up with the BRS and will never have one in future



— Dr K. Laxman, Rajya Sabha MP P2

DON'T MISS...

SW Monsoon advances further..

Southwest monsoon has further advanced to some more parts of Telangana till Medak and Bhadradri\Kothagudem as per K Nagaratna, Head of the India Meteorological department (IMD), Hyderabad on Thursday. According to IMD, the northern limit of the monsoon now passes through 17.0□N/60□E, 17.0□N/65□E, 16.5□N/70□E, Ratnagiri, Solapur, Medak, Bhadrachalam, Vizianagaram, 19.5□N/88□E, 21.5□N/89.5□E, 23□N/89.5□E and Islampur. Conditions are...

-PAGE: 3

NHRC calls for eradication of...

The NHRC on Thursday called for eradication of 'Nata Pratha' and issued notice to the Centre and the governments of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat over the evil tradition. Under 'Nata Pratha', girls in some communities are allegedly "sold" either on a stamp paper or otherwise in the name of marriage having no legal sanctity in parts of Rajasthan and the adjoining areas in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat. The National Human Rights Commission in a statement said that given the...

-PAGE: 5

13 IPEF members ink clean, fair...

The government on Thursday said 13 IPEF (Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity) bloc members have signed fair and clean economy agreements, while India will ink the deal after getting domestic approval. "India did not formally sign these agreements as domestic approval processes are still underway and will be completed after the formation of the new government," the commerce ministry said in a statement. The government formation process in the country is on as the Lok Sabha...

-PAGE: 8

Ponting on talent rich India's..

The all-conquering Australia under Ricky Ponting's leadership knew the art of peaking at the right time in global events and the two-time World Cup-winning captain reckons India will need to do the same besides overcoming some mental demons to win an elusive ICC trophy.
Cricket's powerhouse India, who last won an ICC trophy in 2013, began their T20 World Cup campaign on an emphatic note in New York on Wednesday, beating Ireland by eight wickets...

-SPORTS

Modi to be elected as NDA leader today

- Sources said after Modi's election as the leader of NDA MPs, senior members of the alliance like TDP's N Chandrababu Naidu and JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar will join the Prime Minister for a meeting with President Droupadi Murmu to present her the list of parliamentarians supporting him.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Newly elected MPs of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance are expected to meet on Friday to elect Narendra Modi as their leader, paving the way for him to take oath as prime minister for a third term.

Sources said after Modi's election as the leader of NDA MPs, senior members of the alliance like TDP's N Chandrababu Naidu and JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar will join the prime minister for a meeting with President Droupadi Murmu to present her the list of parliamentarians supporting him.

He may be sworn in over the weekend, possibly Sunday, they added. The NDA has 293 MPs, comfortably above the majority mark of 272 in the 543-member Lok Sabha.

Senior BJP leaders, including Union ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, held deliberations through the day on Thursday as the party set in motion government formation efforts.

They met at BJP president J P Nadda's residence in what was seen as part of the party's exercise to reach out to allies over issues like their share of ministerial berths and pick the probables from within their party for the coalition government.

Preparing to take oath for a third straight term as the head of a coalition government, Modi had on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the ruling alliance's members who unanimously elected him as its leader. Leaders of the BJP's ally Janata Dal (United) also held deliberations with party president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Though the regional party has not said anything officially on the issue, sources said it is looking to get some key ministerial berths to reclaim some of the lost ground in Bihar where it has performed well after being seen to have fallen way behind the BJP and the RJD over the last few years in political strength.

With 12 MPs, the JD(U) is the second biggest BJP ally after the Telugu Desam Party's 16. 2



SCS bargaining chips for Naidu & Nitish

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief N Chandrababu Naidu may demand Special Category Status (SCS) for AP.



Chandrababu Naidu left for Delhi less than 24 hours after attending the NDA group meeting on Wednesday. Naidu is expected to discuss key issues with top NDA leaders during a significant meeting on Friday, which has garnered attention from the people of Andhra Pradesh.

The TDP chief will join the meeting of NDA parliament members on Friday, a day before Narendra Modi takes oath as Prime Minister for the third time on June 9. Reports suggest that Chandrababu Naidu plans to remain in Delhi until Modi's oath-taking ceremony on Sunday. On Thursday morning, Naidu convened a meeting with all the TDP Lok Sabha candidates who won the elections, discussing various key issues to prepare for discussions with Delhi leaders on Friday. 2

With the crucial meeting of NDA alliance partners to be held in Delhi on Friday to elect Narendra Modi as its leader, there is a distinct possibility of both Bihar and Andhra Pradesh demanding Special Category Status for their respective states. There were ample indications in this direction on Thursday. MPs of these parties are going to attend the NDA meeting today .

PNS ■ PATNA



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U), which the BJP relies on heavily since losing majority in the Lok Sabha, has reiterated its demand for special category status (SCS) for the state. Granting SCS to Bihar has been a long-pending demand of the JD(U) supremo. The Bihar cabinet, headed by Kumar, had even passed a resolution last year requesting the Centre to grant SCS to the state. The Centre had previously said it would not entertain demands for "special category status" from any state, in view of the 14th Finance Commission's recommendation. The SCS was introduced in 1969 to benefit certain backward states with hilly terrains, strategic international borders, and economic and infrastructural backwardness.

With 12 MPs, the JD(U) is the second biggest BJP ally after the Telugu Desam Party's 16 in the NDA. The backing of allies like the JD(U) and TDP is crucial for the BJP to form 2

BIRFURCATION ISSUES

CM greets CBN, seeks AP's cooperation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Chief Minister Revanth Reddy congratulated TDP supremo N. Chandrababu Naidu for securing a landslide victory in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections.

The Chief Minister called Chandrababu over the phone and spoke to him. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy greeted Naidu on assuming office as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

Revanth emphasised the importance of maintaining cordial relations between the two states and called for cooperation in resolving all pending issues related to the AP Reorganization Act. He expressed optimism that Telangana and Andhra Pradesh would work together to address these matters.

Earlier, Revanth Reddy conducted a review meeting on the results of the Mahbubabad Parliament constituency.

BJP MPs from TG eyeing berths

K VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD



The BJP won eight LS seats in the Lok Sabha elections. The BJP MPs from Telangana are saying that they are not against accepting Union Minister posts in case the high command offers it to them. However, the MPs added that they are not in the race for Union Minister posts and will obey what the high command tells them.

However, it is learnt that some new BJP MPs are trying hard to become Union Ministers. The party would have offered Minister posts liberally if it had a majority on its own. The BJP won only 240 seats and is 32 seats short of a majority.

The BJP cannot offer Minister posts to its MPs as it had done in the past. It can give Ministry posts only after satisfying its allies. 2



Israeli strike kills 33 people at a Gaza school

PNS ■ DEIR AI-BALAH (GAZA STRIP)

An Israeli strike early Thursday on a school sheltering displaced Palestinians in central Gaza killed more than 30 people, including 23 women and children, according to local health officials.

The Israeli military said that Hamas militants were operating from within the school.

It was the latest instance of mass casualties among Palestinians trying to find refuge as Israel expands its offensives in the Gaza Strip. A day earlier, the military announced a new ground and air assault in central Gaza, pursuing Hamas militants it says have regrouped there.

Troops repeatedly have swept back into sections of the Gaza Strip they have previously invaded, underscoring the resilience of the militant group despite Israel's nearly eight-month onslaught in the territory.

BIGGEST STOCK MARKET 'SCAM':

Modi, Shah 'directly involved', alleges Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were "directly involved" in what he described as the "biggest stock market scam" in which retail investors lost Rs 30 lakh crore, and demanded a joint parliamentary committee probe into it.

Addressing a press conference here, he alleged that besides Modi and Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had also commented on the stock markets ahead of elections, which has never happened in the past. 2

Medigadda Barrage gates 16, 17 lifted

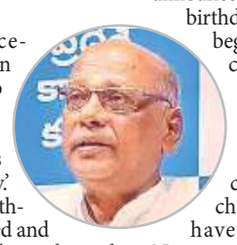
PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The radial gates of Medigadda were lifted on Thursday. Gate Number 16 and 17 were lifted up to 100.5 metres. As per the NDSA's interim report, to avoid or minimise hydraulic forces on the gates as well as the structure all gates of Block 7 must be lifted to fully open position before monsoon onset.

Meanwhile, Justice Ghose probing the Kaleshwaram scam held a meeting with the Special Secretary of the Irrigation Department, Prashant Jeevan Patil, and held discussions with Irrigation Department officials. 2

'What is wrong in celebrating Dec 9 as TG Thalli Day?'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



TPCC Senior Vice-President G. Niranjan asked the BJP to explain what is wrong in celebrating December 9 as 'Telangana Thalli Day.'

"Why is the BJP bothered about it?" he asked and added that they strongly condemn the comments of BJP leader K. Laxman regarding this. In a statement issued on Thursday, Niranjan said that after a 60-year-long struggle for a separate state, Union Home Minister Chidambaram announced on December 9, 2009, (the birthday of Sonia Gandhi) "the beginning of the process for creating the separate State of Telangana."

Telangana State was created because of Sonia Gandhi's firm decision and commitment as the UPA chairperson. "Shouldn't we have gratitude?" he asked. Niranjan said that this decision should have been taken on June 2, 2014, immediately after the formation of Telangana state, but KCR acted with a narrow mind thinking that his name would get obscured.

Kangana 'slapped' by woman CISF constable at Chandigarh airport

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI



Actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut said she was hit in the face and abused by a woman CISF constable during security check at the Chandigarh airport on Thursday, the ugly fracas breaking out two days after she was elected to the Lok Sabha from Mandi in Himachal Pradesh.

The constable, who appeared to be upset with Ranaut over her stance on the farmer protests, has been suspended and an FIR lodged against her, officials said. The Central Industrial Security Force, tasked with providing security at airports, has also ordered a court of inquiry into the incident.

In a video statement titled "Shocking rise in terror and violence in Punjab" posted on X after she landed in Delhi, the "Queen" actor said she was safe and fine.

Recapping in detail what had happened, Ranaut said she had been getting a lot of calls from the media and her well-wishers. The constable, she said, came towards her from the side. "She hit me in the face and started abusing me. 2

Water levels drop, southern region hit hardest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



The monitoring data from 150 main reservoirs revealed a total live storage of 39.765 billion cubic meters (BCM), which constitutes just 22 per cent of the total live storage capacity of these reservoirs, according to official data.

Last week, the total capacity was 23 per cent of the storage capacity of these reservoirs. As the temperature rose, a week-on-week decline has been seen in the reservoir level for the past three months.

The southern region continues to be hit hard at just 13 per cent capacity.

The region, including Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, has 42 reservoirs with a total capacity of 53.334 BCM. The current storage is alarmingly low at 7.114 BCM (13 per cent), significantly down from last year's 23 per cent and the ten-year average of 19 per cent.

The Central Water Commission (CWC) released its weekly reservoir bulletin on Thursday, according to which there is a total live storage of 39.765 BCM, which constitutes just 22 per cent of the total live storage capacity of these reservoirs.

The total live storage capacity of the monitored reservoirs is 178.784 BCM, approximately 69.35 per cent of the nation's overall live storage capacity of 257.812 BCM.

The Central Water Commission (CWC) released its weekly reservoir bulletin on Thursday, according to which there is a total live storage of 39.765 BCM, which constitutes just 22 per cent of the total live storage capacity of these reservoirs.



KCR and Jagan remain alone in national politics

SNCN ACHARYULU
■ HYDERABAD

After defeat in the Assembly elections former chief ministers of Telugu states K Chandrasekhar Rao of Telangana and YS Jagan Mohan Reddy of Andhra Pradesh have become alone in the national politics. Both were away to the BJP-led NDA and Congress-led INDIA bloc too. In fact, both NDA and INDIA have no need with KCR or with Jagan, because the KCR-led BRS in Telangana has not even single Lok Sabha member and Jagan-led YSR Congress in Andhra Pradesh has only just four Lok Sabha members.

At present, both KCR and Jagan are sailing in the same boat in the national politics. But fortunately, the BRS has five and YSR Congress has 11 Rajya Sabha members. In the Rajya Sabha, the BJP-led NDA or the Congress-led INDIA have no majority. However, both KCR and Jagan are not in a demanding position. In fact, both former chief ministers are in need of the help of the Central government. Moreover, every two years, the BRS and the YSR Congress will lose two Rajya Sabha members each. By the time of the next Lok Sabha elections as per schedule, the BRS strength in the Rajya Sabha will 0come to one from five and the YSR Congress strength will come to 3 from 11.

The NDA and INDIA need the support of Lok Sabha members than the Rajya Sabha members, because the fate of the party which in the power at the Centre depends on the support of the Lok Sabha members and not on the Rajya Sabha members. KCR and Jagan are not in a position to join the NDA or INDIA at the national level. In Telangana for BRS, both the Congress and the BJP are political enemies. If BRS joins any group it will lose its individuality and sharing of seats in the next elections will become a problem. At the same time there will be no more BRS government.

Congress govt facing public anger, says Kishan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP MPs G. Kishan Reddy and Dr K. Laxman (Rajya Sabha MP) said that opposition has started against the Congress party just six months after it assumed power.

Speaking to the media in New Delhi, Kishan said that people have reposed confidence in the BJP by giving it around 35 per cent of votes. However, the Congress vote share increased by only one per cent, he said.



He said the BRS could not save its deposits in many constituencies. The BJP also won in Malkajgiri, Medak. The people of Telangana are not happy with the Congress government, he said and asked the Congress government to explain how it will implement its assurances.

He said the Congress government filed false cases against Amit Shah and that they would explain the deception of the Congress to the people.

Laxman said the BJP did not win the election due to anyone's charity. The people voted for the BJP as they have faith in Modi. The people opposed the Congress because it did not implement its six guarantees.

He said the people would revolt in the next six months if the Congress fails to implement its guarantees.

"Why didn't the Revanth government take action against KCR? No Congress leader is speaking about the Kaleshwaram scam now. It reveals who struck a deal. The BJP has never entered into any deal with the BRS at any time. The BJP will not enter into an alliance with it in future either. Revanth's comments are like a thief shouting 'thief,' he said.

Graduate voters write their Phone Pe numbers on ballot paper

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The sadistic attitude of some graduates has been giving jitters to the candidates who contested the Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal graduates' MLC by-poll. The number of invalid votes touched a record 23,784 by the time the third round of counting was completed.

It is learnt that graduate voters not only wrote 'Jai Mallanna', and 'Jai Rakesh Reddy' but they also wrote 'I Love You' against the box where they were supposed to write a number. Some graduate voters also wrote their 'Phone Pe' number in the box instead of writing their preference number.

It is learnt that graduate voters wrote their 'Phone Pe' number because some candidates did not give money to voters even after assuring them that they would give the promised money via 'Phone Pe.'

Due to illegal jottings the number of invalid votes set a record. Moreover.

Uttam to visit Medigadda, Annaram, Sundilla today

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy is scheduled to visit the Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages on Friday afternoon to assess work and review flood protection measures.

Accompanying the minister will be Irrigation ENC Anil Kumar and other irrigation department officials. The visit aims to evaluate the progress of works based on the interim report of the NDSA.

The Minister and his team will inspect the flood protection measures being undertaken in response to the heavy rains. The repair work at the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages is being executed by L&T, Afcons and Navayuga. Top management representatives from the construction firms will brief the minister on the current status of the barrages, the repairs and the work undertaken by the agencies.

Uttam will address the media at 2 pm on Friday at the Medigadda Barrage to reveal the condition of the barrages and the status of repair works.

The Minister will first arrive at Sundilla by helicopter and inspect the barrage until 1 pm. It will be followed by a visit to Annaram for inspection. The tour will conclude with a visit to the Medigadda Barrage.

KCR took 'supari' from BJP, says Cong MLA Srinivas

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Mahbubnagar Congress MLA Yennam Srinivas Reddy said that BRS supremo K. Chandrasekhar Rao took a 'supari' from the BJP and supported it in the Lok Sabha elections. He said that KCR deceived BRS activists for the sake of his family and that the Congress lost the Mahbubnagar Lok Sabha seat due to that. He said the BJP's vote share jumped due to KCR's support.

Addressing the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Thursday, Srinivas said the Chief Minister is not confined to his own district and that the entire state belongs to the CM.

He slammed KCR saying that people gave 65 seats to the Congress in the Assembly elections even though KCR hatched many conspiracies.

The vote share of the Congress increased compared to Assembly elections, he said and added that the BJP should remember that it won eight seats not due to its strength.

He said that KCR did not render social justice when he was in power and demanded that BRS activists should change their president and give the post to a Dalit.The people taught a lesson to KCR for behaving arrogantly when he was in power.

SPECIAL STATUS

Will PM fulfil his promise of giving to Andhra, Bihar, asks Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi whether he would fulfil his promise of giving special category status to the states of Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh also took a swipe at the prime minister, saying it is being claimed repeatedly that the Modi 3.0 government will be formed but the truth is that this time it will be "Modi 1/3 government".

In a video statement posted on X, Ramesh said the Congress has four questions for the prime minister -- two for Andhra Pradesh and two for Bihar.

"On April 30, 2014, in the holy city of Tirupati, you promised to give special category status to Andhra Pradesh so that massive investment comes in. It's been 10 years but it has not happened. Will that promise be fulfilled now? Will the PM give special category status to Andhra Pradesh," Ramesh said.

He claimed that Prime Minister Modi has been trying to privatise the steel plant in Vishakhapatnam.

"All parties are opposed to this. Will you stop the privatization of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant now?" he said.

Ramesh also asked the prime minister whether he will fulfil his 2014 election promise and the ten-year-old demand of his ally and JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar by giving special category status to Bihar. "There has been a demand for this but the PM did not break his silence on the issue," he said.

Ramesh said the 'mahagathbandhan' government of the RJD, Congress and Nitish Kumar had gotten a caste survey done in Bihar. We demanded that a nationwide caste census be carried out and even Nitish Kumar has supported this. Do you (PM) promise to conduct caste census in the entire country like it has been done in Bihar?" Ramesh said.

The Congress' posers on Bihar and Andhra come after the BJP on its own fell short of an absolute majority in the Lok Sabha polls but it may, as things stand, form the government on the back of its allies. With suppor from Naidu's TDP and Nitish Kumar's JD(U), which won 16 and 12 seats in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, respectively, and other alliance partners, the NDA has crossed the halfway mark.

Modi, Shah 'directly..

Continued on Page 1

He said stock markets rose after "fake" exit polls and then crashed the day votes for the Lok Sabha polls were counted on June 4 with retail investors losing their investments.

"The common people of India lost Rs 30 lakh crore in the stock market on June 4...We demand a JPC investigation into this biggest-ever stock market scam," Gandhi said.

He alleged that people higher up in the BJP carried out this stock market scam and "Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Shah were 'directly involved'."

"We want inquiry against Prime Minister Modi, Home Minister Shah and those who carried out the exit polls," he said.

The former Congress chief also posed a set of three questions, asking, "Why did the PM and HM give specific investment advice to the five crore families investing in the stock markets? Is it their job to give investment advice to the people?".

"Why both interviews were given to the same media house owned by the same business group, which is also under SEBI investigations for manipulating stock markets," he also asked, alleging that the interviews given by the prime minister and home minister were to the same channel owned by a big business house.

"What is the connection between the BJP, the fake exit pollsters, and the dubious foreign investors, who invested one day before the exit polls were announced and made huge profits, at the cost of five crore families?" Gandhi asked.

He claimed that for the first time we noted that during polls, Prime Minister Modi, Home Minister Shah, Finance Minister Sitharaman commented on the stock market.

"Why did the prime minister and home minister give investment advice to people," Gandhi asked and claimed "BJP leaders had information that exit polls were wrong."

Asked whether he was linking Adani group, Gandhi said this is a broader issue than the Adani issue.

"It is connected to the Adani issue but it is much broader. This is directly the Prime Minister of India and the Home Minister who are privy to data on the actual election results, who have the IB reports, who have their own data, and who are advising retail investors to buy stocks.

"Quite interestingly, this has never happened before that the PM has commented on the stock market. This is happening for the first time and multiple times when he is saying that the stock market is going to boom," he claimed.

He also cited the chronology of events in which Amit Shah said on May 13, "Buy shares before June 4th" and on May 19, Modi had said, "Stock markets will break records on June 4th".

But, on June 1, 2024, after the last phase of polling, the media released exit polls and on June 3, the stock market broke records and reached an all-time high.

CORRUPTION BY EMI

Officials, middlemen accept bribes in 'instalments' in Gujarat

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

Corrupt government officials as well as their middlemen are offering people the option of paying bribes in easy "instalments" in Gujarat, where at least 10 such cases have been reported so far this year though the ACB said there is nothing new in this practice.

At least ten cases have been reported in Gujarat this year wherein government officials as well as their middlemen have demanded bribe money in instalments, officials of the state Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) said on Thursday.

According to ACB Director Shamsher Singh, this practice of taking bribes in "instalments" is not new and it has been going on since long.

"There is nothing new in it. Usually, the victim agrees to give the first instalment before the work is done and then gives the second after the work is done. But sometimes, they change their mind and approach the ACB instead of giving the second or any subsequent instalment," he explained.

In March, two persons, claiming to be working for Gujarat GST officials, had approached a mobile shop owner in Ahmedabad and demanded a bribe of Rs 21 lakh to settle a tax-related issue he was facing following a raid.

The shop owner agreed to pay Rs 2 lakh as the "first instalment" and the remaining sum in two instalments afterwards. The shop owner later changed his mind and approached the ACB, which laid a trap on March 30 and nabbed one of the two accused while accepting the first instalment of Rs 2 lakh, said an ACB release.

In April, a deputy sarpanch and a taluka panchayat member in Surat demanded Rs 80,000 from a farmer to get his work done. They were caught on April 4 while accepting the first instalment of Rs 35,000, it said. During the same time, the ACB had arrested a police sub-inspector (PSI) of the state CID Crime in Gandhinagar for accepting a bribe of Rs 40,000 from a person who was booked.

Modi to be..

Continued on Page 1

The new BJP-led government will depend critically on these two parties for survival. BJP leaders are in touch with allies over ministerial berths and other issues.

Naidu is keen that the Centre provide Andhra Pradesh financial assistance in building its capital in Amravati. He also wants the new government to take steps to fulfil the Centre's commitment to the state when Telangana was carved out of it, sources said

SCS bargaining ..

Continued on Page 1

Interestingly, BJP state president D. Purandeswari also left for Delhi on Thursday morning after a significant win from the Rajamahendravaram Lok Sabha seat.

Media outlets are closely monitoring the actions of Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar, both playing pivotal roles in forming the NDA-led government with Narendra Modi as Prime Minister.

Sources indicate that Chandrababu's primary demand is Special Status for Andhra Pradesh, which would bring additional funds, incentives, and tax rebates to the State.

Reports also suggest Naidu is interested in the Lok Sabha Speaker's position. Additionally, he may seek eight central Cabinet ministers, including Road Transport, Rural Development, Health, Housing and Urban Affairs, Agriculture, IT and Communications, Education, and MoS Finance.

Should Delhi leaders accept Naidu's conditions, Andhra Pradesh could see substantial development, with significant job and opportunity growth for residents across various sectors.

This election has been a game-changer for Andhra Pradesh and the TDP, allowing them to demand a substantial share from the centre for the state's development, unlike in the 2019 elections. The Central government, falling short of the 272-seat majority to form the government independently, presents a unique advantage for Andhra Pradesh.

Delhi media sources report that another key NDA player, Nitish Kumar of Bihar, is eyeing the Railways and Agro Industries Ministries. The NDA is expected to form the government at the centre unless the I.N.D.I.A Bloc presents.

Continued on Page 1

the government at the Centre, as the saffron party could not reach the majority mark on its own in the Lok Sabha elections.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, senior JD(U) leader and Bihar minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary said, "The JD(U) is part of the NDA and will remain with it. But there are certain demands of the JD(U) related to the financial condition and economy of Bihar that must be fulfilled by the Centre. Our demand for special category status for Bihar is fully justified and needs to be fulfilled. We stick to our demand for SCS for Bihar."

Justifying the Bihar government's demand for SCS, state parliamentary affairs minister Choudhary (who previously held the finance portfolio) told PTI on Thursday, "Bihar government has been demanding SCS for the state since 2011-12. Before that, a resolution in this regard was passed by both Houses of the Bihar legislature. Bihar is the most deserving state that needs special financial assistance from the Centre."

"The NITI Aayog had earlier admitted that Bihar made 'tremendous progress' across multiple sectors in the last decade, but owing to its weak base in the past, the state may take some more time to catch up with others and reach the optimum growth in all aspects. This is the reason that we have been demanding special assistance from the Centre," said Choudhary.

The economy of Bihar is one of the fastest-growing in India, he said, adding that the state has not only grown consistently, but also outperformed even the most developed states. "We need a special package for the overall development of the state," he added.

According to experts, obtaining the special category status enables states to receive certain fiscal and tax benefits aimed at helping them attract investments.

Medigadda Barrage gates..

Continued on Page 1

On June 7, they will inspect the Sundilla Barrage and on June 8, they will begin the inquiry.

Meanwhile, in the village of Ambatipalli in the Mahadevpur Mandal of Jayashankar Bhupalpalli district grouting works on gates 18 and 19 of the Medigadda Barrage are underway.

After the arrival of grouting machines, of the 85 gates at the barrage, 78 have been raised, while attempts are being made to raise gates 20 and 21 which have submerged due to silting. The work involves using arc grouting equipment to cut through the debris blocking the gates.

Authorities of the Irrigation Department are supervising the repair work. A team of CEA and CMRS members arrived on Wednesday to study the barrage's damage. Over the past few days, they have been collecting samples of the silt from the affected areas and conducting field inspections and tests. They are also placing sheet piles using machinery to prevent soil erosion around the gates.

BJP MPs...

Continued on Page 1

Chevella MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy said the party may offer two Minister posts to the state. However, he said that he is not in the race for a Minister post and that if it is given he would use his experience for the nation.

Mahbubnagar MP DK Aruna too expressed the same opinion. However, Aruna has bright chances if the BJP high command decides to give a Minister post to a Telugu woman. Aruna has to face competition from Andhra Pradesh BJP President Daggubati Purandeshawari.

Kishan Reddy, Bandi Sanjay Kumar and Dharmapuri Arvind won LS elections a second time. The remaining MPs Eatala Rajender, DK Aruna, Godem Nagesh, Konda Vishweshwar Reddy and M. Raghunandan Rao are first-time winners. Godem Nagesh and Konda Vishweshwar Reddy are second-time MPs, but not from the BJP but from the BRS. Eatala Rajender, DK Aruna and M. Raghunandan Rao were elected to the Lok Sabha for the first time.

A Telangana BJP leader told 'The Pioneer' that the party may give two or three Minister posts to Telangana. The party may give the Telangana party president post to someone who worked hard for the party in case it could not give a Union Minister post.

Kangana 'slapped' by..

Continued on Page 1

I asked her why she did it and she said she supports the farmer protests."

"I am safe but my concern is that terrorism is increasing in Punjab... How do we handle that?"

Another video doing the rounds of social media showed the agitated constable talking to people presumably after the incident.

"Kangana made a statement that farmers were protesting in Delhi because they were paid Rs 100 or Rs 200. At the time, my mother was one of the protesters," she said in the purported video.

Her name has not been officially disclosed.

Terming the incident a serious matter, National Commission for Women chairperson Rekha Sharma called for serious action and said the panel had taken up the matter with the CISF. Those responsible for security at airport are themselves breaching security, she said in a post on X.

Making her political -- and electoral debut -- Ranaut defeated her nearest Congress rival by over 74,000 votes from Mandi in her home state Himachal Pradesh.

The four-time National Award winner has been a high profile, prominent voice supporting the ruling party on issues like the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in 2019-20 and farmer protests in 2020-21.

During the agitation against the three farm laws, Ranaut allegedly misidentified a woman farmer from Punjab and called her Bilkis Bano, an octogenarian who had made international headlines during the anti-CAA protests earlier in the Delhi neighbourhood of Shaheen Bagh.

She had then shared a tweet alleging that the 'Shaheen Bagh dadi' also joined the farmers' agitation over the new agriculture laws at various border points of the national capital. She retweeted the post with pictures of two elderly women and wrote that the "same Dadi" who featured in Time Magazine was "available in 100 rupees".

The actor later deleted the tweet after Twitter users pointed out that both the women were different.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:	Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Pratipada:	Jun 06 06:07 PM to Jun 07 04:45 PM
Dwitiya:	Jun 07 04:45 PM to Jun 08 03:55 PM
Nakshatram:	
Mrigashirsha:	Jun 06 08:16 PM to Jun 07 07:43 PM
Ardra:	Jun 07 07:43 PM to Jun 08 07:42 PM
Rahukalam:	10:37 AM to 12:15 PM
Yamagandam:	3:30 PM to 5:07 PM
Varjyam:	04:06 AM to 05:42 AM
Gulika:	7:22 AM to 9:00 AM
Amritakalam:	11:07 AM to 12:41 PM
Abhijit Muhurtham:	11:49 AM to 12:41 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Scattered Thunderstorms
Temp: 33°c
Humidity: 69%
Sunrise: 5:41 AM
Sunset: 6:49 PM

Updated: June 6, 2024 5:00 PM

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TG Police Academy hosts workshop on criminal laws

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Police Academy (TGPA) organised an extensive workshop on "New criminal laws" for officers across the Telangana police department. The session aimed at familiarising the officers with the new laws set to be implemented from July 1, 2024.

The workshop was inaugurated at TGPA and attended by Ravi Gupta, Director General of Police, Telangana, as the chief guest. Dr Jitendar, Principal Secretary of the Home Department, was the guest of honour.

Criminal lawyer AP Suresh delivered a comprehensive lecture on the new laws, followed by group discussions among the officers on the introduced changes. The day-long event featured detailed presentations and interactive sessions, providing a platform for participants to ask questions and exchange insights, fostering a collaborative learning environment.

During the workshop, several key resources were launched by the DGP, Telangana.

SW Monsoon advances further in Telangana

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Southwest monsoon has further advanced to some more parts of Telangana till Medak and Bhadradri\Kothagudem as per K Nagaratna, Head of the India Meteorological department (IMD), Hyderabad on Thursday.

According to IMD, the northern limit of the monsoon now passes through 17.0°N/60°E, 17.0°N/65°E, 16.5°N/70°E, Ratnagiri, Solapur, Medak, Bhadrachalam, Vizianagaram, 19.5°N/88°E, 21.5°N/89.5°E, 23°N/89.5°E and Islampur. Conditions are favourable for further advance of southwest monsoon into some more parts of central Arabian Sea, remaining parts of Karnataka and Coastal Andhra Pradesh, some more parts of Maharashtra, Telangana, some parts of south Chhattisgarh and South Odisha, remaining parts of West-central and more parts of Northwest Bay of Bengal during next 3-4 days.

T Balaji, weather enthusiast, stated that while the south region of Telangana receives heavy rainfall, North Telangana will receive pending rains as there is one Low Pressure Area (LPA) ahead in the third week or fourth week of June.

He also stated that heavy rainfall occurred at isolated places in Jogulamba\Gadwal, Nagarkurnool, Nalgonda districts of Telangana. Alampur witnessed the highest rainfall with 96.2 mm followed by Nagarjuna Sagar with 84 mm followed by Devarakonda with 75 mm. In Hyderabad, Himayathnagar witnessed highest rainfall with 39.2 mm followed by Kukatpally, JNTU with 35.5 mm and Charminar with 34.8 mms. Heavy rains are likely to occur in Bhadradri\Kothagudem, Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Rangareddy, Vikarabad, Nagar Kurnool, Wanaparthy and Narayanapet districts in Telangana. Showers with thunder, lightning and gusty winds (wind speed 30-40 kmph) are likely to occur at isolated places in all districts of Telangana. Hyderabad recorded the maximum temperature with 36.1°C while the minimum temperature was 24.5 °C.

EME annual sailing Regatta inaugurated

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME) inaugurated EME annual sailing Regatta on Thursday with the opening address delivered by Lt Gen Neeraj Varshney, VSM, Comdt MCEME and Col Comdt Corps of EME, Commodore of the EME Sailing Association. This event brings together sailors from various units of the Indian Army showcasing their dedication, training and competitive spirit. It also witnesses participants from pan India.

The participants have undergone rigorous training to prepare for this event. The Regatta also serves as a platform to select talented sailors for further training at Army Yachting Node and participation in national and International events.

Lt Gen Neeraj Varshney, VSM, emphasised the importance of such events in enhancing the physical and mental resilience of the sailors and highlighted the role of sailing in building teamwork, strategic thinking. and perseverance, which are essential qualities for service personnel.

'Health expenses push 63 M Indians into poverty annually'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Dr Jayaprakash Narayan, along with the FTCCI members seen participating in a meeting in Hyderabad

Emphasising that health expenses are pushing 63 million Indians into poverty annually, Dr Jayaprakash Narayan, Founder of the Foundation for Democratic Reforms, addressed the multi-stakeholder roundtable conference as the chief guest on Ethical business practices and integrity in healthcare, held at FTCCI on Thursday. Jayaprakash also noted that the roundtable was timely and necessary.

The event was organised in collaboration with the FTCCI, an outreach partner and Kapiti Group, a knowledge partner.

Speaking at the roundtable, Jayaprakash Narayan said that 63 million Indians are pushed into poverty by health expenses each year and are unable to access healthcare.

Affordability is also a major issue, he said. When people lack access to quality healthcare, they are not concerned about economic growth. This was reflected in the recent poll verdict, which was a cry of despair.

Dr Jayaprakash Narayan also mentioned that India spends just 1.2% of its GDP on healthcare. Despite long years of governance, successive governments have not increased it to 2%, and no such increase is expected soon. America spends 18% of its GDP on healthcare, the highest among developed countries and the UK spends around 12%.

Though the country spends large amounts on education and healthcare, it still fails to achieve meaningful outcomes, he added.

Dr Jayaprakash Narayan said that professional regulation has failed in India. The unions of these professionals safeguard their interests and regulation remains a problem. India needs a well-conceived professional regulatory mechanism.

The conference was organised by UN Global Compact Network India, a UN body that supports Indian companies, SMEs, institutions, media houses, corporate foundations and industry chambers committed to responsible business practices. They aim to institutionalise the ten universal principles of the UN Global Compact, covering human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

The inaugural function of the roundtable was attended by Meela Jayadev, President of FTCCI, Ashok Singha, Senior Vice-President of FTCCI and Tarakeswari Polaki, Founder and Director of Kapiti Group.

76,290 students allotted seats in DOST Phase I

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



The officials of Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE) announced that 1,04,784 candidates registered in Degree Online Services Telangana (DOST) out of whom 76,290 candidates were allotted in Phase I seat allotment on Thursday.

Out of 1,04,784 candidates, 94,128 candidates registered via Aadhaar mobile linked OTP authentication while 1,722 candidates via DOST app authentication. About 2,775 candidates registered for T App Folio Photo Image Authentication while 6,159 registered for MeeSeva Biometric Authentication. The total web-options exercised by the candidates are 3,91,973 while the total number of seats (intake) on DOST is 3,84,748.

About 55,124 students got seat allotment against first priority while 21,166 students got seat allotment against second priority. This year, Commerce stream witnessed high enrollment rate compared to other streams with 28,655 students followed by Life Sciences with 15,301 students, Physical Sciences with 14,964 students, Arts with 7,766 students, Data Science and AI/ML with 2,502 students, D Pharmacy with 90 students and others with 7,012.

In regards to medium-wise allotment, 72,431 students enrolled in English medium colleges followed by 3,314 students in Telugu medium colleges, five in Hindi medium colleges and 540 in Urdu medium colleges. About 70 colleges are zero allotted colleges.

Burra Venkatesham, Principal Secretary to Government, Education Dept. & Commissioner of Collegiate Education, Prof. R Limbadri, Chairman, TGCHE & Convener and other officials congratulated the students who secured seats in undergraduate courses.

They also stated that the candidates secured seats will get SMS to their registered mobiles. They can also get seat allotment details in candidate login in DOST website demand, through WhatsApp. All the candidates who secured a seat are instructed to reserve their seat through self-reporting from June 7 to 12 by paying Rs 500 or Rs1,000 in DOST candidate login.

The students who are allotted to the Government Degree Colleges/University Colleges and who are eligible, provisionally, for ePASS fee reimbursement (after caste and income certificate verifications) need not pay any amount to reserve the allotted seat, while Online Self-reporting. If any student fails to reserve the seat through Online Self-Reporting, then she or he foregoes the seat and his/her registration on DOST shall automatically be cancelled.

Prajavani resumes today: TSPB Vice-Chairman

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Prajavani, the service allowing citizens to submit grievances at Praja Bhavan in the city, was postponed due to the Lok Sabha elections and Model Code of Conduct. It will resume on Friday.

Telangana State Planning Board (TSPB) Vice-Chairman Dr G Chinna Reddy announced that the application process will restart on Friday.

Chinna Reddy said the public hearing programme will also resume on Friday, allowing the public to submit their grievances. In light of the end of the Lok Sabha election code, Chinna Reddy stated that public interest litigation will continue every week on Tuesdays and Fridays at Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Praja Bhavan. He urged people to take advantage of this opportunity to share their problems.

He also informed that State CDMA Director D Divya will be the Prajavani State nodal officer.

FREIGHT CUSTOMERS

Indian Railways introduces 'Rail green points'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Indian Railways observed World Environment Day keeping in line with the theme of this year's World Environment Day 'Our land, Our Future'. The theme focuses on land restoration, halting desertification and drought resilience. Jaya Varma Sinha, Chairperson and CEO, Railway Board and other senior officials of the Railway Board were present.

Jaya Varma Sinha motivated railway officials to increase their efforts in furthering environmental protection activities. Indian Railways is also taking major outreach and advocacy activities for mass mobilisation on 'Mission LIFE' with the aim to sensitise people about the impact of behavioral change on the environment during the month of June. As of now, 249 awareness and 147 action events have been conducted across all Indian Railways in which 4,921 participants have participated. A total number of 4,395 'Mission LiFE' pledges have also been administered across Indian Railways. Indian Railways is an environmentally friendly means of bulk transportation.

For environment protection, it has been taking continuous initiatives that have a positive impact on the environment by way of reducing pollution/GHG emissions, promoting resources and energy efficiency and contributing to sustainability.

As a policy initiative, IR has introduced the concept of assigning carbon saving points termed as "Rail Green Points" to its freight customers which give details of the expected saving of carbon emission.

At present all eight PUs and 44 workshops are ISO-50001 certified which shows the commitment towards energy conservation and energy efficiency. Around 700 major railway stations have been certified for implementation of the Environment Management System to ISO 14001.

As a part of Our Clean India movement, it has ensured the fitment of bio-toilets in all its coaches which has eliminated the problem of direct discharge of human waste from trains. With an aim to reduce the water consumption in toilets, IR has started the fitment of bio-vacuum toilets in new coaches. A total of around 76 lakh saplings have been planted across the railways in the year 2023-24.

National Lok Adalat to render its services tomorrow

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

National Legal Services Authority announced that the National Lok Adalat will be conducted on June 8 in Telangana at all levels from the High Court to taluq level for settlement of all kinds of civil cases and compoundable criminal cases (both pre-litigation and pending litigation cases).

The Lok Adalat renders legal services without any expenditure (or) fees. If anyone paid the court fee in the pending cases, the amount will be refunded, if the matter is settled through Lok Adalat. Also, no appeal lies against the award passed in Lok Adalat. The general public is requested to avail the benefit of Lok Adalat mechanism for settlement of their cases on June 8 in physical and virtual mode.

Therefore, all the persons who are willing to settle their pending cases or pre-litigation cases, may approach the Chairman/Secretary of District Legal Services Authority.

JICA backs IITH-Renesas partnership for semiconductor innovation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) supported the strategic collaboration between the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) and Renesas Electronics Corporation, a global supplier of advanced semiconductor solutions based in Japan, through a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Thursday. This partnership, facilitated by the IITH Japan desk established with JICA's support, aiming to drive innovation and talent development in India's semiconductor industry.

The MoU focuses on research and collaboration in the field of very-large-scale-integration (VLSI) and embedded semiconductor systems. Renesas will support curriculum development, hands-on learning and outreach programmes at IITH to nurture semiconductor talent.

IITH engineering students will have opportunities for internships and full-time employment with Renesas, aligning with India's "Make in India" strategy to build a self-reliant semiconductor ecosystem for India and the world.

JICA has been a long-standing partner of IITH, providing financial assistance for campus development through ODA loans totaling JPY 23,035 million (around Rs 1,500 crore) and conducting the technical cooperation project, FRIENDSHIP. This project supports IITH's initiatives to function as a sustainable platform for academic and industrial collaborations between India and Japan, such as the establishment of the Japan Desk on campus.

Saito Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India, stated, "The IITH-Renesas partnership represents a significant milestone for Indo-Japan collaboration in semiconductor sector as envisaged in the 'Japan-India Semiconductor Supply Chain Partnership' between the two governments and JICA is delighted to have contributed to such an important partnership.

Minister Seethakka's focus on improving rural roads

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a concerted effort to enhance rural infrastructure, Dr Danasari Anasuya Seethakka, Minister for Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, and Women and Child Welfare, emphasised the need for repairing damaged roads with high-quality materials and providing comprehensive infrastructure facilities.

During a review meeting held with officials at the Dr BR Ambedkar Secretariat, Minister Seethakka directed the utilisation of CRR and MRR funds for the development of rural roads. She directed the relevant department officials to prepare proposals for various development works in panchayats and rural local bodies.

The Minister called for proposals for new projects aimed at improving the basic infrastructure in panchayats and instructed the officials to assess and prepare estimates for the repair of existing damaged roads and the construction of new roads. She stressed the importance of completing pending projects swiftly and maintaining high standards of quality, warning that strict action would be taken against any lapses in quality.

The review meeting saw participation from the Panchayati Raj ENC and other senior officials, who discussed the strategic plans for rural road development and infrastructure enhancement in detail.

RAINY SEASON

Ronald Rose: Priority for flood water management

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Ronald Rose said that necessary measures have been taken with special focus on prevention of flood water in the city in view of the rainy season.

The Commissioner inspected water stagnation points in Serilingampally Zone, Madhapur Circle, Bata Showroom, Yashoda Hospital, Shilparamam and other areas along with Zonal Commissioner Sneha Sabarish on Thursday.

He directed the engineering officials to take permanent measures to prevent flood water. The concerned engineering officials were instructed to prepare an action plan for the proposed side road at Trishul Grand, to clear and desilt the side vents near the Bata Show Room and to complete the new box drain on Vikram Hospital Road as soon as possible.

It has been suggested to the authorities concerned to raise vents at Shilparamam, to set up a rainwater harvesting pit at the place next to Shilparamam and to give clearance to the land opposite Shilparamam. Also, the officials were instructed to take up box drain proposals at Smile Line Dental, demarcation of the road up to Yashoda Hospital, removal of bus shelter, nala and roadside encroachments.

Special buses for 'fish prasadam'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In view of distribution of fish prasadam for Asthma patients in Nampally exhibition grounds, Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGRTC) made elaborate arrangements for special buses from June 8 to June 9.

The special buses will be operated on normal fare basis duly exhibiting paper destination boards in three languages (Telugu, Urdu & English). The list of special buses from railway stations, main bus stations and airport to exhibition grounds are nine buses of 8A from Secunderabad railway station, seven buses of BKP from Kachiguda railway station, nine buses of 7J from JBS, nine buses from MGBS, nine buses of 16 from ECIL X Roads and seven buses of 251 from Shamshabad airport.

Moreover, seven buses of 156 from Dilsukhnagar, 100V from NGOs Colony, 102 from Midhani, 71 from Uppal, 65 from Charminar, 65G from Golkonda, 86N from Ramnagar, 94 from Rajendranagar, 8R from Risala Bazar, 3 from ECIL X Roads and others to exhibition grounds are allotted. The number of buses may be increased depending on the traffic demand.

All the special buses coming from Dilsukhnagar and Afzaigunj will allow passengers to alight at Gandhi Bhavan and then proceed to Public Gardens.

Drip irrigation for KBR Park soon

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Additional Commissioner Dr K Sunanda Rani seen inspecting KBR Park, along with other officials on Thursday

Drip irrigation system will be taken up to increase water efficiency in KBR Park. Amid ongoing works, Additional Commissioner Dr K Sunanda Rani inspected KBR Park on Thursday, along with K Balaiah from the Engineering wing and Anjaneyulu, field assistant.

Dr Sunanda Rani reviewed the progress of the ongoing works. As per the Commissioner's instructions, the UBD wing recently developed 10 different theme parks, such as a herbal and medicinal garden, an ixora garden and a ficus garden, in and around the KBR walkway. The Commissioner further instructed regular operations such as trimming, sweeping, green waste lifting and gap filling to maintain the park in lush green condition.

Dr Sunanda Rani also discussed with the drip irrigation agency about the installation of a drip system to improve water use efficiency. She also instructed regular cleaning of the baby pond.

According to the engineering wing, pending works include numbering of steps, painting the kerb wall around the park, repairing stone seating around trees with granite for better appearance, screening to eliminate waste near the cancer hospital, diverting storm/drainage water flooding the pathway, replacing or repairing damaged grills, and ongoing granite flooring of steps.

Dr Sunanda Rani advised coordination with the engineering wing and all line departments to complete the works assigned by the Commissioner.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
IRRIGATION AND CAD DEPARTMENT
'E' PROCUREMENT NOTICE

No. 6 SE /2023-24 (3rd Call) Dt. 06.06.2024

Name of Work: Tenders are invited for Repairs to Non-Over Flow Section in Left flank side of Musi Project, Solipet (V), Suryapet (M) and Suryapet district. **Estimate Cost:** Rs.62.75 Lakhs. Last date for submission of bids for the tenders: **13-06-2024 upto 5.00 P.M.,** For further information visit **https://tender.telangana.gov.in**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer,
Irrigation Circle, Suryapet.

R.O.No: 180-PPIC/IA/DVT1/2024-25, Dt. 06.06.2024

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
'E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

(1) NIT No: 02/CTO/GHMC/2024-25, Dt: 06.06.2024; **Name of the Work:** Engaging of Customized Mahindra Bolero Pick-up vehicle /equivalent vehicle for dog catching purposes along with driver and (4) semi-skilled workers working @ 8 Hours/day for a period of 90 days to Veterinary Wing, GHMC (Packages 1to 5).

(2) NIT No: 03/CTO/GHMC/2024-25, Dt: 06.06.2024; **Name of the Work:** Empanelment of agencies for Supply & delivery of Tricycles for transporting MS W (garbage) for a period of (01) year.

(3) NIT No: 04/CTO/GHMC/2024-25, Dt: 06.06.2024; **Name of the Work:** Empanelment of agencies for Supply & delivery of Wheel Barrow for transporting MS W (garbage) for a period of (01) year.

Start Date/Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids: Start Date & Time: 07.06.2023 @ 2.00 P.M onwards / End Date & Time: 14.06.2023 @ 2.00 P.M.

Name & Address Officer Cell No.: O/o. Chief Transport Office, 4th Floor GHMC, Head Office, Tank bund Hyderabad, Sri. K. Ajay CTO, GHMC. **Contact No: 040-29888748, & Mob.No. 7993360314.** Address of the officer concerned Chief Transport Officer, GHMC. **Ph. No.: 040-29888748 & Mob. No. 7993360314.** Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ **www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Transport Officer
Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation

R.O.No: 171-PPIC/IA/DVT1/2024-25, Dt. 06.06.2024

BRS, BJP sidelined ideology and organisational wings

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Ignoring Frontal organisations has cost BRS and BJP the most. In BJP, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh was sidelined and the impact of it was clearly seen in Uttar Pradesh and across India.

Almost all frontal organisations of BRS were in dormant stage. Both BRS and BJP diluted from their party's core ideology.

Sources said "BJP's overconfidence and ignoring Sangh has cost it dearly in other states.



Sange Shakti Kali Yuge (organisation is strength in current times) is the motto of RSS.

One man show will not work. Be it Annamalai, Yogi, BL Santosh, RSS didn't involve.

Sangh worked in Telangana because the local leadership worked in tune with them. In fact in Telangana, the reservation issue which raked fire across the country didn't cut our votes, because Sangh ensured that the narrative was debunked".

BRS never had frontal organisations which drove it during Telangana agitation. The party is literally person centric. BRS source said, "If you ask what's our ideology now, we can't say. But earlier we were always seen as Telangana. We are trying to revive ourselves with "Telangana's voice".

Our frontal organisations are in slumber. They might revive now but that's a fact that had the wings been strong, we could have countered narratives of NSUI, ABVP, BJYM in our tenure. Organisation is strength even in party lead by one person. Not only this, even due to the large-scale induction of leaders from political parties with different ideological moorings affected us".

Industries ignore local youth, bring workers from outside

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY



Local youth in Shadnagar and surrounding mandals are expressing growing frustration over the lack of employment opportunities in local industries. Despite promise to prioritise local hiring, many employers favor non-locals for jobs, leaving educated and unemployed local youth in lurch.

At the inception of these industries, assurances were made that local youth would be given priority for employment. However, it has become evident that many industries, such as Catedan, Kottur, Shadnagar, Keshampet, Farooq Nagar, Kondurgu, Chadar Guda, and Nandigama mandals, are bringing labourers from States like Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, and Chhattisgarh.

Local youth are questioning the fairness of the practice, arguing that despite their higher education, they are not provided jobs.

Frustration is mounting as repeated complaints to the government and officials yielded no results. The youth are particularly concerned about the impact on their future and the local economy. They argue that if local youths are given jobs in these industries, it would significantly boost regional development and reduce the need for locals to migrate to Hyderabad for work.

Local public representatives have also come under fire for their perceived inaction. Many youths feel that their pleas are being ignored and that their potential is being wasted. The industrial expansion has brought environmental issues, including air and water pollution, negatively affecting both the local population and wildlife. Despite this, locals have provided land for these industries with the expectation of employment opportunities, only to see non-locals filling the positions.

Panuganti Parvathalu, president of AITUC Rangareddy District, demanded immediate action to rectify the situation. He emphasised that the original promise was to prioritize local hiring, but this has not been honored. Parvathalu warned that if industrial owners do not provide employment opportunities to local youth, AITUC will organize agitation programs.

Khammam LS polls: BJP vote share increases to 9.48%

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

The Congress party activists and leaders are in a jubilant mood as the Congress nominee from Khammam Lok Sabha candidate won the seat with a bumper majority.

The BJP which was related to third place in the contest is, however, happy over increasing of the vote share to 9.48 per cent against the usual vote share less than 1.5%.

The BJP predicted that its candidate would have secured more votes had the party leadership announced its candidate Tandra Vinod Rao well in advance.

The election results caused much despair to the BRS. The party which could not win at least one seat in Khammam district and failed miserably in the recent Lok Sabha elections lost at least 1.60 lakh to other parties. By virtue of the cross-voting, the BJP got at least one lakh votes and 35,000 votes to the Congress. Though the BRS announced its candidate much in advance, compared to other parties, and fielded the sitting MP, the electoral loss caused much despair to the party. The party the loss of votes would be around 1.60 lakh. But the nearest Congress rival was polled a majority of 4,67,847 votes to the chagrin of the BRS leadership. The Congress nominee Raghuram Reddywon the seat with a huge margin of votes as the traditional BRS voters voted to the BJP. He got majroty in all seven Assembly segments.

BJP emerges as strong force in Telangana: NVSS Prabhakar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



The results of LokSabha elections proved that BJP emerged as a strong alternative in Telangana with winning of eight parliamentary seats and increased its vote share significantly, said BJP state Vice-President and ex-MLA NVSS Prabhakar here today.

Addressing a press conference at the state party office, Prabhakar alleged that the most loser in this general election in the state politically is Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy as voters of Mahabubnagar Parliamentary constituency voted to BJP defeating Congress candidate in his own prestigious district.

CM Revanth Reddy had no influence on voters as Congress has won eight seats due to reputations of contested candidates who had rapport with the people in their constituencies, he said

Giving further details , the BJP leader said before becoming Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was MP of Malkajgiri Loksabha constituency where BJP candidate Etala Rajender established victory now and Warangal, Peddapalli, Nagar Kurnool, Khammam, Nalgonda and Bhongir Loksabha seats were won by Congress because of contesting candidates had influence and rapport with the people and CM has no impact on the voters in any constituency.

He asked the Congress government to address the crisis of famers who have been facing problems due to supply of adulterated seeds and power cuts in mandal land town level.

Prabhakar said CM Revanth Reddy planned to invite Sonia Gandhi to erect Telugu Talli statue on December , 9 in a bid to save his CM post.

Raising questions on tardy investigations of phone tapping and other cases he alleged that he is indulging in black male tactics.

Prabhakar said coalition government is not new for BJP and earlier the party has efficiently handled with allies and functioned satisfactorily. The third time Modi government would work with the help of NDA allies and relentlessly endeavour to meet the desires of people of the country.

He congratulated TDP supremo Chandrababu Naidu for landslide victory of his party in Andhra Pradesh with the support of Jana Sena and BJP.

Two youth murdered in village in Ranga Reddy dist

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY





In a shocking incident, two youths were brutally murdered on Wednesday night at Butterfly City under the Kadtal Police Station limits in Rangareddy District on Wednesday night. The youngsters were killed just hours after leaving the Kadtal police station where they had reached a compromise regarding a case with their rivals.

The deceased were identified as S. Shiva (27) and G Shiva (25). While S Shiva worked as a driver and G Shiva in a chicken shop.

According to Kadtal Circle Inspector Sivaprasad, an investigation is being conducted from all angles to uncover the motive behind the murders. Initial reports suggested that the youths were stabbed to death. Police are also exploring the possibility of recent quarrels between the two friends.

The incident sparked outrage among the local community. Relatives and villagers staged a protest in front of the Kadtal police station, demanding justice to the families of the deceased. The grieving parents, Krishnaiah Balamma and Veeresha Yadamma called for severe punishment for those responsible for the heinous act.

The circle Inspector mentioned that Jalkam Ravi from Govindai Palli village and Palle Raju Goud from Jangareddy Palli village, along with others, were staying on rent in a villa where the murders took place. Based on a complaint filed by Karunakar, the brother of one of the deceased, a case has been registered and a thorough investigation is underway.

The bodies have been sent to Kalvakurti Government Hospital for postmortem examination.

WARANGAL-KHAMMAM-NALGOND GRADUATES' CONSTITUENCY

BRS alleges irregularities in counting of votes

PNS ■ NALGONDA

BRS candidate for Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda by-elections to the Legislative Council Rakesh Reddy on Thursday alleged irregularities in counting of the votes.

He charged the returning officer with dismissing their representations. He said that he has faith in the election commission but not in the returning officer. He charged the returning officer with not furnishing the information sought by him.

He claimed that the BRS was leading by 539 votes in hall No.4. But all was bungled up to give majority to Congress, which is not true, he alleged. He suspected that the counting of votes Is not being done with total transparency. The Round No. 3 counting is not transparent, he said demanding recounting of the round.

He demanded the people those who have faith in democracy should think about it.

15 devotees from Telangana injured as bus collides with truck in UP

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Fifteen people were injured when their bus collided with a stranded truck in Unj police station area of the district, police said on Thursday.

According to the police, the accident took place early morning when the driver lost control of the vehicle and hit the stranded truck.

A bus carrying devotees from Telangana collided with a stranded bus here. Fifteen devotees, including five women and four children, were travelling in the bus and all got injured in the accident, Station House Officer Rajesh Pratap Singh said.

Seven of the injured who sustained grievous injuries have been sent to a hospital in Varanasi.

Further investigations are underway, he added.

Govt hospital contract workers not paid for five months

PNS ■ BHADRACHALAM



Contract workers, demanding payment of penind wages for the past five months, staged a protest in front of the Area Hospital of Bhadradri-Kothagudem district Area Hospital under the leadership of CITU town committee on Wednesday.

CITU district president K Brahmachary alleged that the new contractor has been posing problems to the contract workers. How can the contract workers discharge their duty without payment of wages.

The ITDA project officer asked the hospital superintendent Dr Ramakrishna to assure the contract workers of payment of wages when they protested in February this year, but the promise was not fulfilled so far.

On the directions by the hospital superintendent, RMO Rajasekhar Reddy held discussions with the contract workers. The contract workers called off their agitation as he assured the protesting workers that he would ensure that their salaries along with the five-month arrears would be deposited by June 9 into their bank accounts after speaking with the higher authorities. If the salaries are not credited by June 9, the contract workers would go on strike from June 10 and handed over the indefinite strike notice to the RMO.

Telangana logs 1,04,244 NOTA votes

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Independents and candidates representing small political outfits have shown considerable impact during the Lok Sabha elections in the districts of Medak, Warangal, Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Mahabubabad, Bhongir Assembly segments garnered at least 80,000 votes depriving the mainstream politics votes. In all, 17 Lok Sabha constituencies, 9,48, 137 votes were polled to independents and candidates representing smaller outfits. In Warangal, the independents and contestants from minor political outfits together received 85,254 votes, the maximum in the state followed by Medak (81,537), Karimnagar (80,228), Peddapalli (76,718), Mahabubabad (76,232) and Bhongir (75,717) and Hyderabad (9,940).

The NOTA also received 1,04,244 votes across the state in all constituencies. Majority of the voters exercised their franchise to NOTA in Malkajgiri constituency-13,366. The voters in Adilabad gave 11,762 votes to the NOTA.

GROUP-1 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

Chief superintendents, invigilators get training

PNS ■ NALGONDA

A training programme was held on Thursday for the Chief Superintendents of the examination centers and biometric invigilators of the Group-1 preliminary examination to be held on June 9 under the aegis of the nodal officer Additional SP Ramulu Naik on the directions from District SP Chandana Deepti. In all, 47 examination centers have been set up in the district for the conduct of the examination. In all, 16,899 candidates are going to take the test. Prohibitory orders would be imposed near the examination centers.

No electronic gadgets like mobile phones, calculators, tablets, pen drivers, blue tooth devices, hand bags, mathematic tables, log books, log tables and any recording equipment would be allowed into the exam halls.

No candidate would be allowed to leave the exam center early. The candidates should handover their OMR sheets before leaving the examination hall. The OMR answer sheet would not be valued at all if the candidates did not give their biometric data.

Similarly, students were advised against wearing mehendi and temporary tattooes and should not carry any other objectionable material. Additional SP Ramulu Naik, DSP Ramesh, regional coordinator Upender, Chief superintendents, bio-metric invigilators and IT core personnel took part in the meeting.

BJP would form govt in 2028 in TG: Gudur

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharatiya Janata Party state executive committee member Gudur Narayana Reddy on Thursday exuded confidence that BJP would form the next government in Telangana if the results of the Lok Sabha polls are any indication.

Analysing the Lok Sabha poll results which were announced on Jun 4, he stated that the BJP has the bright prospects to form the next government in the state in 2028. "The party has led in about 45 Assembly segments," he pointed out.

Naryana Reddy informed that the BJP has won about 76.47 lakh votes in the Lok Sabha elections in Telangana. It was a record of sorts as far as the electoral history of the BJP is concerned in the state since its inception. The party has won 8 seats with a handsome majority in the recent LS polls.

He said that the party has secured 35.08 per cent of votes in these elections and emerged the second largest party in the state. The Congress was in first place with 40.10 per cent of votes, whereas the Bharat Rashtra Samithi has gone down to poor third place with 16 per cent of the votes.

The BJP leader said that these elections have made it amply clear that popularity of the BJP is on the rise in the state. He said that since 2019 Lok Sabha elections the BJP is on a steady rise in the state.

"We have won four Lok Sabha seats in Telangana in 2019, won Huzurabad Assembly Constituency, secured a good number of divisions in GHMC elections, and won eight seats in the Assembly in the general election in the state in 2023," he said.



He said that in 2019 Lok Sabha elections the BJP has got 19 per cent of vote share and was polled about 36 lakh votes. It has doubled its vote share in the recent LS polls. In the 2023 Assembly elections the party has got about 32 lakh votes.

He said that these numbers clearly reflect the growing clout of the party in the state. Another five per cent of votes would catapult the party into power in the state in the next general elections to the Assembly.

Refuting the comments of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy that the BRS has deliberately channeled its votes to the BJP, Narayana Reddy said that it were the people who have voluntarily and enthusiastically voted for the BJP in big numbers.

NEWS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

TDP MPs to attend NDA meet in Delhi today

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TDP national president Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday directed the party MPs to attend the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) meeting being organised in New Delhi on Friday.

MPs who were present in Amaravati attended the TDP Parliamentary Party meeting held at Naidu's Undavalli residence in person, while those in their respective constituencies participated virtually. Initially, Naidu congratulated the MPs on their election victories and later instructed them to attend the NDA meeting in New Delhi.

During the meeting, Naidu discussed TDP's priorities at the Centre, the role of cabinet ministers in the NDA, and other pertinent issues. He emphasized the importance of commitment to the people's verdict and urged the MPs to use their positions to serve society responsibly.

"You will see a changed Chandrababu in the days to come, and the rule of bureaucrats will no longer remain," Naidu declared. He addressed rumours that he would not change, asserting, "It will not be like that anymore. You will see for yourself."

Naidu encouraged regular communication with the MPs, assuring them that he would be accessible despite his busy schedule. He acknowledged the sacrifices made by leaders and activists over the past five years, noting their unwavering support even under threats from the ruling YSRCP.

"There will now be political rule, and MPs and MLAs should work together within their limits," Naidu stated. He credited the party's return to power to the efforts of leaders and activists who endured various hardships and announced that he would take his oath on June 12. He also advised the MPs to work in Delhi for the state's benefit.

All TDP MPs are expected to reach the national capital by Thursday night.

YSRCP lodges complaint against TDP attacks

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Outgoing Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has appealed to Andhra Pradesh Governor Abdul Nazeer to intervene and ensure that there are no attacks or physical violence against YSRCP cadres by Telugu Desam Party (TDP) goons and activists.

Jagan Mohan Reddy took to X (formerly Twitter) to condemn the vengeful attacks on party workers. He stated, "The TDP workers' attacks have led to an alarming situation in the state. The TDP gangs are on a rampage even before the new government is formed. The YSRCP leaders and workers do not feel protected anymore. The Governor should take cognizance of the matter, rein in the perpetrators, and protect the lives and properties of the people."

A YSRC delegation led by former ministers Perni Venkataramaiah (Nani), MP (RS) YV Subba Reddy, MPs G Tanuja Rani and Dr M Gurumurthy, MLAs Buchepalli Shiva Prasad Reddy, Matsalingam, and Visweswara Raju, along with former MP Kesineni Nani, former ministers Perni Venkataramaiah (alias Nani) and Kodali Venkateswara Rao (alias Nani), former MLA R Pratap Kumar Reddy, and Parchur incharge Yedam Balaji met with Governor Abdul Nazeer to submit a representation on the deteriorating law and order situation in the state.

Guv asks DGP to take control of CID/SIT office

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer has directed Director General of Police Harish Gupta to take control of the Crime Investigation Department (CID) office, specifically the Special Investigation Team (SIT) office, which had been targeting Telugu Desam Party (TDP) president N Chandrababu Naidu and his party leaders.

Sources reported that a senior official from the Andhra Pradesh Special Police (APSP), accompanied by his team, made an unannounced visit to the CID headquarters in Tadepalli.

the pioneer
HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | JUNE 7, 2024

INDIA CORNER

At 43.7 deg C, Chittorgarh hottest place in Rajasthan

Rajasthan's Chittorgarh recorded a maximum temperature of 43.7 degrees Celsius on Thursday, making it the hottest place in the state, according to the meteorological department. This was followed by a high of 43.3 degrees Celsius in Pilani, 43.2 degrees Celsius in Banasthali (Tonk), 43.1 degrees Celsius in Anta (Baran), 43 degrees Celsius in Karauli, 42.8 degrees Celsius in Dholpur, 42.6 degrees Celsius in Kota, 42.5 degrees Celsius in Churu, 42.4 degrees Celsius in Bikaner, 42 degrees Celsius in Bhilwara and 41.6 degrees Celsius in Jaipur. The weather department said a fresh western disturbance is likely to bring light to moderate rains in some parts of Bikaner and Jodhpur divisions from June 7 to 9. It said there is also a possibility of hailstorms at some places in western Rajasthan on June 7. However, a significant change in the maximum temperature is unlikely in the next four-five days. It is likely to remain below 45 degrees Celsius, the meteorological department said.



CBI arrests Delhi govt's sales tax officer in bribery case

The CBI has arrested a sales tax officer of the Delhi government for allegedly receiving a bribe of Rs 40,000 from a tax consultant for helping his client, officials said Thursday. Sunil, Sales Tax Officer Class-II posted at ward number 95, zone-eight, Delhi government had allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs one lakh from a practising tax consultant in GST and Income Tax for resolving an Input Tax Credit (ITC) issue of his client, they said. The official allegedly helped in dropping the proceedings of cancellation of registration of the client's agency. "After negotiation, the accused reduced the demand and agreed to accept the bribe of not less than Rs 40,000," a CBI spokesperson said. The CBI acted on the consultant's complaint and nabbed Sunil allegedly red-handed while accepting the bribe. "Subsequently, the accused was arrested. Searches were conducted at residential and office premises of the accused at Delhi," he said.



Rs 78 lakh gold paste found hidden under aircraft seat at Pune airport

Customs sleuths have arrested a passenger after seizing gold paste valued at Rs 78 lakh concealed by him in a pipe under the seat of an aircraft at the Pune International Airport in Maharashtra, officials said on Thursday. Based on profiling, the passenger arriving from Dubai on Wednesday was intercepted but nothing objectionable was found in his personal search or baggage examination, they said. "Since the behaviour of the passenger was very suspicious, he was asked if he had concealed anything in the aircraft. Since his answers raised suspicion further, his seat and a few other spots in the aircraft were searched. During the search, a packet of gold paste was found concealed in a pipe under the seat where he was sitting," a Customs official said. The 24 carat gold, weighing 1,088.3 grams and valued at Rs 78 lakh, was seized, the official said.



Top world leaders likely to attend Modi's oath ceremony

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Top leaders of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal, Mauritius and Seychelles are likely to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the weekend, authoritative sources said on Thursday.

It is learnt that India has already sent invites to Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe and some other leaders of the countries chosen to grace the ceremony.

Nepalese Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu, Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Jugnauth and President of Seychelles Wavel Ramkalawan are among the leaders being invited to Modi's swearing-in ceremony.



Modi is all set to take charge as the prime minister for a historic third consecutive term with the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) winning 293 seats in the Lok Sabha polls.

The guest list of foreign leaders for Modi's swearing-in ceremony was primarily guided by New Delhi's "Neighbourhood First Policy" and its strategic focus on island nations considered important in the Indian Ocean region, it is learnt.

Modi is likely to take oath on June 9.

The invitation to Muizzu assumes significance as it came amid frosty ties between the two countries.

The ties between India and the Maldives came under severe strain since November last year when Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, took charge as Maldivian president.

Within hours of his oath, he had demanded the withdrawal of Indian military personnel from his country. The Indian military personnel were replaced by civilians earlier this month.

The media division of President Wickremesinghe's office on Wednesday said Modi invited him to the swearing-in ceremony during a phone conversation. It said Wickremesinghe accepted the invite.

"During the conversation, Prime Minister @narendramodi invited President Wickremesinghe to his swearing-in ceremony, which President @RW_UNP accepted," it said on X.

Modi also had a phone conversation with Hasina on Wednesday. In the phone conversation, Modi invited Hasina to attend his swearing-in ceremony and she accepted it, diplomatic sources said.

Modi held separate phone conversations with Prachanda as well as Jugnauth.

On Thursday, Bhutanese PM Tobgay called up Modi and congratulated him on the victory of the NDA.

NDA to contest Bihar assembly polls under Nitish

PNS ■ PATNA

Bihar BJP president Samrat Chaudhary on Thursday announced that the NDA would contest the 2025 assembly polls in the state under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

In the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections, Nitish Kumar-led JD (U) contested 16 seats and emerged victorious in 12. It is in coalition with the BJP, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) and Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) in the state.

Kumar's support has become crucial for NDA government formation at the Centre as the BJP has failed to attain a majority in the Lok Sabha on its own.

In the backdrop of the current political situation in the country, Samrat Chaudhary's statement that NDA would contest the 2025 assembly polls in the state under the leadership of Kumar assumes significance. "The NDA will contest the next assembly elections in Bihar under the CM's leadership."

CEC RAJIV KUMAR, 2 ECS MEET PREZ MURMU

Present details of new Lok Sabha members

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar along with two election commissioners on Thursday presented details of newly elected Lok Sabha members to President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

The meeting is part of the process for the formation of the next or the 18th Lok Sabha.

CEC Rajiv Kumar, accompanied by Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, met the President at 4.30 pm, a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan said.

"A copy of the notification issued by the Election Commission of India, in terms of Section 73 of the Representation of People's Act, 1951, containing the names of the members elected to the House of the People following the General Elections to the 18th Lok Sabha, was submitted by them to the President," it said.

The section mandates "publication of results of general elections to the House of the People and the State Legislative Assemblies and of names of persons nominated thereto".

President Murmu congratulated the CEC and the election commissioners on the successful completion of the electoral process, the largest democratic exercise in human history, the statement said.

"On behalf of the entire country, she appreciated the efforts of the Election Commission, its officials and members of staff, other public officials who were involved in management and superintendence of the campaign and polling, and police and security personnel, Central and State, for working tirelessly and diligently to uphold the sanctity of the people's ballot and successfully completing a free and fair election," it said.

President Murmu also commended hundreds of millions of voters, who participated in the election process in such large numbers, the statement said.

CIC can't comment on utilisation of MPLADS funds by MPs: Delhi HC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) has no jurisdiction to comment on the utilisation of MPLADS funds by MPs as the scope of the Right To Information (RTI) Act is limited to providing access to information under the control of public authorities, the Delhi High Court has held.

The court expunged certain remarks made by the CIC while dealing with an RTI application seeking information pertaining to utilisation of funds under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), and said the authority has no jurisdiction to comment adversely upon the functioning of any public authority.

It, however, retained the CIC's direction for disclosure of MP-wise, constituency-wise and work-wise details of the funds.



In its order, the CIC had observed that some MPs were "deliberately accumulating" their MPLADS funds for the last year of their term to gain advantage at the time of the next elections and suggested the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to prevent this "abuse" of the funds, and implement the guidelines for distributing the money equally for each year of the five-year term.

"The Ld. (learned) CIC has no jurisdiction to comment upon the utilization of funds by the Members of Parliament under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). The scope of the RTI Act is only to ensure that information sought for under the RTI Act is dissipated in order to secure access to information under the control of public authorities," said Justice Subramonium Prasad in an order passed last month.

"Therefore, the observations made by the Ld. CIC commenting upon as to how the Members of Parliament are utilizing the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) funds have to be expunged," the court ordered.

WATER CRISIS IN NATIONAL CAPITAL

There should be no wastage of water, says SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There should be no wastage of water by the Delhi government since there is an "acute water crisis", the Supreme Court said on Thursday while directing the Himachal Pradesh government to release 137 cusecs of surplus drinking water for the national capital by June 7.

The apex court recorded the measures recommended in a meeting convened by the Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) to prevent wastage of water.

A vacation bench of Justices P K Mishra and K V Viswanathan noted the suggested measures, which included separating commercial and domestic water supply and curtailing industrial and recreational uses. It also emphasised on efficient water distribution in parched areas.

"We are conscious of the fact that since there is an acute water crisis in Delhi, there should be no wastage of water by the Delhi Government for which, we record the following suggested measures as has been recommended in the meeting convened by the Upper Yamuna River Board which are as hereunder…," the bench said in its order.

One of the measures said recycled water be used for secondary purposes such as gardening, car washing etc.



"Lining of raw water conveyance channels for long distance water transfer including use of closed conduit wherever feasible to bring down conveyance losses. In particular, urgent action is needed for the Delhi Branch/ Delhi Sub Branch which will bring down losses substantially (of the order of 25 per cent)," another measure suggested by the board said.

The apex court said in compliance of its June 3 order, the UYRB had convened a meeting on June 5 and discussed the issues concerning water crisis faced by Delhi residents.

"Two pertinent issues discussed in the said meeting were the one related to the actualisation of water sharing MoU (memorandum of understanding) between the state of Delhi and the state of Himachal Pradesh and other one related to the additional drinking water required by Delhi for addressing the present drinking water crisis and the way forward," it said.

On additional water required by Delhi for addressing the present crisis and the way forward, the bench said the board has noted that the Delhi government representative told the meeting that seven water treatment plants are dependent on water supplied from Yamuna/Ravi-Beas basins.

which are received in Delhi through a canal system of Haryana and Yamuna river route.

LS POLLS

Phase 7 turnout 63.88%; phase 4 recorded highest voter participation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Polling in the seventh phase of the Lok Sabha elections recorded a voter turnout of 63.88 per cent as against 61 per cent in the corresponding phase in 2019, data from the Election Commission on Thursday showed.

In absolute numbers, out of 10.6 crore electors, 6.42 crore exercised their franchise in the last phase of parliamentary polls. As many as 57 seats went to polls in the seventh phase on June 1.

The sixth phase of polls held on May 25 recorded a turnout of 63.37 per cent. Fifty-eight constituencies spread across eight states went to polls in the sixth phase.



According to data issued earlier by the poll panel, the fifth phase of the general elections held on May 20 recorded a turnout of 62.20 per cent. As many as 49 seats in eight states went to polls in this phase.

The fourth phase, in which 86 constituencies in 10 states went to polls on May 13, recorded a turnout of 69.16 per cent, the highest among the six phases.

The first phase of the Lok Sabha elections held on April 19 in 102 seats across 21 states recorded a turnout of 66.14 per cent.

18-yr-old girl jumps from 9th floor, upset over poor NEET score

PNS ■ KOTA (RAJASTHAN)

An 18-year-old NEET aspirant died allegedly by jumping from the ninth floor of a building here, police said on Thursday.

The incident occurred a day after the National Testing Agency (NTA) declared the NEET-UG results, in which the victim, Bagisha Tiwari, scored 320 out of 720 marks. This marks the tenth suspected suicide by a coaching student in Kota this year, they said.

The girl, hailing from Reva district in Madhya Pradesh, was reportedly depressed over her poor performance in NEET, according to the police.

Bagisha, who had been preparing for the medical entrance test for the last three years in this coaching hub, allegedly jumped to death from the building where she resided, under Jawahar Nagar police station limits on Wednesday afternoon, they said. The teenager lived on the fifth floor of the building with her mother and brother, a Class 12 student and a JEE aspirant, Circle Inspector (CI) at Jawahar Nagar police station Harinarayan Sharma said.

After attending her institute's classes on Wednesday afternoon, Bagisha reached the ninth floor and jumped from the balcony window.

Public has taught BJP a lesson in Lok Sabha polls: Akhilesh Yadav

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said on Thursday that the public has taught the BJP a lesson in the Lok Sabha elections.

He said the BJP, which had given the slogan of crossing 400 (Abki baar 400 paar) has been deprived of getting an absolute majority.

In a statement issued by the party office, Yadav said inflation, corruption and unemployment are not being controlled in the BJP government.



Every section of the society including farmers, youth, businessmen, teachers, advocates are troubled. Their future is in the dark, he added.

"The Agniveer scheme should be ended immediately. The soldiers who want to join the Army and whose age has expired should be given another chance," he said.

Yadav said the people in Ayodhya dashed the hopes of the BJP.

"The people there remained in pain. The BJP government displaced the poor. The displaced farmers were not even given adequate compensation.

"No attention was paid to the rehabilitation of the people displaced from their land. So the public taught a lesson to the BJP," Yadav said.

The SP chief said the INDIA bloc has now become a symbol of the people's aspirations. It will remain firm on its resolve of public service and will continue its efforts to save the Constitution and free the people from the pain and crisis of inflation, unemployment and corruption.

'AAP-Cong alliance only for LS polls, no tie-up for Delhi Assembly polls yet'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party's Delhi state convener Gopal Rai on Thursday said his party's alliance with the Congress was only for the Lok Sabha elections and hinted that the ruling party in the city will go solo in next year's Assembly polls here.

After a meeting of party MLAs and senior leaders at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence here, Rai told PTI that the party gave full support to the INDIA bloc in the Lok Sabha polls.

"The INDIA bloc was only for contesting the Lok Sabha polls.

Several parties fought elections together and AAP was also a part of it.

As of now, there is no alliance for the Delhi Assembly polls," he said.

The AAP-Congress combine drew a blank in the Lok Sabha polls in Delhi, with BJP effecting a clean sweep on all seven parliamentary seats for a record third time.

NHRC calls for eradication of '*Nata Pratha*'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NHRC on Thursday called for eradication of 'Nata Pratha' and issued notice to the Centre and the governments of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat over the evil tradition.

Under 'Nata Pratha', girls in some communities are allegedly "sold" either on a stamp paper or otherwise in the name of marriage having no legal sanctity in parts of Rajasthan and the adjoining areas in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat.

The National Human Rights Commission in a statement said that given the "unethical and immoral consequences" of the 'Nata Pratha' on women and minor girls, the commission has called for its eradication and abolition and issued notices to the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development and the four state governments.

They have been directed to submit a report on the measures taken or proposed to be taken in this connection within eight weeks, it said.



The commission's directions have come following its intervention in a complaint dated July 15, 2020 from the father of a minor girl who he claimed was allegedly kidnapped in Rajasthan's Salamgarh, district Pratapgrah and her body was found in Danpur, district Banswada in the state. The commission through its Investigation Division conducted an on-spot inquiry into the case, it said.

It was found that the father of the girl himself had sold her for marriage to a man for Rs 2.5 lakh under a purchase deal signed by their families under 'Nata Pratha' in the presence of the villagers on July 11, 2019. The groom paid Rs 60,000 and the remaining amount was to be paid by January 10, 2020, the statement said.

However, when he failed to pay the remaining amount within the stipulated time, the father brought his daughter back and fixed her 'Nata' with another man for Rs 32,000. The girl objected to this and went to live with her earlier husband at Gagarwa, the statement said.

"She also made a complaint with the Superintendent of Police (SP), Banswada against her father."

HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | JUNE 7, 2024

the pioneer

Opinion 06

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Hearth over heart

Taking Ram temple credit couldn't help BJP win Ayodhya; voters wanted development instead

The BJP slogan '*Jo Ram ko laaye hain, hum unko laayenge*' (We will support those who brought Ram to Ayodhya), though catchy, failed to resonate in the very city where the temple was built. The BJP's shocking loss on the Ayodhya seat underscores a fundamental principle: Development must take precedence over religious agenda. Coming just months after the grand consecration, the BJP's defeat underscores the nuanced dynamics between religious fervour and tangible progress. Ayodhya holds profound significance in the cultural and religious ethos of India. The temple was a promise long-awaited, one that the BJP fervently championed. However, it could not harvest the political spoils and its nominee from Faizabad – which includes Ayodhya — Lallu Singh was defeated by Samajwadi Party's Awadhesh Prasad by 54,567 votes. Ostensibly, apart from the Dalit vote favouring the INDIA bloc, the pressing issues of development and unemployment trumped religion. The loss has ignited a discourse questioning the efficacy of prioritising religious symbolism over pragmatic development initiatives. It also underscores the evolving priorities of the electorate. While religious sentiments undoubtedly hold sway, voters increasingly demand from their leaders tangible improvements in the quality of life, infrastructure and economic prospects. The discrepancy between the monumental religious symbolism and on-the-ground developmental realities became starkly evident during the elections.



We Indians are without a doubt God-fearing, but we are logical and rational as well. In Ayodhya, the grandeur of the new temple failed to resonate with the local populace, which was hurt and disappointed in the aftermath of demolished homes and ruined businesses, and inadequate compensation. The disconnect between the monumental temple inauguration and the pressing concerns of Ayodhya's residents highlights the need for a more balanced approach to governance. In Ayodhya, as in any other region, the electorate seeks more than symbolic gestures; they yearn for substantive change that enhances their livelihood and fosters inclusive growth. The BJP's loss in Ayodhya serves as a caution to political parties across the spectrum: While symbolism may evoke transient fervour, only concrete progress resonates with voters in the long run. The BJP's Ayodhya setback should serve as a wake-up call for all political stakeholders. Furthermore, the Ayodhya episode underscores the crying need for secular governance in a diverse and pluralistic democracy like India. While respecting religious sentiments, the State must maintain a principled stance of impartiality, ensuring that policies and initiatives benefit all citizens irrespective of their faith or belief system. Let us not forget the Constitution drafters wanted that the State must keep its hands off religious matters and, though added later, 'secularism' is still there in the Preamble. Invoking Gods in campaigns is not a done thing. Let Ram remain apolitical, in the name of Ram. Please.

PICTALK



Married women tie threads to a banyan tree as part of rituals of 'Vat Savitri Puja', in Ranchi PTI

Indian voters deliver a resounding verdict



B K **JHA**

Voters reject Modi's divisive politics, empowering the Opposition to safeguard democracy and reflecting a nuanced view of the ruling party's tenure



India's electorate has delivered its verdict, and the message is crystal clear. The voters have used the ruling party's performance over the past decade as a mirror, reflecting both approval and disapproval. On one hand, they have rejected Prime Minister Narendra Modi's divisive politics. On the other hand, they have empowered the opposition, enabling it to play the role of a robust guardian of democracy. This impartial decision signals that the public is weary of divisive, communal politics and rejects any attempt to split the nation along religious lines. This sentiment is evident in the defeat of the BJP candidate in Ayodhya, a place where the BJP had grand visions of surpassing the 400-seat mark by building the Ram Temple.

However, while the electorate has not completely dismissed the BJP, which has ruled the country for the past ten years on a platform of negative politics, it has significantly reduced its stature. The public has made it clear that their primary concern is the nation's welfare, and they will not tolerate the continued burden of rising prices, economic strain, and jobless growth. The opposition's strengthened position in the Lok Sabha elections sends a similar message: the ruling party must not envision a Lok Sabha devoid of a vibrant opposition.

The results of this election highlight several key issues, such as the Agnipath scheme for the military, inflation, unemployment, Hindutva, and the narrative of constitutional changes. Throughout the campaign, Prime Minister Modi, despite giving nearly a hundred interviews, avoided addressing these critical issues faced by the public. Meanwhile, the opposition concentrated its narrative on these very concerns. This contrast has shown that no government can keep the populace in an illusory world for long. Ultimately, any government at the Centre or State must measure up to the people's real-life experiences and struggles. By denying the ruling party a clear mandate after ten years of absolute power, the electorate has signalled to both the government and the opposition that if they do not prioritize public interests, they will not be spared in the future.

The results also convey a strong disapproval of derogatory language. The voters have punished those MPs of the ruling party who used unparliamentary language against opponents both in the Lok Sabha and on public platforms. This outcome manifests the public's demand for civility and respect in political discourse.

Furthermore, this election has reaffirmed the credibility of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Opposition parties, which had been casting doubts on EVMs for the past decade, emerged victorious through the very same machines, suggesting that the allegations were unfounded. However, despite these results, the Election Commission of India (ECI) remains under scrutiny regarding its impartiality. This election became the first in India where the ECI failed to enforce the Model Code of Conduct effectively. Moving forward, it is hoped that the ECI will learn from these results and ensure that future elections adhere strictly to the Model Code of Conduct, without fear or favouritism. The ECI needs to take a page from TN Seshan, the former Chief Election Commissioner, who enforced strict adherence to the code in the late 20th century, compelling politicians to use appropriate language and behaviour. The autonomy and integrity of the Election Commissioner are crucial elements in motivating opposition parties to participate in elections without fear and with impartiality. These are the main pillars that contribute to the credibility of the democratic exercise.

> THE PUBLIC HAS EXPRESSED THAT THEY ARE NOT SWAYED BY NOISE AND DIVISIVE POLITICS BUT ARE FOCUSED ON TANGIBLE ISSUES AFFECTING THEIR DAILY LIVES

The electorate's wisdom in this decision deserves profound congratulations. It has demonstrated a commitment to democracy and a keen understanding of the issues that matter most. The public has expressed that they are not swayed by noise and divisive politics but are focused on tangible issues affecting their daily lives. This election is a testament to the strength of India's democracy, where the people's voice continues to be the ultimate authority.

As India moves forward, the onus is on both the ruling party and the opposition to heed this clear mandate. They must address the real issues-economic stability, employment, inflation, and social harmony-over rhetoric and divisive policies. The electorate's message is unequivocal: governance must be about the people's welfare, and any deviation from this path will not be tolerated.

Notwithstanding the results, the stock market's rollercoaster moves in the last few days only reflect India's growth story, which remains intact. Driven by sentiments and global triggers, it will surely take its course towards an upward move, albeit with a few ups and downs.

Finally, this election marks a turning point in Indian politics. It is historical in the sense that everyone is happy. The NDA is happy with a clear majority, though the BJP is not. I.N.D.I.A. consolidated its position as a formidable opposition, and Congress is on the revival path. Hence, the General Elections of 2024 are a reminder that democracy thrives on accountability and that the electorate's power is paramount. The people prefer an inclusive and issue-based political discourse. This momentous decision by India's voters is a celebration of democratic values and a beacon for future governance.

(The author is a New Delhi-based Senior Journalist. Views expressed are personal)

India's green power policies come of age



JYOTSNA **KHATRI**

India emerged as the third largest solar power generator in 2023, thanks to its ambitious policies and regulations

From the MNRE's Surya-Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana guidelines for residential rooftop solar to the adoption of green energy open access regulations by State regulators for the C&I sectors, proactive efforts are being made across all areas to make RE more accessible and adaptable. Let's delve into a few of the recent government policies, regulatory changes, and judicial interventions that have significantly influenced this evolving sector.

Amendment to the Electricity Rules, 2005: The MoP has introduced a comprehensive set of amendments to the Electricity Rules, 2005. These new rules enable consumers with specified energy loads and ESS to establish, operate, and maintain their dedicated transmission lines without requiring a license. In cases where CGP is established by an affiliate company, the captive user must hold 51% ownership of that affiliate. This provision facilitates the establishment of group captive plants through subsidiaries, providing greater flexibility for companies to manage their energy needs.



Green Energy Open Access Rules: The GEOA Rules were notified in 2022 to streamline the overall approval process for granting OA. Time-bound processing by bringing uniformity and transparency in the application as well as approval of OA through a national portal has been mandated. Moreover, SERCs have been instructed to implement the GEOA Rules notified by the MoP and align with the State OA regulations. Accordingly, various SERCs including Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana have issued their respective GEOA regulations.

Surya-Ghar:

The primary goal of this initiative is to help provide free or low-cost electricity to 10 million households with up to 300 units of electricity per month by installing rooftop solar. The scheme will be implemented until March 31, 2027.

State RE Policies: According to recent reports, Rajasthan is spearheading India's transition to green energy with the production of 39,300 million units of green energy in early 2023-24. Gujarat, the second-largest RE producer, generated 36,184 million units during the same period, marking a doubling of its 2019-20 output and narrowing the gap with Rajasthan's leadership position.

Judicial intervention

The court's interpretation of the laws and governmental policies wields substantial influence, particularly in cases where legislative ambiguity or changing circumstances exist. In such cases, judicial authorities undertake broad interpretations to enhance the effectiveness of the laws.

Rule of Proportionality: After a conundrum on the issues surrounding ownership and consumption within captive power plants, the Supreme Court clarified that a captive user has to maintain unitary qualifying ratio throughout the year to meet the captive qualification.

GIB Order: The Supreme Court, vide a judgment dated March 21, 2024, recalled its earlier injunction order dated April 19, 2021, in M.K. Ranjitsinh & Ors. V. Union of India & Ors. whereby it imposed a general prohibition regarding the installation of overhead transmission lines in both Priority and Potential Areas. The court's decision helps stalled projects. Despite progress at the central level, states struggle to follow directives, causing regulatory divergence and exceeding legal boundaries.

These discrepancies, exemplified by GERC imposing restrictions on purchase and sale agreements in captive power transactions and escalating banking charges, are clearly at odds with the GEOA Rules. Therefore, ensuring uniformity in the adoption of laws and conducting thorough discussions and public hearings before formulating regulations are imperative steps to address the concerns of all stakeholders effectively and promote holistic development within the RE sector and its associated aspects.

(The writer is AGM- Legal at AMPIN Energy Transition; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OKHLA SANCTUARY FACING CRISIS

Madam — Apropos the news story "Okhla Bird Sanctuary sees over 90 per cent decline in winged guests," published on June 6, this is my response. Reading about the drastic decline in winter migratory water birds at Okhla Bird Sanctuary is deeply troubling. This sanctuary, once a haven for diverse bird species, has seen a staggering 90% drop in bird arrivals over five years. The causes are multifaceted, including climate change, but a significant factor is mismanagement by local authorities. Transforming the sanctuary into an entertainment park has introduced severe human disturbances, disrupting bird habitats.

Additionally, wetland degradation has exacerbated the problem, with water levels dropping and invasive plant species spreading. It's alarming that a sanctuary designated under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 could deteriorate to such an extent. The sanctuary's decline is a stark reminder of the importance of effective environmental management and the dire consequences of neglect. Immediate action is necessary to restore and protect this critical habitat, ensuring it remains a refuge for migratory birds and biodiversity.

Anaya Bhatt | *Faridabad*

ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES DEMAND ACTION

Madam — Apropos the news story "Fight to preserve our fragile ecosystems," published on June 6, this is my response. Reading the daily headlines, one can't help but feel the pressing weight of our environmental crises. Delhi's record-breaking heatwave of over 50 degrees Celsius and the rampant forest fires in Kashmir are glaring reminders of our climate emergency. As politics overshadow meaningful action, forest fires and extreme temperatures devaState wildlife and human communities alike.

In Dehradun, the battle to save 2,000 trees in Khalanga forest from being felled for a reservoir underscores the conflict between development and conservation. Activists advocate for sustainable alternatives, stressing the ecological importance of these ancient trees. Meanwhile, the construction of the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway at the cost of 7,500 trees raises questions about our commitment to environmental preservation. Even as the world celebrated Environment Day with the theme "Our land. Our future," the stark realities of deforestation, wildfires, and climate change demand immediate and sustained action. In the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi and James Lovelock, it is time we recognise our intrinsic connection to the Earth and commit to sustainable development, or risk losing our planet's delicate balance forever.

Meera Shukla | *Solapur*

THE CHARM OF SPOKEN WORDS

Madam — Regarding the news story "Virtual communication over spoken words," published on June 4, here are my thoughts. Reading this nostalgic piece brings back a flood of memories. It's touching how the nursery rhyme, modified to include letters, encapsulates the essence of longing and connection that handwritten correspondence provided in the past. In 1974, with the absence of modern communication tools, letters were lifelines, bridging the gap between hostel students and their homes.

The anecdote about the long-distance courtship through letters is particularly poignant. It's a beautiful reminder of how relationships were nurtured with patience and anticipation, each letter carrying the weight of love and longing. This methodical exchange of thoughts served the same purpose as modern-day dating, fostering understanding and connection. As time has marched on, so has the way we communicate. The shift from handwritten notes to digital messages reflects the broader changes in our society. Yet, the essence of meaningful communication remains unchanged. Even amidst technological advancements, the need for personal, heartfelt interaction endures. While we adapt to new forms, the core human desire for connection and validation persists.

Riya Bansal | *Jalandhar*

BJP's clean sweep in Delhi



Regarding the news story "Will win Delhi Assembly polls next year, say newly elected BJP MPs," published on June 6, here are my thoughts. The recent Lok Sabha elections in Delhi showcased an impressive clean sweep by the BJP, marking their third consecutive victory in all seven parliamentary constituencies. As an avid newspaper reader, it's striking how the BJP, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, has solidified its stronghold in the national capital. This triumph is not only a testament to the party's organisational prowess but also reflects the public's endorsement of Modi's governance and policies.

The unity within the INDIA alliance, comprising Congress and AAP, couldn't deter the BJP's momentum. The newly elected MPs' dedication to addressing Delhi's issues, such as water scarcity and slum rehabilitation, is commendable. The emphasis on development, digital inclusivity, and public welfare initiatives resonates well with the electorate's aspirations. The BJP's strategic focus on local issues and promises of concrete actions in the next 100 days, like the introduction of a startup hub and a grievance portal for government employees, showcases a proactive approach. This clean sweep, coupled with the party's ambitious plans, suggests a strong potential for continued dominance in the upcoming Assembly polls.

Anvi Dubey | *Dhanbad*

Send your feedback to:
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RAVI **VALLURI**

Harilal Gandhi (1888-1948), Manilal, Ramdas and Devdas were the four sons of Gandhiji and Kasturba. However, the children could not accept their father. They resented the fact that the illustrious father did not impart formal education to the children.

Harilal Gandhi, became an alcoholic, an embezzler, known for public drunkenness and destitution, and was an apoState. He converted to Islam and was known as Abdullah Gandhi. Though he loved his parents, he could not accept his father's ideology of parenting.

What do we mean by acceptance? Acceptance in human psychology is a person's assent to the reality or situation, recognising a process or condition (often a negative or uncomfortable situation) without attempting to change it or protest.

A woman is married into a family and brings with her the baggage of her ideology. Similarly, the family she is married into have their own thought process. Are they able to accept the lady?

A rich person during the times of Buddha, was desirous of becoming a monk and joining the Sangha. Buddha the Compassionate One, was willing to accept the person in the fold but made it clear that he needs to accept everyone in thought and deed. The wealthy person with all abundance meditated and returned to Buddha and accepted the condition. But added that he could accept everyone save two people. Buddha smiled and said, that the Sangha would make an exception in the case of the individual, that he need not accept 98 persons, but accept only those two individuals. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, elucidates further that there is a concept of active and passive acceptance. In case there is corruption in society, we may just tolerate the corruption and do nothing about it. However, in case of active acceptance, we take a stand.



In our minds, we need to create a space where we are willing to accept all the qualities (be they acceptable or not) of a person. Only through unconditional love can we accept a person. But this is possible only if we can live in the present moment. A meditative mind would be in a State to accept situations, conditions and people. The locale and circumstances keep changing thus our minds should be trained in such a manner, that it is willing to accept those situations. As Buddha says, the only permanent thing in life is its impermanence.

By not accepting people and situations we are only torturing our minds. Our minds need rest and peace. Unnecessary thoughts keep cropping up in our system as to what the other person feels about us without discerning that the concerned individual is not even bothered about what our State of mind is.

To my mind, all religions and faiths need to accept each other to maintain sanity in the world. Political barriers have collapsed with increasing globalisation and technology. The world has become 'flat', thus individuals and nations need to accept all ideologies, to avoid conflict. We need to intellectually and emotionally accept people.

John Lennon penned those iconic lines,
'Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people ….'

"The art of acceptance is the art of making someone who has just done you a small favour wish that he might have done you a great one," wrote Martin Luther King Jr.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd.and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

Rejuvenating Indian social work, culturally



VINEET **PRAKASH**

Integrating modern and indigenous methods enhances the relevance of Indian social work, providing it with greater depth and effectiveness



Every profession is unique and essential for societal growth and development. Social work, however, carries an added responsibility - to serve people and communities, striving to uplift them. It involves working with people and their surroundings, considering external and internal factors simultaneously. Social work is not just about empathizing with others' circumstances but also about reflecting on potential solutions and alternatives.

In today's India, social work as a profession is emerging as one of the crucial sectors. Over the last decade, this profession has expanded its horizon and established itself across the country. It is encouraging to see a growing number of young professionals choosing this career path. India needs more such young minds and professionals who can work on the ground and formulate policies to address critical societal issues. However, it is essential to question whether we are truly fulfilling this need.

The Evolution of Social Work: Global and Indian Contexts

Social work as a profession has a rich history globally. It was formalized in the early 20th century with the establishment of social work education programs in universities. The United States and Europe played pivotal roles in the development of social work, focusing on scientific methods and systematic approaches to address social issues.

In India, social work has deep roots that can be traced back to ancient times when the concept of "seva" (selfless service) was integral to societal life. The profession, in its modern form, began taking shape during the colonial period with the establishment of formal training programs. The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), established in 1936, was one of the first institutions to offer professional social work education in India. Since then, the profession has evolved, adapting to the country's unique social, economic, and cultural contexts.

The Need for Indianising Social Work

Recognising Diversity

India's strength lies in its diversity, with various languages, food habits, cultures, and climates. The country is home to numerous religions, castes, and tribes, each facing unique social issues. Solutions to these problems cannot be one-size-fits-all; they must be tailored to the specific community and location. India's indigenous approaches have shown success in overcoming tough challenges, and integrating these approaches into modern social work practices can preserve and promote these valuable traditions.

> HISTORICALLY, SOCIAL WORK IN INDIA HAS BEEN DEEPLY ROOTED IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH, EDUCATION, DISASTER RESPONSE AND RELIEF, AS WELL AS ADVOCACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS, WITH PRACTICES THAT REFLECT INDIGENOUS APPROACHES

Influence of Great Reformers

Great social reformers like Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar, Savitri Bai Phule, Sayyid Ahmed Khan, Pandita Ramabai, Vinoba Bhave, and many others have not only addressed complex issues of their time but also laid down principles that continue to guide us. However, the current syllabus and course content of social work in India reflects more of a colonial-era influence than Indigenous perspectives. It is time to introspect and make necessary corrections. After 75 years of independence, it is imperative to Indianize social work education and practice, ensuring that it is relevant to the Indian context. While the exchange of ideas is valuable, it should be multidirectional, incorporating India's rich social work heritage.

Historical and Traditional Engagement Areas of Social Work in India

Historically, social work in India has been deeply rooted in community development, public health, education, disaster response and relief, as well as advocacy and human rights, with practices that reflect indigenous approaches. Before independence, the Cooperative Movement emerged as a powerful tool to address rural indebtedness and enhance agricultural practices, empowering farmers through access to credit and collective bargaining power. Post-independence, the Chipko Movement exemplified community-driven environmental activism, with villagers, especially women, embracing trees to prevent deforestation, highlighting the importance of community involvement in sustainable development.

Pre-independence, traditional healthcare practices like Yoga, Ayurveda, and Unani played vital roles in providing accessible healthcare, particularly in rural areas, with practitioners significantly contributing to community health. Post-independence, the Pulse Polio Immunization Campaign demonstrated effective public health social work, with extensive collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, and local communities playing a crucial role in eradicating polio. In education, pre-independence, the traditional Gurukul system emphasized holistic, value-based education, fostering physical, mental, and spiritual development through personalized learning. Post-independence India has implemented educational initiatives reflecting indigenous social work approaches, such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, and the Right to Education Act, all emphasizing inclusivity and community participation.

Pre-independence, social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar advocated against social evils like sati and child marriage, leading to significant changes in societal norms and practices. Post-independence, the Right to Information (RTI) Movement empowered citizens to hold the government accountable, promoting transparency and good governance. These examples underscore the rich history of social work in India, deeply intertwined with indigenous practices and values, emphasizing community participation, sustainability, and cultural relevance. Integrating these indigenous approaches into modern social work practices can help preserve and promote these valuable traditions while addressing contemporary social challenges.

Integrating Modern and Indigenous Approaches in Social Work for Sustainable Impact

The intersection of modern and Indigenous approaches in social work is vital for creating a sustainable impact in communities. Modern methodologies bring innovative ideas and technologies, emphasizing evidence-based practices and data-driven decision-making for measurable outcomes. Indigenous approaches, on the other hand, offer valuable insights rooted in local contexts, emphasizing community participation, traditional knowledge, and cultural relevance for long-term impact and resilience. By integrating these approaches, social workers can leverage the strengths of both, building trust, respecting local traditions, and empowering communities for more sustainable and impactful interventions.

Proposing "Bhartiya Samaj Karya Diwas": Celebrating India's Legacy in Social Work

Every year, the 3rd Tuesday of March is celebrated globally as World Social Work Day. This year, it was celebrated on March 19, 2024. Given India's long history and significant impact in the field of social work, it is time to consider declaring and adopting a day as "Bhartiya Samaj Karya Diwas," i.e., Indian Social Work Day. This would not only celebrate the legacy of Indian social workers but also promote indigenous practices to serve the people of India better. This will also lead to promoting and recognizing the efforts of local social workers, and they can be role models for others.

Revitalizing social work in India by integrating indigenous approaches and perspectives is not just a necessity but a responsibility. By doing so, we can ensure that social work remains relevant and effective in addressing the unique challenges faced by our diverse society. It is time to revive the Indigenous methods, honour our rich heritage, learn from our great reformers, and adapt our practices to serve the people of India in the most authentic and impactful ways.

(The writer is currently working as an American India Foundation Banyan Impact Fellow; views are personal)

Modi 3.0: Expectations, challenges and opportunities ahead

The third term will test the mettle of PM Modi because he will be leading a coalition Government for the first time in his political career



SHSHANK **SAURAV**

The NDA led by PM Modi has registered a modest victory in the general election and it is a historic moment in our parliamentary democracy when a leader won three successive mandates. For record's sake, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and Smt. Indira Gandhi also won three elections and formed the government but this charisma in India of the twenty-first century holds another significance because now our democracy is more mature and information is easily accessible to the masses. While a lot has already been talked about the pro-people measures taken by the NDA government that led to this victory, it is time to focus on what we should expect from Modi 3.0 because this term is going to define the legacy of PM Modi.

The electoral rebound of the Congress-led alliance should not be interpreted as a decline in the personal image of the prime minister. We are living in an era when the brand Modi is more popular than ever before and people are becoming public representatives with the backing of the PM, then he must use his aura and strength to promote clean politics. There are apprehensions that slowly our democracy will become an aristocracy where people from humble backgrounds will not find a place to stand. This is a phenomenon that we are seeing in South Asia where political representation is becoming like a hereditary lineage. I am not implying that those who are from humble backgrounds have no place in this set-up but it is increasingly becoming difficult for a common man to withstand the money & might of the established political players.

Rahul Gandhi's ideas are a danger to this country and it was good for the country that the divisive agenda of the INDI alliance came out in the open. However, this country expects a lot from PM Modi. It was an open secret that this battle was fought in the name of Modi and he was the face of the campaign, irrespective of who is the candidate from his party. It would have been great had PM Modi used this opportunity to free our political set-up from the clutches of dynasts and turn-coats. Regional parties have long back become family-owned private limited companies but BJP always stood different from others when it came to politics of ideology and principles. It has more to do with the ideological influence of Sangh over BJP which sets the moral benchmark higher for BJP than other political parties.

This election was Waterloo



for many regional parties and some have fared well while others have perished. Number game has put Modi and team in a position where they will have to negotiate with their allies and the bargain is going to be tough. The next government will also test the mettle of PM Modi because he will be leading a coalition government for the first time in his political career. Compulsions of coalition politics were one of the major reasons behind corruption during UPA2 led by Manmohan Singh.

Now BJP has a strong presence in the southern part of India and very soon it may become a dominant player there as well. Though BJP had formed a government in Karnataka on its own, Modi should be credited for transforming it into a Pan-Indian party. However, this election has also given strong signals on the revival of regional outfits. For example, Bihar has given a message that though the voters trust PM Modi BJP needs a strong local face. Creating a strong leadership line at the local level has yielded dividends in other States and it is high time to replicate this in States like Bihar. BJP central leadership should nurture youngsters who are aligned with the ideology and have competence. Many people are capable and want to enter politics but they are unable because they do not have the required means and connections.

Given that Modi might not get a free hand, another point that would need specific attention in Modi 3.0 will be the handling of the issues that are related to core ideology and cultural rejuvenation. We have seen over the past 10 years that nourishing our roots and development can happen simultaneously. Development is an ongoing process but civilizational damages are irreversible and we have witnessed this in our history. Many issues are in the realm of law and the BJP often rightly accuses Congress of these blunders. If the NDA government survives by 2029 then BJP will complete more than two decades in power since independence and Modi will become longest-serving PM after Jawaharlal Nehru. There are Himalayan blunders and historical injustices that can be annulled by the Act of Parliament and therefore it would be interesting to see how Modi 3.0 prioritises these.

(The writer is a Chartered Accountant and Public Policy Analyst; views are personal)

MONEY MATTERS

Muthoot Microfin enters into co-lending pact with SBI

Muthoot Microfin on Thursday said it has entered into a strategic co-lending partnership with the State Bank of India (SBI). Under the agreement, Muthoot Microfin and SBI will co-lend to members of Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) who are engaged in agricultural and allied activities as well as other income-generating enterprises. The loan amounts will range from a minimum of Rs 10,000 to a maximum of Rs 3 lakh. With this collaboration, Muthoot Microfin Limited aims to extend its financial services to women entrepreneurs in rural and semi-urban regions across India, the Kochi-headquartered microfinance firm said in a statement. "With this partnership, we will be able to offer wide range of products and services to our clients, most importantly it will help us in meeting the growing demand of our women entrepreneur clients in a cost-effective manner," Muthoot Microfin CEO Sadaf Sayeed said.



Zoho launches early access to 'Zoho CRM for Everyone'

Global technology company Zoho Corporation has launched the early access to its 'Zoho CRM for Everyone' aimed at enhancing the needs of businesses. The 'Zoho CRM for Everyone' software solution allows sales teams to communicate and coordinate with other customer-facing teams from the CRM application instead of holding to fragmented discussions. India is one of the largest market for the Zoho CRM solution offered by the company. "Businesses are looking for unified solutions that help them optimise for value, maximise their competitive advantages, and tap into new market opportunities amid tough economic conditions," Zoho Corporation Co-founder and CEO Sridhar Vembu said. The Zoho CRM software also allows every team to manage their own workflows autonomously within the corporate information technology framework.



Gold climbs Rs 680; silver rallies Rs 1,400

Gold prices jumped Rs 680 to Rs 73,500 per 10 grams in the local market on Thursday amid a jump in the precious metal rates internationally, according to HDFC Securities. The yellow metal had closed at Rs 72,820 per 10 grams in the previous session. Silver also rallied by Rs 1,400 to Rs 93,300 per kg against Rs 91,900 per kg in the previous session. "Spot gold prices (24 carats) in the Delhi markets are trading at Rs 73,500 per 10 grams, up by Rs 680, taking bullish cues from the overseas market," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In the global markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at US$ 2,360 per ounce, up US$ 28 from the previous close. A pullback in the US Treasury yield and mixed US macroeconomic data led to an uptick in gold prices. The European Central Bank is likely to cut interest rates on Thursday in its policy meeting, which could support gold prices, Gandhi said.



RBI Guv Das to announce monetary policy today

PNS ■ MUMBAI

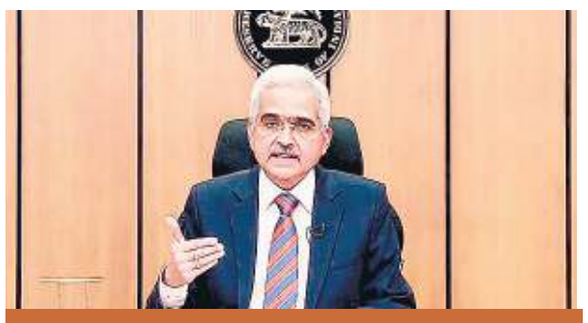
Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das will announce the next set of monetary policy on Friday morning amid expectations of a status quo on the benchmark interest rates.

The Reserve Bank of India has been holding the key interest rate (repo) at 6.5 per cent since February 2023.

Experts are of the opinion that the RBI will maintain the status quo on interest rates as inflation remains a matter of concern, though the European Central Bank and Bank of Canada have started reducing their respective key rates.

Das will announce the decision at 10 in the morning after deliberations of the RBI's rate-setting panel -- Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) -- which started discussions on Wednesday.

The MPC may also refrain from rate cuts as economic growth is picking up, notwithstanding the elevated repo rate of 6.5 per cent prevailing since February 2023, experts said.



Experts are of the opinion that the RBI will maintain the status quo on interest rates as inflation remains a matter of concern, though the European Central Bank and Bank of Canada have started reducing their respective key rates.

According to a SBI research paper, the central bank needs to continue the current stance of withdrawal of accommodation.

The report titled 'Prelude to MPC Meeting' expects the RBI to cut the repo rate in the third quarter of the current fiscal and "such rate cut cycle is likely to be shallow".

It also said CPI-based retail inflation is expected to remain close to 5 per cent in May (data to be released later this month) and decline thereafter to 3 per cent in July.

Inflation is expected to stay below 5 per cent beginning October till the end of 2024-25, it added.

Ashish Agarwal, Director, AU Real Estate was of the view that keeping the repo rate unchanged will ensure affordability for potential homebuyers, sustaining momentum in the housing market.

"With consumer demand driving luxury housing, this move will support macroeconomic indicators and encourage new buyers to invest. As India's economy grows, the real estate sector will play a significant role, making the current repo rate policy crucial in fuelling demand and contributing to the country's growth," Agarwal said.

The government has mandated the Reserve Bank to ensure retail inflation at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. Retail inflation was 4.83 per cent in April this year.

The MPC consists of three external members and three officials of the RBI. External members of the rate-setting panel are Shashanka Bhide, Ashima Goyal, and Jayanth R Varma

Indoco Remedies gets USFDA nod to market generic diabetes drug

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indoco Remedies on Thursday said it has received approval from the US health regulator to market a generic diabetes medication.

The company has received tentative approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) for abbreviated new drug application (ANDA) for Canagliflozin and Metformin Hydrochloride tablets in various strengths, Indoco Remedies said in a regulatory filing.

The company's product is the generic equivalent of Invokamet tablets.

Indoco said it plans to produce the medication at its manufacturing facility in Goa.

Canagliflozin and Metformin Hydrochloride Tablets are used to treat type 2 diabetes mellitus.

"This milestone underscores our commitment to bringing affordable and effective treatment options to patients managing type 2 diabetes," Indoco Remedies MD Aditi Panandikar said.

SURVEILLANCE LAPSES

Sebi issues financial disincentives guidelines for bourses, other MIIs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sebi on Thursday came out with a framework on "financial disincentives" for stock exchanges and other market infrastructure institutions for their lapses in detecting abnormal or suspicious trading activities to safeguard the interest of retail investors.

The amount of financial disincentives for surveillance-related lapses would be determined on the basis of the total annual revenue of a Market Infrastructure Institution (MII) -- stock exchange, clearing corporation and depository -- during the previous financial year and the number of instances of such lapses during the financial year.

The new framework will be applicable from July 1, 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular.

"The general objective of surveillance by MIIs is thus to monitor the market to detect and deter manipulation or abusive trading that affects the integrity of the market, and to provide information that supports the regulator's enforcement actions," Sebi said.

Market surveillance by MIIs includes monitoring the day-to-day activities in the market, reporting abnormal or suspicious activities, and monitoring the conduct of market intermediaries through the generation and processing of alerts, seeking trading rationale, and carrying out snap analysis.



Surveillance-related lapse includes any lapse observed in the discharge of surveillance activities, any inadequate reporting or non-reporting of surveillance-related activity and failure to implement the surveillance measures in the prescribed time as well as any delay in implementing them or only partially implementing them.

"The role of surveillance at MIIs has become crucial in ensuring the safety and integrity of securities market in view of the significant increase in trading activity during the past few years, increased participation by retail individual investors, increased trading activity in the derivatives segment and deployment of new trading techniques and strategies by market participant," Sebi noted.

With regards to the amount of financial disincentives, Sebi said that if the total annual revenues of an MII is less than Rs 1,000 crore, there would be a fine of Rs 25 lakh at the first instance of surveillance-related lapse, Rs 50 lakh on the second instance and Rs 1 crore for the third instance onwards.

In case the total annual revenue of an MII is between less than Rs 1,000 crore and up to Rs 300 crore, then a penalty of Rs 5 lakh, Rs 10 and Rs 20 lakh would be levied on the first, second and third instance, respectively.

Indian Overseas Bank sets up dedicated branch to serve startups; to open five more

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Public sector Indian Overseas Bank has set up an exclusive branch to serve startups and budding entrepreneurs in the city. The branch inaugurated by top officials on Thursday would offer a suite of financial products and services. Indian Overseas Bank has planned to open five more startup branches nationwide.

Marking the inaugural of the Startup Exclusive Branch, the city-headquartered bank launched 'IOB Startup Current Account' and credit scheme 'IOB Pragati' for financing startups.

"Start-ups are the cornerstone of innovation and job creation in our economy. By establishing this dedicated branch, IOB aims to remove financial obstacles and empower entrepreneurs to bring their visions to fruition," the bank's Managing Director and CEO Ajay Kumar Srivastava said.

"The launch of this startup branch is a significant milestone in our journey to support the growth of the startup ecosystem," he said.

The startup exclusive branch has entered into a memorandum of understanding with several premier institutes in Chennai to reach out to recognised startups and assist them with financial aspects of their ventures

ITC shareholders approve demerger of ITC Hotels

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Diversified entity ITC on Thursday said it has received shareholders' approval to demerge ITC Hotels into a separate entity.

Shareholders of ITC, in a virtual meeting held on Thursday through video conferencing/other audio-visual means, approved the resolution for the scheme of arrangement between ITC Ltd and ITC Hotels Ltd, the Kolkata-headquartered firm said in a regulatory filing.

The proposal "has been approved and passed by the requisite majority of the Members, pursuant to Section 230(6) of the Companies Act, 2013", it added.

The meeting was called pursuant to the directions of the Kolkata Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) dated April 22, 2024.

Last year in July, ITC announced demerging its hotel business by incorporating as a wholly-owned subsidiary ITC Hotels Ltd.



The scheme was approved a month after in August, which will create a new wholly-owned subsidiary ITC Hotels Ltd, to handle its hotels and hospitality business.

Under the scheme of demerger, ITC Hotels will issue equity shares directly to the shareholders of ITC in a manner that about 60 per cent stake is held directly by ITC shareholders proportionate to their shareholding in ITC and the remaining about 40 per cent stake to continue with ITC, it said.

The process will create a strong foundation for accelerating growth and sustained value creation by providing long-term stability and strategic support to ITC Hotels, while also instilling a sense of assurance among stakeholders, including partners and employees, the company had earlier said.

India, S.Korea, US, Japan, EU launch Biopharmaceutical Alliance

PNS ■ SINGAPORE

South Korea, India, the United States, Japan, and the European Union (EU) have come together to launch an alliance to put joint efforts into building a resilient supply chain in the biopharmaceutical sector, the South Korean presidential office said in Seoul on Thursday.

The inaugural meeting of the Biopharmaceutical Alliance, held in San Diego during the Bio International Convention 2024, the world's largest biopharmaceutical exhibition, had representatives from government officials as well as bio and pharmaceutical companies from the participating countries, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported.

The participants emphasised the importance of a reliable and sustainable supply chain and agreed to coordinate the respective countries' bio policies, regulations, and research and development support measures. They acknowledged that the production of essential raw materials and ingredients is concentrated in a few countries and agreed to work together to build a detailed pharmaceutical supply chain map.

The alliance was launched in response to the drug supply shortages experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

South Korea and the US agreed to form the alliance during their dialogue on core emerging technologies in December and expanded it to include Japan, India and the EU, the report said

Investors' wealth climbs Rs 21L cr in two days of stock market recovery

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Dalal Street investors became richer by Rs 21 lakh crore in two days of a sharp rally in the stock market, where the BSE benchmark surged over 4 per cent.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 692.27 points or 0.93 per cent to settle at 75,074.51 on Thursday. In intra-day trade, the benchmark soared 915.49 points or 1.23 per cent to 75,297.73.

In two days, the BSE benchmark surged 2,995.46 points or 4.15 per cent after Tuesday's massive rout.

Thanks to the optimistic trend in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies climbed Rs 21,05,298.11 crore to Rs 4,15,89,003.38 crore (US$ 4.98 trillion) in two days.

"With the poll-related uncertainty now almost over and the NDA ready to form the government, the mood remained upbeat for the second straight session as Sensex crossed the psychological 75k mark on the back of a splendid all-round buying support.



"With the buoyancy returning to the market, the fear gauge volatility index also eased considerably and fell 11 per cent," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is poised to form the government at the Centre for a third consecutive term after the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won a majority in the just-concluded parliamentary polls.

Among the 30 Sensex companies, Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies, State Bank of India, NTPC, Infosys, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Consultancy Services and Wipro emerged as the biggest gainers.

Hindustan Unilever, Asian Paints, Mahindra & Mahindra, Nestle, IndusInd Bank and Sun Pharma were among the laggards.

The NSE Nifty climbed 201.05 points or 0.89 per cent to 22,821.40 on Thursday.

"The benchmark indices maintained their positive momentum, as the new coalition is about to swear in, which is predicted to be a stable government. However, anxiety persists over the new cabinet being put in place and policy measures expected to be announced in the coming budget," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Saudia Group keen to offer MRO services for Indian airlines

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Saudia Group is keen to increase the number of flights connecting Saudia Arabia and India as well as provide MRO services to Indian carriers.

Saudia Airlines, part of the group, currently operates 54 weekly flights connecting seven destinations in India, including Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad.

An executive of the group said on Thursday it has also set up a maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility in Saudi Arabia and is keen to provide MRO services for the aircraft of Indian carriers.

The facility will be fully operational next year.

Around 1.5 million tourists from India visited Saudi Arabia last year and expectations are that the count will rise to 7.5 million by 2030, Saudia Group Director General Ibrahim Alomari said.

Speaking at the CAPA India Aviation Summit 2024, he said the group will increase the frequencies of flights between Saudi Arabia and India and want Indian airlines to increase their flights.

13 IPEF members ink clean, fair economy agreements

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India to sign after domestic approval

The government on Thursday said 13 IPEF (Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity) bloc members have signed fair and clean economy agreements, while India will ink the deal after getting domestic approval.

"India did not formally sign these agreements as domestic approval processes are still underway and will be completed after the formation of the new government," the commerce ministry said in a statement.

The government formation process in the country is on as the Lok Sabha elections got over this week.

These agreements, talks for which concluded in November last year, were signed in Singapore. Trade ministers and senior officials of the 14 member countries have gathered in Singapore for the ministerial meet. The Indian delegation was led by Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal.

The 14-member IPEF bloc was launched jointly by the US and other partner countries of the Indo-Pacific region on May 23, 2022, in Tokyo. Together, they account for 40 per cent of the world's economic output and 28 per cent of trade.



The framework is structured around four pillars relating to trade, supply chains, clean economy and fair economy. India has joined all the pillars except the trade.

Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the US, and Vietnam are members of the bloc.

On November 14, 2023, the IPEF declared a substantial conclusion of negotiations for a Clean Economy, Fair Economy, and the overarching agreement on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity.

After that, the IPEF partners completed a legal review of the text for these agreements and domestic approval processes.

"Today, IPEF members signed these agreements which are first-of-their-kind approaches to addressing 21st-century challenges and strengthening economic engagement across a critical region. India actively participated in the signing proceedings and the ministerial deliberations," it said.

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF T.S. LTD.
TENDER NOTICE. 01/2024-25 (Paper Notification)

TSSPDCL intends to float tenders and sealed bids are invited from various contractors/suppliers having experiences for (1) Loading & Unloading materials at City Stores (2) Extension of 11KV HT Cat-II supply of TSERC at SY.No.145(Part) in SK Nagar (3) Interlinking of Road No.22 feeder in CBD Bhills (4) Removal of existing HT & LT OH lines at Road No.22 feeder in CBD BHills (5) Removal of existing LT OH lines at Road No.44 in JHills (6) Replacement of existing 11KV OH lines at Road No.44 in JHills (7) Providing of dedicated new 11KV feeder from 33/11KV in Jubilee Hills (8) Erection of new 11KV feeder from 33/11KV in Jubilee hills (9) Providing of new 11KV 3way RMU in CBD BHills (10) Providing of bay extension at 33/11KV in CBD Bhills (11) Providing of New 11KV 3way RMU in CBD BHills. For further details, please visit:www.tssouthernpower.com
Sd/- Superintending Engineer
R.O. No.: 149-PPC/LAO/VTH/2024-25, Dt: 06.06.2024
Operation Banjara Hills Circle

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF T.G. LTD.
TENDER NOTICE No.01/2024-25

Open Tender Specifications- W-01 to W-05/2023-24 & M-01/2024-25 (W-05 /24-25 Reserved for SC): Bids invited from eligible vendors for Tender Notice 01/2024-25, Sp.Nos.W-01 to W-05/2024-25 and M-01/2024-25 (W-05/24-25 Reserved for SC) for various electrical works and M&P material at various locations in Operation Circle Gadwal & Starting date for sale of Tender 07.06.2024 at 11.00 Hrs and Last date for receipt of Tenders 26.06.2024, at 14:00 Hrs. For further details regarding Tender Notice please visit www.tssouthernpower.com
Sd/- Superintending Engineer,
R.O. No.: 190-PPC/LAO/VTH/2024-25, Dt: 06.06.2024
Operation Circle: Gadwal, TGSPDCL

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF T.G. LTD.
TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. 01/24-25

Bids are invited from eligible Bidders: 1) E/s for laying of 150M 11KV UG Cable in place of existing 11KV UG line passing under the railway track at Chengaspur in TND. 2) E/s for ext of HT-II supply for a CMD of 150KW with a CL of 20KW to M/s S.C. Railways in TND. 3) E/s to 1No. 5KW for LT Cat-II load (for loads of 90KW for electy. of 90No of plots to Journalist colony, in VKB(T). 4) E/s for 1No. addl 5MVA PTR at 33/11KV Bapally Tanda SS, 5) E/s for 1No. addl 5MVA PTR at 33/11KV Kothur SS, 6) E/s for 1No. addl 5MVA at PTR 33/11KV Burarpur SS in KDGLSD. www.tssouthernpower.com, Phone No: 8331018368 or 7901093660, Email-detcvkb@gmail.com
Sd/- Superintending Engineer
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Operation, TGSPDCL, Vikarabad Circle.

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Friday
June 7, 2024



Travelogue

JASLEEN ROYAL MADE THE MOST OF HER BANGKOK TRIP

Singer-songwriter Jasleen Royal, who was in the beautiful city of Bangkok, Thailand, shooting for *Assi Sajna*, speaks to *The Pioneer* for our Travelogue segment, sharing her travel memories from the trip.

TEJAL SINHA

From its rich history and cultural heritage to its bustling streets and scrumptious cuisine, Bangkok provides a memorable experience for every traveller. Well, recently, popular singing sensation Jasleen Royal was in this vibrant and colourful metropolis, having her own fun experience. The trip was not her vacay travel, but it was in Bangkok that she shot her just release track, *Assi Sajna*.

"It was lovely, you know. It was a close unit," begins the *Heeriye* singer on an exclusive note with us. "The unit had all my friends, and we have worked together in many of my videos, so it just became like a fun trip. We were shooting till 4 a.m., starting at 6 a.m. It was crazy, but it was a lot of fun. I remember that we had to shoot some sequences in the afternoon, but it started raining. A lot of the lip-sync portion we shot were on the roof top of our hotel. As soon as it would stop for a while, I would run, and we got some usable bits (she giggles)."

Travelling with her team and exploring Bangkok was undeniably something that she's enjoyed the most on the trip. Going ahead, she shares, "I am someone who enjoys work and pleasure. *Kaam bhi hogaya, masti bhi hogayi, and iss baar gaana bhi bann gaya*. Shooting for *Assi Sajna* in Bangkok was very easy, and we could easily get a lot of our work done."

One thing that every musician enjoys are the musical tours that they go on. Jasleen being one of those who is often on her musical tours, she enthuses, "There's on-season and off-season in our industry. I will be starting to travel in August and going on tours. So that gives me a break from being in Bombay, which also brings a little change. Sometimes you get bored of staying at the same place, and you feel like being stuck in terms of creativity. It helps you break the monotony. However, being on tour is very hard. It is fun, but at the end of the day, you want to just get back home to your dogs and family."

During this work trip, she definitely didn't miss out on exploring the city. As she goes on to speak of it, she shares, "There's this photographer, who was a local, who was guiding us through the tour." The *Sang Rahiyo* singer, being a vegetarian, shares that, luckily, he was a vegetarian too. "I would keep asking him to take me to a good place every time I felt hungry and get good vegetarian food. We did make the most of Bangkok." There was also a memorable moment she got to experience on this trip. So basically, her best friend, who stays in Singapore, gave her a surprise by visiting her on the sets. And so, she describes this as the exact feeling that *Assi Sajna* brings out.

> **A lot of the lip-sync portion we shot were on the roof top of our hotel. As soon as it would stop for a while, I would run, and we got some usable bits.**

"I am not a planner, so I have my team always together, and I just follow them. I am just like, Where are you guys going? *Chalo*, even I am coming," shares the *Raanjha* singer.

An overwhelming moment that she enjoys the most from her live concerts in different cities: "When the crowd is louder than my voice, it's the best feeling when the audience knows your song. I feel thats the feeling that you live for, and I feel very overwhelmed, lucky, and blessed to have experienced that."

On a concluding note for this segment, the *Nachde Ne Saare* singer shares, "My home is always a rejuvenating place for me. I just love coming back to my dogs, and you know how dogs greet you away from stress and life feels so good."

Gullak season 4 delivers laughter, tears and everything in between

TANISHA SAXENA

Director: Shreyansh Pandey
Writer: Vidit Tripathi
Producer: Arunabh Kumar
Creator: TVF
Cast: Jameel Khan, Geetanjali Kulkarni, Vaibhav Raj Gupta, Harsh Mayar, Sunita Rajwar, Shivankit Singh Parihar, Saad Bilgrami, Helly Shah and Manuj Sharma.
Streaming on: SonyLIV
Rating: 3

PLOT: *Gullak Season 4* continues to gracefully unfold the heartwarming narrative of the Mishra family, quintessentially portraying the Indian middle class. The season is divided into five episodes, each approximately 30 minutes long, with each episode focusing on a distinct theme. Aman Mishra (played by Harsh Mayar) steps into adulthood, while his elder brother Anand, aka Anu, juggles the demands of his job and the responsibilities of being an elder brother. The family's pillars, Santosh Mishra (played by Jameel Khan) and Shanti Mishra (played by Geetanjali Kulkarni), navigate the ever-evolving dynamics of their marriage as life progresses. Meanwhile, Bittu ki Mummy (played by Sunita Rajwar) remains the sweet yet nosy neighbor, adding her unique charm to the story.

THE PLUS: The characters, now well-established, continue to grow, making viewers feel like they are part of the Mishra family's journey. The performances by Jameel Khan (Santosh Mishra), Geetanjali Kulkarni (Shanti Mishra), Vaibhav Raj Gupta (Annu), and Harsh Mayar (Aman) are commendable, each bringing depth and authenticity to their roles.

Whether it's the sibling banter, the dynamic between employee and boss, or the sweet and spicy chemistry between husband and wife, the show packs it all in a steady flow of wit and plain old wisdom. The fourth and fifth episodes are particularly heartwarming and positively dramatic. Aman Mishra, the younger child of the house, steps into adulthood with all its trials and tribulations. It's fascinating to see how the show captures this phase in an everyday middle-class family. It portrays how middle-class parents navigate this transitional period in their child's life, showing that, like any other phase, it comes with its own set of learnings and eventually passes.

This season also features Helly Shah, who steals the show despite her minimal screen time.

THE MINUS: The first three episodes lack mature writing, with the third episode being particularly lengthy and dragged out.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS: The cinematography in *Gullak Season 4* captures the essence of a small-town setting with remarkable beauty, with each frame reflecting the simplicity and warmth of the Mishra household. The use of natural light and earthy tones enhances the show's realism, creating a visually appealing experience. The meticulous attention to detail is evident in the mundane visuals, such as a cut-out toothpaste tube, a paper calendar hanging on a yellow wall, and a 'sil batta', all of which contribute to the authenticity of the setting.

The costumes also play a crucial role in bringing the show to life. Shivangi Srivastava's thoughtful costume design adds an extra layer of authenticity, with Shanti Mishra's sarees being particularly noteworthy for their simplicity and elegance. These sartorial choices not only reflect the characters' personalities but also ground the narrative in the everyday reality of a middle-class Indian household.



Prashanth Ramachandran's editing seamlessly blends each scene. The cherry on top is the title track of *Gullak* by Jazim Sharma and Simran Hora.

VERDICT: *Gullak Season 4* is a delightful continuation of a beloved series, offering a perfect blend of humour, nostalgia, and heartfelt moments. It remains a must-watch for anyone who appreciates slice-of-life stories that are both entertaining and profoundly touching. The Mishra family's journey is one that resonates deeply, making this season a worthy addition to the series.



'I have never shied away from physical transformation'

PNS|HYDERABAD

Acting as an art form is truly magical. One diva who's successfully made it big after years of toil and hard work is Rashami Desai. Over the years, the *Bigg Boss* fame has literally proven her skills and mettle across different mediums, and we love the way she has shunned bright like a diamond to make it big.

While the diva often gets a lot of compliments for the ease with which she gets her craftsmanship going to blend into any character, not many have tried to understand the process behind it, be it the physical part or the mental part.

So, when we asked Rashami about the same, she opened up, and we quoted, "Well, as far as acting is concerned, every role might not need a physical transformation, but every role certainly needs a lot of mental preparation. It's all about playing with your imagination and taking yourself into a world that doesn't exist. For that to happen, your mind needs to be immensely strong, especially because once the cameras are shut, you also have to come back to your real world. The characters you are playing may or may not have any similarity or resemblance to who you are in real life. But the audience can't know that, as for them, that character is you, and hence, you have to get deep into it."

She always looks forward to preparing a character sketch and a backstory to understand the psyche of the character. Being a creative person, she shares, "I sometimes create my own back stories for my own reference just to get the emotional quotient right. That's why a lot of those mental training and conditioning exercises that are taught in theatre are important. Mental preparation is definitely mandatory for every role that I undertake."

Moreover, she shares that the physical drill is something that remains constant throughout the entire process until that particular journey is complete. There are some roles where you need to be on the healthy side, whereas others require you to lose weight. "It can get gruesome to play around your weight, but that's where the expertise of actors comes in. Personally, I am quite conscious of what I am eating and also focus on my workouts accordingly and as per the way I need to look. I personally find physical transformations more difficult. But then, the world has seen that I have done it and never shied away whenever there was a good opportunity."

She is also a firm believer in practice; she trains highly for her vocals. She shares, "My dialogue and diction need to always be on point, and I am very particular about that. Diction, voice, throw of speech, and modulation are very critical, and even today, I practice them whenever I can, as they never go to waste."

However, at the end of the day, her ultimate motive is that after a long day of shooting, her director should be happy about my work ethics and preparation and should never feel that she has taken things lightly. If that's taken care of, "I believe half the battle is won. I will tell young actors the same. Looks and grooming are fine, but at the end, you are an actor who's going to be known for the work you do. So, keep the basics sorted, and the universe will take care of you."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Rashami Desai has *JNU* and many other interesting projects happening at her end, the official announcements of which will take place soon as per the ideal timelines.



the pioneer
Hyderabad | Friday June 7, 2024

what's brewing?

PARTY

Photos by- SV Chary


Gulshan


Tollywood star Raashi Khanna served as the official launchpad for the new courses that the University of Roehampton London in Hyderabad has to offer. At a function at The Park Hotel in Somajiguda, Hyderabad, the actress got to know the students.


Raashi Khanna


Deepika


Vidhi


Kruthika


Aastha Sharan


Shika


Soniya


Riba


Depikshaka


Gulnar Virk


Keenan Tham,Eric and Ryan Tham

The most recent location of the Pan-Asian eatery Foo, is located in Hyderabad now. The Tham Brothers are thrilled to be introducing this well-known eatery to Inorbit Mall, where it will make its debut. One location at a time, this outlet brings its renowned culinary pleasures to Hyderabad.


PrayaRajev


RatnaRao


Krisha


Ananya


Mahek



In order to provide guests and visitors with an effective and practical option to charge their electric vehicles, Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre has installed a Jio EV Charging Station on its property. With this project, the hotel is taking a big step toward its goal of sustainability and environmentally friendly operations.

FUN

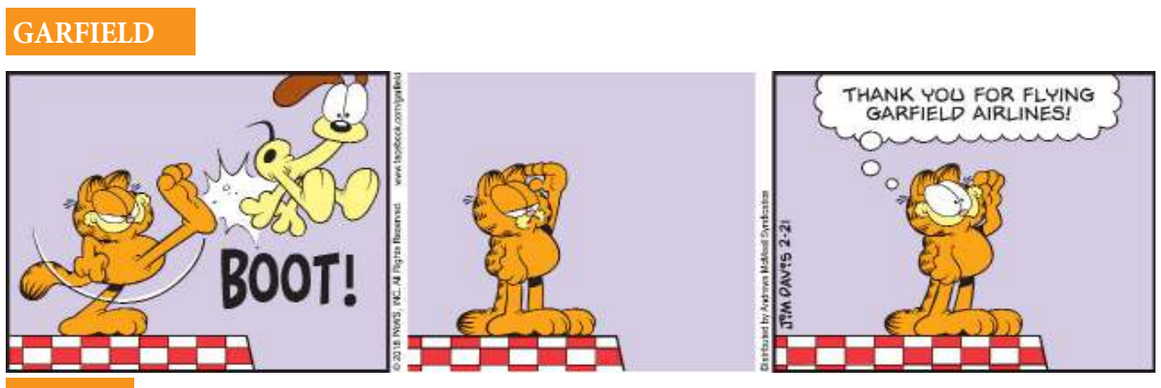
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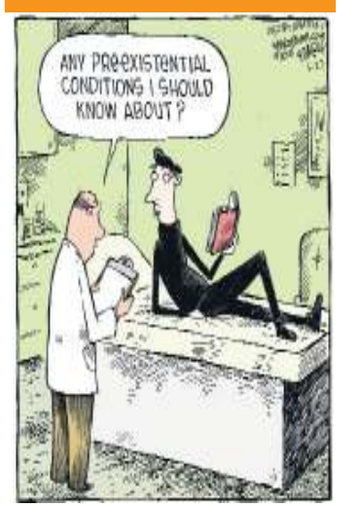
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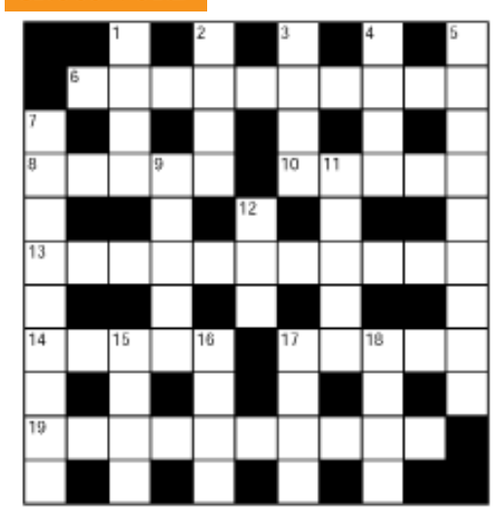
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

6 Someone who writes for a newspaper or magazine
8 Rome is the capital of this country
10 Listen to music on this
13 Thinking over
14 A hairdresser works here
17 Window pane material
19 Giving reasons for

DOWN

1 A long soft seat
2 A large group of soldiers
3 Not favouring one person or another
4 Discover
5 The most powerful
7 Talked over
9 A looped rope used by a cowboy
11 A month
12 Unusual
15 These surround the mouth
16 Tidy
17 Firearms
18 A female relation

SOLUTION

S	I	L	V	E	R	■	G	O	L	F
A	■	I	■	■	B	U	■	L
V	A	S	E	■	N	E	A	R	L	Y
E	■	T	■	I	■	D	■	S	■	I
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NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



SUDOKU

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

4	5	2	1	6	3	8	9	7
7	9	1	4	8	5	3	6	2
3	6	8	7	9	2	5	1	4
1	7	5	8	3	4	6	2	9
9	2	3	6	7	1	4	8	5
6	8	4	5	2	9	1	7	3
2	4	9	3	1	8	7	5	6
5	1	7	2	4	6	9	3	8
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Rules

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

the pioneer
Hyderabad | Friday June 7, 2024

'Love Mouli will resonate across demographics, particularly with youth'



WITH THE UPCOMING FILM *LOVE MOULI* NEARING ITS RELEASE, ACTOR NAVDEEP INTERACTS WITH THE MEDIA, SHARING INSIGHTS INTO HIS TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY AND THE MAKING OF THIS UNIQUE FILM.

PNS| HYDERABAD

As the release date for the much-anticipated movie *Love Mouli* draws closer, lead actor Navdeep shares insights into his transformative journey and the making of this unique film in an interview with the media.

Navdeep reflects on his career trajectory, expressing a desire to evolve with audience expectations. He says, "I wanted to change my career according to their idea of me," further highlighting the significance of aligning his roles with audience perceptions. *Love Mouli* presented an opportunity for this transformation, and Navdeep seized it eagerly.

Describing the filming process as an adventure, Navdeep recalls the challenges and passion that went into shooting in Cherrapunji. "For two and a half years, I was in that same get-up," he reveals, emphasising the dedication of the cast and crew to bring the story to life.

Reflecting on his character, Navdeep draws parallels between his real-life experiences and those depicted in the film. "I completely trusted the director. I only took care of my get-up and nothing else. There are different emotions in my character in this film. Couples and newly married people will relate to the movie. There are many love stories in my real life," he admits, hinting at the personal resonance of the story for both himself and the director.

Navdeep acknowledges the support of his friend, actor Rana Daggubati, who played a pivotal role in the film. "Rana really didn't need to do this role. He played the role because of his friendship with me," admits the *Chandamama* star.

Discussing the film's essence, Navdeep asserts that *Love Mouli* offers a fresh narrative experience. "This is not a regular love story. This movie gives a new experience to everyone." He predicts that the film will resonate across demographics, particularly with youth, owing to its unconventional approach.

Sharing insights into the casting process, Navdeep commends the director's commitment to finding the perfect fit for each role. "The director did not compromise anywhere until he found the right artist for the role he wanted," he revealed.

Looking ahead, Navdeep reveals his upcoming projects and aspirations for the future. "From now on, I want to come out with good stories as a solo hero," he shares, expressing a desire to continue exploring diverse roles and collaborating with talented filmmakers.

As *Love Mouli* gears up for release, Navdeep's passion for the project and commitment to storytelling shine through, promising audiences an unforgettable cinematic journey.

PIC TALK:



Malayalam superstar Dileep joins Rajinikanth's *Coolie*

Excitement is soaring as the much-anticipated shooting of Rajinikanth's upcoming film *Coolie* is set to kick off on June 10. Adding to the buzz is the news that acclaimed Malayalam actor Dileep joining the star-studded cast of this highly anticipated project.

Dileep, known for his versatile performances and magnetic screen presence in the Malayalam film industry, is all set to make his mark in Tamil cinema with *Coolie*. His inclusion in the film adds an extra layer of intrigue and anticipation, promising audiences a captivating cinematic experience.

Directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, *Coolie* has been the subject of much speculation and excitement among fans of both Rajinikanth and Dileep. With production set to commence in just a few days, anticipation is high as fans eagerly await further details about the film's plot, cast, and crew.

Siddharth's next movie titled *Miss You*



After receiving great reviews for his performance in *Chithha*, Siddharth will next be seen in a major role in Shankar's *Indian 2*, which stars Kamal Haasan. His new film's title and first-look poster were revealed today.

For a brand-new love drama called *Miss You*, Siddharth and director N. Rajasekar of *Kalathil Santhippom* are collaborating. The first look poster has Siddharth with a backpack against the background of a train, suggesting a plot that revolves around a traveller's love life. The film's lead lady will be actress Ashika Ranganath, who gained recognition for her performance in *Pattathu Arasan*," according to sources.

The star cast of *Miss You* includes Karunakaran, Bala Saravanan, Sastika Rajendran, Maran, and others. Produced by Seven Mile Per Second Productions, the film's technical crew features Ghibran as the music director, KG Venkatesh as the cinematographer, Dinesh Ponraj as the editor, and Siva Sankar as the art director.



Ari takes unique route to promote the film

The promotional campaign for the eagerly awaited movie *Ari* has taken a unique turn, starting off with eye-catching wall paintings that aim to captivate local audiences.

Presented by RV Reddy and produced by Srinivas Ramireddy, Thimmappa Naidu Purimetla, and Seshu Maram Reddy under the esteemed banner of RV Cinemas, *Ari* is set to make a grand entrance onto the silver screen. Titled *My Name is No Buddy*, the film boasts a stellar cast including Vinod Varma, Surya Purimetla, Anasuya Bharadwaj, Sai Kumar, and Srikanth Iyengar, with direction helmed by the talented Jaya Shankar, renowned for his work on *Paper Boy*.

With its character looks, trailers, and released songs already generating significant buzz, *Ari* is gearing up for its theatrical release following the successful completion of all production phases. Adding to the excitement, a prestigious production company has joined forces with the *Ari* team, promising an unforgettable cinematic experience for audiences worldwide.

In a strategic move to connect with local communities and build anticipation for the film, the promotional efforts for *Ari* have kicked off with vibrant wall paintings, setting the stage for a grand unveiling in cinemas soon.

Ram Charan to wrap up *Game Changer* shoot in next 10 days



Ram Charan, the acclaimed actor who has garnered global acclaim, is nearing the completion of his shoot for Shankar's much-anticipated directorial, *Game Changer*. Alongside the talented Kiara Advani, Charan has been tirelessly crafting his role in this ambitious project, which continues to captivate audiences worldwide. With just 10 days left on the shooting schedule, Ram Charan is set to wrap up his part in *Game Changer* by the end of June. While production will continue for other sequences, Charan's commitment to the project will culminate in the coming weeks.

Known for his dedication and professionalism, Ram Charan has maintained a packed shooting schedule, further solidifying his status as a powerhouse performer in the industry. Following the completion of *Game Changer*, the actor is poised to embark on his next cinematic venture.

In *Game Changer*, Ram Charan will once again don the attire of a uniformed officer, portraying the character of an IAS officer. Alongside him, Kiara Advani takes on the role of the leading lady, with Anjali delivering a pivotal performance. Adding depth to the narrative, SJ Suryah will portray the antagonist, promising audiences an enthralling cinematic experience.

Sundar C returns with another horror flick with Tamannaah

Renowned filmmaker Sundar C, following the triumph of *Aramanai 4*, is gearing up to thrill audiences once again with a spine-chilling horror film. In this exciting venture, the talented actress Tamannaah takes on the lead role, promising a captivating cinematic experience. Produced by the Screen Scene company with support from "Brother" JR, this project marks a highly anticipated collaboration in the world of Indian cinema.

Building on the success of his previous horror outings, Sundar C's return to the genre has generated considerable buzz among fans and industry insiders alike. With a knack for delivering gripping narratives and terrifying twists, the director's upcoming project is poised to captivate audiences and set new benchmarks in the horror genre.



Tamannaah, known for her versatility and commanding screen presence, brings her talent and charisma to the forefront in this eagerly awaited film. As the leading lady, she is expected to deliver a performance that will leave audiences on the edge of their seats, further solidifying her status as one of the industry's most accomplished actors.

Backed by the production house known for its track record of delivering quality entertainment, this project is set to raise the bar for horror cinema in India. With a talented team of filmmakers and technicians onboard, including Sundar C at the helm, audiences can expect nothing short of a cinematic masterpiece.

While the full details of the film are yet to be unveiled, anticipation is running high for the official announcement, which is expected to drop soon. As excitement mounts and speculation swirls, fans eagerly await further updates on what promises to be a thrilling addition to Sundar C's illustrious filmography.



GVM'S NEXT WITH MAMMOOTTY SHOOT TO BE WRAPPED UP SOON

Renowned filmmaker Gautham Vasudev Menon, known for his distinctive storytelling and visual finesse, is all set to embark on his next cinematic venture, and it's already creating quite a buzz. Teaming up with Malayalam acting legend Mammootty and the versatile Nayanthara, GVM is gearing up to deliver another cinematic masterpiece. This upcoming project marks a significant collaboration between the acclaimed director and the powerhouse performers, promising audiences an unforgettable cinematic experience. Mammootty, celebrated for his stellar performances over the years, brings his unmatched talent to the table, while Nayanthara, known for her versatility and commanding screen presence, adds another layer of intrigue to the film.



The shooting of this highly anticipated project is currently underway in the vibrant city of Chennai, with the team working tirelessly to bring GVM's vision to life. Scheduled to be completed by June 15, the production is helmed by Mammootty himself, underscoring his commitment to delivering quality cinema.

Meanwhile, fans eagerly await the release of GVM's previous directorial venture, *DhruvaNatchathiram*, starring the dynamic Chiyaan Vikram. With GVM at the helm, this action-packed thriller promises to be a visual treat, showcasing the director's signature style and Vikram's impeccable acting prowess.

Sharvari's *Baahubali* connect in *Munjya*!



Sharvari, a rising star in the Indian film industry, is set to make a significant mark with her upcoming release, *Munjya,* part of Dinesh Vijan's acclaimed horror comedy universe. In this venture, she shares the screen with none other than veteran actor Sathyaraj, renowned for his iconic portrayal of Katappa in the epic blockbuster *Baahubali*. For Sharvari, an avid fan of director SS Rajamouli and the *Baahubali* franchise, working alongside Sathyaraj was an exhilarating experience.

From the moment she stepped onto the set, Sharvari was captivated by Sathyaraj's dedication and expertise, absorbing invaluable lessons from the seasoned actor. Reflecting on her experience, Sharvari shares, "Being a huge admirer of Rajamouli sir's work, especially *Baahubali*, I was thrilled to learn that Sathyaraj sir would be part of *Munjya*. His presence on set was truly inspiring."

Sharvari keenly observed Sathyaraj's mastery, finding immersed in an impromptu acting workshop each day. Whether portraying comedic or intense scenes, Sathyaraj's consistency and grace brought every moment to life.

Expressing her gratitude, Sharvari remarks, "Working alongside Sathyaraj sir has been an invaluable learning experience. His versatility and talent are awe-inspiring. I hope to collaborate with him again in the future."

Presented by Dinesh Vijan and directed by Aditya Sarpotdar, *Munjya* promises to be an enthralling addition to the horror comedy genre. Produced by Dinesh Vijan and Amar Kaushik, the film is set to hit theaters on June 7th, 2024, offering audiences a delightful cinematic experience.

Sharwanand gets the 'Charming Star' tag



Sharwanand, known for his boy-next-door charm, has earned himself a new title, Charming Star, a testament to his effortless performances and versatile acting skills. This distinction comes as a proud moment for the actor as his upcoming film, *Manamey*, becomes the first to include this title in its credits.

Directed by Sriram Adittya and produced by TG Vishwa Prasad, *Manamey* marks Sharwanand's landmark 35th film, set to hit theaters on June 7th. Producer TG Vishwa Prasad, impressed by Sharwanand's captivating presence and seamless acting in the movie, bestowed upon him the title of Charming Star during the pre-release event.

Renowned for his ability to portray diverse characters with equal finesse, Sharwanand has garnered acclaim for his performances across a range of roles, transcending the stereotype of a typical loverboy. With *Manamey*, audiences can anticipate witnessing Sharwanand in a never-before-seen stylish avatar, adding to his repertoire of memorable characters.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, the fourth single from the film was released. Just like all the other songs in the movie, this too has attracted the audience.

This movie is said to have 16 songs! All composed by *Kushi* and *Hi Nanna* fame Hesham Abdul Wahab. The makers are very confident that the songs will become big hits in the movie.

As excitement mounts for the release of *Manamey*, bookings have opened on ticketing portals, signaling the anticipation and eagerness of fans to witness Charming Star Sharwa in action once again.

the pioneer
HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | JUNE 7, 2024

Ponting on talent rich India's global trophy drought

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The all-conquering Australia under Ricky Ponting's leadership knew the art of peaking at the right time in global events and the two-time World Cup-winning captain reckons India will need to do the same besides overcoming some mental demons to win an elusive ICC trophy.

Cricket's powerhouse India, who last won an ICC trophy in 2013, began their T20 World Cup campaign on an emphatic note in New York on Wednesday, beating Ireland by eight wickets.

Speaking to PTI from New York, the 49-year-old Australian great said India are well-placed to end their barren run in ICC events and need to find a way to deal with the enormous pressure that comes with representing a cricket-crazy nation.

"You've got to try and keep a clear mind where you can focus on the task at hand rather than thinking too far ahead or worrying about any sort of external pressures," said Ponting.

"There's no doubting the talent (in India squad), but we also shouldn't forget that the World Cups are not easy to win. There are all the best players in the world together at one time in different contrasting conditions.

"So look there's definitely a mindset thing to it. How you deal with pressure, how you cope with pressure, how you think your way through certain situations is the difference between winning and losing a T20 game," said Ponting, who led Australia to ODI World Cup titles in 2003 and 2007 besides winning the trophy as a player in 1999.

Ponting stressed on the importance of raising the game in the back half of the tournament.

"...One thing you know about World Cups, you have to have your best players playing well at the right time. Australian teams are playing their best cricket right at the back half of the tournament and peaking again at the right time in a major event," he said.

Six months ago, Australia peaked at the right time to lift the ODI World Cup trophy under Pat Cummins' captaincy.

The Rohit Sharma-led India are among Ponting's top four teams in the ongoing showpiece as they have all bases covered. Opening with Virat Kohli, which was the case against Ireland, is a no brainer for Ponting and he would also want to see more of Kuldeep Yadav, who was not picked for the opening game.

India may not have the power-hitters that Australia, England and South Africa possess but Ponting believes they have enough for the conditions in the Caribbean where the knockouts will be held. "I mean, it's not so much about power hitting, it's about strike rates as well," he said when asked if India did not match up to rival teams in the striking department.



"If you look at the strike rates of the Indian batters, they'd probably match up pretty well against players from other countries. I know Australia will have Marsh and Stoinis and Maxwell and Cameron Green and these sort of guys in the middle order there, and South Africa will have Stubbs, Klassen and David Miller.

"So they have got a lot of power, but then you look at the Indian lineup, Surya, although he's not an out and out power player, his strike rate and his scoring ability all around the grounds is as good as anybody in world cricket.

"Rishabh Pant is obviously back and coming off of a pretty good IPL as well and hitting the ball beautifully. Then you've got Hardik Pandya there as well. So, I think they've got enough power and that their batting lineup will look as dangerous as anybody's," said Ponting.

Also, for him, it makes sense to open with Rohit Sharma and Kohli throughout the tournament.

"What we've seen with Rohit over the last couple of years is that he is playing a lot more of an aggressive role at the top of the order than he probably once did. "Virat is coming off another magnificent IPL opening the batting For RCB, so I would definitely be going that way," said Ponting.

It is still early days in the tournament but Ponting would be surprised if India, England, Australia and South Africa don't make the semifinals.

"I had Australia, India, South Africa and England will be the four that I'm going to go for in the semi-finals. But South Africa, to me, this World Cup in particular, have got a stronger looking team than they've had in a long time.

"And I think they could be one of the really dangerous lineups as this tournament goes on. But I'd also be very surprised if the winner doesn't come out of those four teams that I just mentioned."

Like is often the case, the performance of the spinners towards the business end of the tournament will hold the key and Ponting reckons this is where India are well covered with the likes of Kuldeep, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel in the 15. "A lot of Australia's success as well revolves around how well Adam Zampa bowls. We saw that in the 50-over World Cup and what he's done for the Australian T20 cricket in the last four or five years has been outstanding.

"Spin might play a bigger role as the tournament goes on...Wrist spin obviously even more important. "India have got most bases covered there with the two left-arm off spin options and one left arm leg spinner and one right-arm leg spinner," he added.

Rohit doing fine but NY's drop in pitch faces criticism

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Rohit Sharma's bruised bicep is expected to heal before the game against Pakistan on Sunday but the Nassau County ground's track, which is "bordering on dangerous with huge open cracks", has become a concern for stakeholders of the game trying to sell cricket in America through the ongoing T20 World Cup.

India opened their campaign with an eight-wicket win in a low-scoring match against Ireland, who were bowled out of 96 in just 16 overs.

Rohit, who scored a half century in the successful chase, was hit on his right bicep by pacer Josh Little and was forced to retire hurt. The ball that struck him suddenly took off from length on a pitch that offered a great degree of uneven bounce. Rishabh Pant was also hit on his left elbow during his 36 not out,

"Rohit's injury isn't serious. He himself said that it's a bit sore. He should be okay for Pakistan game (on Sunday) as of now. There are two practice sessions before that," a senior BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Injury scare aside, the nature of the pitch, a drop-in one brought from Adelaide specifically for the World Cup, has raised eyebrows. India are scheduled to play two more games at this stadium.

Player of the final from India's



2007 T20 World Cup triumph, Irfan Pathan, hardly minced words as he criticised the pitch, calling it unsafe.

"Look, we definitely want to promote cricket in America, but this pitch is not safe for players. If we had a pitch like this in India, a match would never be played there again for a very long time," he said on Star Sports.

"This pitch is definitely not good. I mean, we are talking about the World Cup here, not even a bilateral series," he asserted.

Also unimpressed was former England captain Michael Vaughan.

"Trying to sell the game in the states is great.. Love it.. But for players to have to play on this sub-standard surface in New York is unacceptable… You work so hard to make it to the WC then have to play on this," he wrote on his X handle.

Rohit was bewildered by the track's behaviour and conceded that he didn't know what to expect from it against Pakistan. The team's batting coach Vikram Rathour was a shade more reticent in his analysis.

"It is a challenging wicket as far as batting is concerned but this is what we have. So we need to find ways to deal with that," Rathour said in the post-match press conference, placing the onus on his team to find ways to score.

The ICC has not reacted to the criticism so far and the Indian team management is unlikely to file any official complaint. But the displeasure is clear about the nature of the track, which according to some who saw, is "unfit for T20 cricket" and "bordering on dangerous".

"It is actually a very fresh pitch. There is a grass cover but along with it are big cracks. So, it will seam but also take off from length. Now when you have a fresh track like this, you first try out a few games like you do with beta testing of a new app," the source explained.

"Then you release it in the market. It is not a T20 wicket and all four tracks look the same," said another source after a first-hand look at the track following the match.

May be a roller would even out the cracks but such pitches are known to take time to settle for batting.

While Indian pacers literally toyed with a very competent T20 outfit like Ireland, even the biggest fan of Arshdeep Singh wouldn't have imagined that his deliveries would take off like surface to air missiles.

"One should be glad that nothing serious happened to Rohit and Rishabh (Pant). They are fine," the source added.

However, Ireland's Harry Tector had to undergo a mandatory concussion test after a nasty snorter from Jasprit Bumrah first hit his gloves and then flush on the helmet before Virat Kohli completed the catch.

The ICC rules on quality of pitches are quite clear. An assessment would only be done once the tournament is over and if found sub-standard, the track's overall rating would go down.



Pant will continue at number 3 for India in T20 World Cup: Rathour

PTI ■ NEW YORK

India will continue with wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant at No. 3 in the T20 World Cup following his gritty performance against Ireland, said batting coach Vikram Rathour, who also expressed his delight at having a fully-fit Hardik Pandya back in the fold.

Both Pant and Pandya, who returned to top-flight cricket in the IPL, are making a comeback to international cricket after a long gap.

The duo delivered the goods in India's eight-wicket thrashing of Ireland in their opening game here on Wednesday.

On a challenging pitch with uneven bounce, run-scoring was difficult but Pant unleashed a few stunning shots, including a reverse-scoop over the Irish wicket-keeper's head for a match-winning six in his unbeaten 36.

The Ireland match was Pant's first game for India since December 2022 when he was involved in a horrific car accident.

"Yes, he has been batting really well. The two games (warm-up and Ireland) he has played, he has looked really, really good," Rathour told the media after the match here at the Nassau County Cricket Stadium.

"Yes, at the moment he is our No. 3 and it helps that he is a left-hander," Rathour added, in a way cementing the combination of skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli at the top.

Both Pant and Pandya made their way back into the India squad for the T20 World Cup after proving their fitness and form in the IPL.

Even though he did not garner big numbers as an all-rounder in a turbulent season as captain for Mumbai Indians, India chief selector Ajit Agarkar had said that there is no one in the country who could match Pandya's skills as an all-rounder.

On Wednesday, Pandya was quick and precise with his line and length to produce 4-0-27-3 in his first match since October 2023 -- also in a World Cup.

Pandya had hobbled off the pitch in Pune playing against Bangladesh after twisting his ankle, which left India without an all-rounder and also disrupting the balance of their playing XI, with incoming Suryakumar Yadav failing to make an impact in the 50-overs quadrennial showpiece.

"Hardik looked really good. Hardik has been — I mean, even in the practice game and even in the practice — bowling really well," Rathour said. "He looks fit enough to go through four overs and he's been bowling with some pace and some accuracy, so yeah, it's great," he added.

Australia beat Oman in T20 World Cup



PTI ■ BRIDGETOWN (BARBADOS)

Marcus Stoinis smacked a quick-fire unbeaten half-century and claimed three wickets as Australia began their T20 World Cup campaign with a comprehensive 39-run victory against Oman at the Kensington Oval on Thursday.

Stoinis helped Australia recover from a top-order slide with a brutal unbeaten 67-run knock off 36 balls to help them post 164/5 in the company of David Warner (56). He then produced figures of 3-0-19-3 as the 2021 champions grabbed two points.

Oman tried to take the fight to the opposition but their lack of experience showed as they could manage only 125/9 in 20 overs.

Oman were pegged back when Nathan Ellis (2/28) and Mitchell Starc (2/20) struck once each inside the first three overs.

Starc produced a vicious inswinger on the third ball of Oman's innings which hit Pratik Athavale (0) on the pads, but Australia were forced to take a DRS review after their appeal was declined on the field.

Oman then reviewed unsuccessfully when Ellis pinned Kashyap Prajapati (7) in front of the wickets for the second wicket.

Stoinis struck on the final ball of the powerplay to deliver a body blow, removing Oman skipper Aqib Ilyas (18) who looked to counter-attack. Ilyas was caught by Matthew Wade, who was sharp behind the wickets throughout.

Stoinis also claimed Zeeshan Maqsood (1) when he got the batter caught behind in the eighth over to ensure Australia's dominance in the game.

Late in their innings, Ayaan Khan hit an impressive 30-ball 36 with two fours and as many sixes while putting on 37 runs for the seventh wicket to delay the inevitable.

After being asked to bat first, Australia put on 164/5 in 20 overs. Stoinis' knock arrested a top-order slide for the Australians after opener Travis Head (12) and skipper Mitchell Marsh (14) were unable to convert their starts.

Veteran all-rounder Glenn Maxwell's misery continued with the bat as he was dismissed for a golden duck off Mehran, with Ilyas taking a stunning one-handed grab flying parallel to the ground.

Stoinis and Warner put on 102 runs for the fourth wicket from 64 balls after Australia were reduced to 50/3 at one stage and were in need of a revival.

Warner played a cautious knock in which he struck six fours and a six to make 56 and went past former Australia captain Aaron Finch in terms of getting most runs (3,120) for the country in the shortest format.

The left-handed Warner completed the feat in his 104th match for Australia.

Stoinis, on the other hand, was more belligerent of the two as his 67 not out came off only 36 balls, studded with two fours and six sixes.

Ireland bank on stalwarts to fire against newcomers Canada

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Ireland will bank on their experienced batters Andy Balbirnie, Paul Stirling and Harry Tector to recover from the pummeling given by India and get their T20 World Cup campaign back on track when they face a dangerous Canada here on Friday.

Ireland went down by eight wickets against India on Wednesday, while Canada will be eager to recover after a seven-wicket loss to co-hosts USA.

Playing in their eighth T20 World Cup, Ireland have often struggled to make an impression in the event despite several of their key players playing in English county. In fact, they have made it to the 'Super 8' only once in 2009.

Balbirnie and captain Stirling, who have a combined experience of more than 250 T20Is, were unable to give the side a decent start on a difficult pitch at the Nassau Country Stadium, even as rival skipper Rohit Sharma and Rishabh Pant showed the way with their batting master-class while guiding India to a huge win.

Tector, a veteran of 77 T20Is, too failed to kick on as Ireland were bowled out for a sub-100 total by the disciplined Indian bowlers, and they require an urgent turnaround.

Ireland will be playing their second match at this venue inside two days and they will be keen to execute the learnings from that.

World Cup newcomers Canada, on the other hand, too are coming off a big defeat against the United States in a high-scoring Group A match in Dallas.

Canada, can, however derive strength from their T20 World Cup Qualifier match against Ireland in 2019. In that match, the Maple Leafers inflicted a crushing 10-wicket defeat on the Irishmen.

In skipper Navneet Dhaliwal, Canada have a veteran top-order batter who was a part of that 2019 victory, and a lot will be riding on him. Canada will also take heart from the defeat against the USA because they had posted an imposing 194 against them and would look for an encore.



SQUADS (FROM):

Ireland: Paul Stirling (captain), Mark Adair, Ross Adair, Andy Balbirnie, Curtis Campher, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Graham Hume, Josh Little*, Barry McCarthy, Neil Rock (wk), Harry Tector, Lorcan Tucker (wk), Ben White, Craig Young.

Canada: Saad Bin Zafar (captain), Aaron Johnson, Ravinderpal Singh, Navneet Dhaliwal, Kaleem Sana, Dilon Heyliger, Jeremy Gordon, Nikhil Dutta, Pargat Singh, Nicholas Kirton, Rayyankhan Pathan, Junaid Siddiqui, Dilpreet Bajwa, Shreyas Movva and Rishiv Joshi.

Match Starts at 8 pm.

SCOTLAND VS NAMIBIA: Namibia were superb in the 'Super Over' win over Oman in their T20 World Cup opener and that trial by fire would have given them the confidence to take on Scotland, who will be playing their second game here after their opener against England was rained off.

The Scots did show their capabilities against the defending T20 World Cup champions, but rain had the last laugh and both teams were forced to share points.

While Namibia would rely heavily on veterans Gerhard Erasmus, the skipper, and all-rounder David Wiese, who have been at the forefront of the country's cricketing charge.

They are carrying the experience from the two previous T20 World Cups. Additionally, Namibia also have won their last three T20Is against Scotland, something that will give them a positive frame of mind.

SQUADS:

Namibia: Gerhard Erasmus (c), Zane Green, Michael Van Lingen, Dylan Leicher, Ruben Trumpelmann, Jack Brassell, Ben Shikongo, Tangeni Lungameni, Niko Davin, JJ Smit, Jan Frylinck, JP Kotze, David Wiese, Bernard Scholtz, Malan Kruger, PD Blignaut.

Scotland: Richie Berrington (c), Matthew Cross, Brad Currie, Chris Greaves, Oli Hairs, Jack Jarvis, Michael Jones, Michael Leask, Brandon McMullen, George Munsey, Safyaan Sharif, Chris Sole, Charlie Tear, Mark Watt, Brad Wheal.

Match Starts at 12.30 am.



Uganda score hard fought win against PNG

AP ■ PROVIDENCE (GUYANA)

Uganda secured its first victory in a T20 World Cup match in a low-scoring thriller against Papua New Guinea at the Providence Stadium here.

Uganda dismissed Papua New Guinea for 77 on Wednesday but had to work extra hard for their three-wicket victory, losing its first three wickets by the start of the third over in reply and then slipping to 26-5 before rallying to reach 78-7 with 10 balls remaining.

Riazat Ali Shah's 33 was more than double the highest score by any other batter in the match, but he was out with Uganda three runs away from victory.

He had two big reprieves — chopping an inside edge just over his stumps before he'd scored with Uganda on 8-3 and again when he was on 9 and the total at 35-5 when Charles Amini put down a regulation catch in the 9th over.

Uganda rallied to set up victory with a 35-run sixth-wicket partnership between Riazat and Juma Miyagi (13) before a runout added an extra element of tension at the end.

"First win of a World Cup is a special win for us," Riazat said. "It was not easy to bat on this wicket ... Our plan was just to stay in and take our time."

BRIEF SCORES:

Papua New Guinea 77 in 19.1 overs (Alpesh Ramjani 2/17, Cosmas Kyewuta 2/17, Juma Miyagi 2/10, Frank Nsubuga 2/4)