# THE ASIAN AGE

NATION 3

Adhir rejects rumours of getting sidelined by Cong after losing Lok Sabha polls



WORLD 6

Rishi Sunak apologises for skipping D-Day event to campaign for election

**DELHI AGE 9** 

Raveena drops a note saying we should stand united against violence



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Newly-elected BJP MP Kangana Ranaut during the registration process of newly-elected members of the 18th Lok Sabha in

New Delhi on Friday.

— PRITAM BANDYOPADHYAY

#### **Farmers' bodies** back CISF guard who hit Kangana

New Delhi: Some farmer outfits on Friday threw their weight behind the CISF woman constable who allegedly slapped actor and BJP MP-elect Kangana Ranaut, saying the entire sequence leading to the incident needs to be properly investigated. The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha were among the prominent outfits which said they stand in support of the CISF woman constable. The constable, who appeared to be upset with Ms Ranaut over her stance on the farmers protests, has been suspended and an investigation has been launched. Full report on Page 3

#### Rahul given bail in BJP man's defamation case

**Bengaluru:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday was granted bail by a special court in connection with a case filed by the BJP's Karnataka unit for issuing "defamatory" advertisements in mainstream newspapers. The court and granted him bail on a surety of ₹75 lakhs. Full report on Page 3

#### **Taiwan rejects China's**

protest over messages

New Delhi: Taiwan rejected China's outrage over a "cordial" exchange of messages between PM Narendra Modi and Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te describing Beijing's reaction as "utterly unjustified". On Wednesday, Lai greeted Mr Modi on the NDA's victory.
Full report on Page 3

#### COUNTERPOINT



I got only one vote when there are 12 members in our family!





**Max:** 43°C Min: 30°C **RH: 21% Rain:** 10%

Forecast: Mostly Sunny

#### ASTROGUIDE

Krodhi: Uttarayana Tithi: Jyeshta Shukla Padyami till 4.49 pm **Star:** Mrigasira till 7.46 pm **Varjyam:** 4.10 am to 5.46 am **Durmuhurtam:** 8.21 am to 9.13 am; 12.41 pm to 1.33 pm Rahukalam: 10.30 am to 12 pm

**SUNSET TODAY 7.18 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.23 AM MOONRISE TOMORROW 7.38 AM MOONSET TODAY 9.24 PM** 

■ Modi meets Prez, invited to form govt ■ Jabs Opp. on EVMs ■ 18th LS 'House of new energy' ■ Ministers' list before oath

## PM says NDA 'spirit of India', vows 'strongest' alliance govt

Oath-taking set for June 9 evening at President's House YOJNA GUSAI

NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was elected as the leader of the NDA parliamentary party on Friday, for the third time, when the NDA constituents unanimously passed the resolution. Later, Mr Modi met President Droupadi Murmu to stake

claim for the next govern-

ment formation. Hailing the current NDA as the "strongest alliance government" and "spirit of India," the Prime Minister asserted that he will strive to ensure una-nimity in all decisions of his next government. He also termed the just concluded Lok Sabha polls results a "nationwide popular endorsement" of his government's agenda, in an apparent message to

the Opposition. Attacking the Oppostion parties, Mr Modi said that "an attempt was made not to accept the (NDA) victoand accused the Opposition of seeking to



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets senior party leader L.K. Advani after he was elected as the leader of the NDA parliamentary party for a third consecutive term in New Delhi on Friday. Mr Modi also met another BJP veteran Murli Manohar Joshi.

**HAILING THE** current NDA as the 'strongest alliance government' and 'spirit of India,' the **Prime Minister asserted** that he will strive to ensure unanimity in all decisions of his next government

erode people's trust in democracy At the NDA parliamen-

tary party meeting at Samvidhan Sadan's (old Parliament building) Central Hall, the NDA passed a resolution electing Mr Modi as its leader.

The resolution was moved Rajnath Singh, who proposed Mr Modi's name for the leader of the NDA parliamentary party. The resolution

endorsed by Union ministers Amit Shah and Nitin Gadkari and top NDA leaders, including TDP supremo N. Chandrababu Naidu, JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar, JD(S)'s H.D. Kumaraswamy, LJP's Chirag Paswan, Dal's Anupriya among others.

"Every moment ■ Turn to Page 4

#### Over 8,000 spl guests invited for Modi's oath

AMRESH SRIVASTAVA NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to take oath of office on June 9 for the third consecutive term, over 8,000 special invitations have been sent to the individ uals from the different walks of life besides several world leaders from the neighbouring countries except Pakistan.

As per sources, the marginalised communities, ambassadors of the Viksit Bharat, including Railway working employees on Vande Bharat and metro trains, sanitation workers, tribal women, transgender, the labourers who were engaged in the Central Vista project and rathole miners who assisted in rescuing 41 trapped construction workers in Uttarkashi collapsed last year, are likely to be invited for the oath tak-

■ More on Page 3



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Bihar CM and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar during the NDA parliamentary party meeting at Samvidhan Sadan in New Delhi on Friday. BJP president J.P. Nadda and TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu are also seen. — *PTI* 

## Nitish & Naidu say Modi is 'right leader at right time'

Bonhomie in NDA amid talk of 'regional aspirations' NARENDRA MODI will

**AGE CORRESPONDENT** NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

Endorsing Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the leader of the NDA parliamentary party, TDP supremo N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday hailed Mr Modi as the "right leader at the right time". Reaffirming the JD(U)'s support, Bihar chief min-ister Nitish Kumar said that his party will stand with Mr Modi in all his

take the oath as PM for a third consecutive term on Sunday evening, as President Droupadi Murmu has invited him to form the government

Mr Modi will take the oath as Prime Minister for a third consecutive term on Sunday evening, as President Droupadi Murmu has invited him to form the government. Mr Murmu appointed Mr Modi as the Prime Minister-designate on Friday after BJP chief J.P. Nadda handed her a letter on Modi's election as the leader of the BJP Parliamentary Party and NDA leaders submitted

their letters of support.
Addressing the NDA parliamentary party, Mr Naidu highlighted the need to address regional aspirations along with national Praising

#### **AAP suspends** ex-MLA Tyagi for 'anti-party' work in polls

AGE CORRESPONDENT

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday suspended former MLA Nitin Tyagi from the party for alleged "anti-party" activities during the just concluded Lok Sabha polls. Responding to the suspension, Mr Tyagi said the action was taken against him

for "speaking the truth". In a communication to Mr Tyagi, AAP Delhi state convener Gopal Rai said, "It has come to our notice that you have been involved in anti-party activities during the Lok Sabha polls. The party has taken a decision to suspend you from its primary membership."

Mr Tyagi wondered if "speaking the truth in the party has become an anti-party thing?" Sharing Mr Rai's letter on X, he said what anti-party is "destroying its basic ideals".

"It is anti-party to ask for votes for those against whom people had chosen you," he said tagging Mr Rai, in an apparent reference to AAP-Congress alliance for the Lok Sabha polls.

## **Internal revolt rises in Bengal** BJP unit after LS poll setback

Wrong candidates chosen, fumes ex-state party chief

RAJIB CHOWDHURI

The West Bengal BJP has been hit by an internal revolt after a poor performance in the Lok Sabha election which has reduced the number of its seats from 18 to 12 in the

Former Midnapore MP Dilip Ghosh, who lost at Bardhaman-Durgapur, alleged on Friday: "I haven't attended party programmes in the last four years. I am neither called nor asked for opin-

**Dilip Ghosh questioned** there. Now the result former Union minister **Debashree Choudhury** from her seat, Raiganj, in North Dinajpur district in North Bengal, to Kolkata South this time

ions. So, I have been with the party workers and people."

He added: "Over the last year or so, I gave time and spent money in Midnapore, staying there extensively. But I was not allowed to fight the polls

Embarrassing his party further, Mr Ghosh also questioned the decision to shift former Union minister Debashree Choudhury from her seat, Raiganj, in

North Dinajpur district in

North Bengal, to Kolkata South this time, where

Mr Ghosh said: "I told her to stay in her turf and assured her of a win since she became a minister from her seat. We won that seat this time also. Turn to Page 4

## 4 Indians drown in Russia river

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

Four Indians, who were studying at a university Russia's Veliky Novgorod region, drowned in the Volkhov river, the ministry of external affairs said on Friday, adding that the local emergency services have so far recovered two The ministry said that

while the search for the two missing students is

underway, a fifth student, who was saved from drowning, is receiving medical attention.

"Our consulate in St Petersburg remains in contact with the university and local authorities and is providing all possible assistance... We offer our condolences to the families... The five students involved in the accident belong to the Jalgaon district of Maharashtra," it added.

The ministry said that

the Indian consulate in St. Petersburg is coordinating with local authorities for the repatriation of the mortal remains and is in constant contact with the families

The four students are identified as Harshal Anantrao Desale, Jishan Ashpak Pinjari, Jia Firoj Pinjari and Malik Gulamgous Mohammad Yakub from Maharashtra. The name of the student who was rescued is Nisha Bhupesh Sonawane.

#### **Sensex & Nifty** at all-time high ahead of new **govt at Centre** RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

The stock market rose more than 2 per cent, making fresh new all-time highs for the Sensex and

Nifty-50.
The anticipation of a stable government at the Centre fuelled the rally after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met President Droupadi Murmu to stake claim to form NDA government for third time.

The Sensex gained 2.16 per cent or 1,618 points to close at 76,693. The Nifty-50 gained 468 point to close at 23,290.15 after clocking a new high of 23,320.20.

All-round buying saw the BSE mid-cap index gain 1.28% and the BSE small-cap index gain 2.18%. IT stocks outperformed in hopes of a softening of interest rates worldwide after the European Central Bank cut the interest rate by 25 basis points for the first time in five years

■ More on Page 7

## **RBI** predicts 7.2% GDP growth FY25; keeps rates intact

2 MPC members vote for cut

Mumbai, June 7: The Reserve Bank of India on Friday revised upwards the GDP growth projection for the current fiscal to 7.2 per cent from 7 per cent on rising private consumption and revival of demand in rural areas. Unveiling the bi-monthly monetary policy, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said estimates released by

the National Statistical Office (NSO) placed India's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth at 8.2 per cent in 2023-24. "During 2024-25 so far, domestic economic activity has maintained resili-

manufacturing activity continues to gain ground on the back of strengthening domestic demand. The RBI, meanwhile, left its key interest rates unchanged on Friday as expected, keeping the focus on inflation. The

ence," he said, adding that

Monetary Committee, consisting of three RBI and an equal number of external members, kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent for an eighth straight



THE MONETARY Policy Committee, consisting of three RBI and an equal number of external members, kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent for an eighth straight policy meeting

policy meeting and stuck to its relatively hawkish stance of "withdrawal of accommodation", Shaktikanta Das said.

However, there were signs of a more divided policy committee, with one additional member voting for a softening in stance as well as policy direction. Two external members, Ashima Goyal and Jayanth Varma, voted for a cut, compared ...
in the previous meeting.
— PTI for a cut, compared to one

# S. African Opp. in talks with ANC for unity govt, but rifts continue

**Johannesburg, June 7:** South African Opposition Friday and will continue crunch talks into next week to consider the rul-ing African National Congress' offer to become part of a government of national unity. The ANC failed to secure a majority in last week's highly contested election, but some Opposition parties are already rejecting the party's offer because of deep-seated divisions.

Senior officials of the

main opposition Democratic Alliance, or

PRESIDENT CYRIL Ramaphosa, who is the ANC's leader, announced on Thursday that the party had decided to form a government of national unity and had invited all parties to join

DA, will meet on Monday to discuss the centrist party's approach to the negotiations. The top leadership of the leftist Economic Freedom Fighters, or EFF, party were holding talks on Friday. The parties are under pressure to con-

clude negotiations and reach an agreement by June 16, because South constitution requires them to do so within 14 days after the declaration of the results.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, who is the ANC's leader, announced on Thursday that the party had decided to form a government of national unity and had invited all parties to join, a process that is expected to be complex considering vast divisions among the opposition parties them-



US President Joe Biden shakes hands with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Paris on Friday. Biden sorry for delay in sending arms to Ukraine: Page 6

#### **28 Palestinians** killed as Israel steps up attack

Cairo, June 7: Israel bombarded central and southern areas again on Friday, killing at least 28 Palestinians, and tank forces advanced to the western edges of Rafah.

A month after rumbling into Rafah, tank-led forces have advanced to the southwest fringes of the city that skirts the Gaza Strip's border with Egypt, residents — Reuters ■ More on Page 6



#### 2 die mysteriously in Northeast Delhi

New Delhi: Two men died under mysterious circumstances on Friday here, the police said. The deceased have been identified as Firoz (23) and Danish (25), residents of Welcome in Northeast Delhi, they said. According to the police, they got information on Friday afternoon from the JPC Hospital that two persons were brought to the hospital and were declared dead on arrival, adding there were no external injury marks on either of them. During preliminary inquiry, it was found that both Firoz and Danish had stayed for the night with some women in Kabir Nagar,

Welcome area, and their party continued till Friday morning, a senior police officer said. Around at 12 pm, they started feeling uneasy and were taken to the hospital. Their bodies have been shifted to the GTB Hospital mortuary for post-mortem examination, the officer said. Both the deceased had criminal cases against them, including a murder case against Firoz, the police said. Efforts are being made to ascertain the sequence of events and further investigation is in progress, they added.

#### **Quack absconding** since 2016 arrested

New Delhi: A 42-vear-old quack was arrested who was absconding since 2016 and was practising allopathy medicine, the police said on Friday. According to the police, the accused was evading arrest by hiding in Malda in West Bengal and recently had shifted to Delhi. The police said the accused was residing in a posh area to evade arrest and was allegedly treating patients in JJ clusters to earn easy money. The accused has been identified as Krishna Biswas, they said. "The fake doctor had been evading trial proceedings since 2016 and was allegedly treating patients in JJ clusters of R.K. Puram, endangering their lives to earn easy money," DCP Rohit Meena said. The officer further said in August 2015, information was received by the Delhi medical council that a person named Krishna Biswas was treating patients with a fake degree of doctor in JJ clusters

#### 1,414 govt school kids passed Neet-UG

of Sector 6 and 7 of RK Puram

New Delhi: More than 1.400 students from Delhi government schools have qualified the Neet-UG this year, education minister Atishi said on Friday. The results for the medical entrance exam National Eligibility-cum-**Entrance Test-Undergraduate** (Neet-UG) were announced by the National Testing Agency on Tuesday. Atishi said at a press conference that 1,414 students from Delhi government schools qualified the Neet-UG this year. The number has been increasing year after year. In 2020, a total of 569 students had qualified, Atishi said and added that this year's figure is almost two-and-a-half

#### **MALIWAL ROW: COURT REJECTS BIBHAV'S BAII**

New Delhi: A court here on Friday dismissed the bail plea of chief minister Arvind

Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar for

allegedly assaulting AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal, saying he was facing "grave and serious"

charges and that Bibhav Kumar there was an

apprehension that he could influence witnesses. Mr Kumar, who was sent to 14 days judicial custody last Friday, has been accused of assaulting Ms Maliwal on May 13 at the chief minister's official residence. He had moved the court for bail for a second time. His first bail plea was dismissed on May 27. Special judge Ekta Gauba Mann said, "...The investigation is at initial stage and there is fear in the mind of victim regarding her security as well as security of her family members as she is receiving continuous threats. There is also every apprehension that applicant or accused Bibhav Kumar would influence the witnesses, if at liberty." "So, I do not find any

merit in the present bail app-

lication," the judge added

while dismissing the plea-

Sangam Vihar is one of the areas that has been hit hardest due to population

## Residents struggle for every drop as severe water shortage clutches Delhi

New Delhi, June 7: As winter gives way to summer every year, Sangam Vihar resident Om Lata fears the

Jostling for space with neighbours, often getting into disputes, just to secure enough water from the tanker, Ms Lata's struggles find an echo in hundreds of thousands of Delhi residents as the national capital reels from a severe water shortage.

As the scorching sun batters Delhi, residents of many areas of the national capital have to contend with not just the extreme heat but also a severe water shortage.

Ms Lata, who lives in Sangam Vihar's L Block, emphasised the severity of the shortage, explaining how they have to buy water for everything—drinking,

cooking, and cleaning.
She questioned how a family can survive under such conditions.

"We struggle with this problem every year. The thought of summer haunts us because we don't have water to drink. Residents fight over water in queues when the tanker arrives as everyone needs water for their families. she said.

Highlighting the severity, Ms Lata said, "We don't even throw away the dirty

Gajendra Pratap, a resident of Geeta Colony,



Delhi minister and AAP leader Atishi addresses a press conference in New Delhi on Friday.

echoes Ms Lata's sentiments.

This issue has plagued Delhi for years. The scarcity begins as soon as the summer starts, he said.

Despite the Delhi government supplying water through tankers, it is insufficient to demand and people often return home empty-handed, he said. The tanker arrives at

7.00 am and runs out of water by 7.25 or 7.30 am," he said. Sangam Vihar is one of the areas that has been hit

the hardest by the short-

age due to its high population density. Sunita, another Sangam Vihar resident, said, "If you need water, you have to buy it. Otherwise, surviving the summer with one or two buckets of water daily is impossible,

regardless of whether you

have kids at home." A single tanker charges ₹3,000 and even after paying, they still have to wait

hours for it to arrive.

Expressing her frustration that the government is not addressing their plight, Ms Sunita said, 'Just think, in this heat people are getting sick and we don't even have water to drink."

The national capital has been grappling with a shortage with the Delhi government accusing Haryana of not releasing its share of water.

The acute shortage has become an "existential problem" in Delhi, the Supreme Court observed on Thursday and directed the Himachal Pradesh government to release 137 cusecs of surplus water to the national capital and Haryana to facilitate its

### 'Haryana reducing water flow to Delhi'

AVINASH PRABHAKAR

day after the Supreme ourt directed the Himachal Pradesh government to release 137 cusecs surplus water to the national capital, city minister Atishi on Friday accused the Haryana gov-ernment of reducing water flow to the national capital in the last three days.

The national capital of Delhi has been grappling with the water crisis this summer and the apex court has also said there should be no politics over water.

Ms Atishi said the city's water crisis would not be solved even if Himachal Pradesh releases water for Haryana as 'reduced" its share.

inspected the Wazirabad barrage earlier in the day and accused the Harvana government of "conspiring" against the people of Delhi by continuously stopping the capital's share of water and releasing less water into the Yamuna, even as the Supreme Court is trying to solve the crisis.

While inspecting the Wazirabad barrage, the city minister claimed Haryana

is not giving Delhi its rightful share of water and due to this, the water level has come down to 669.7 feet on June 7 as compared to 671.3 feet on June 2

'The Supreme Court is trying to solve the water problem. It is continuously hearing this matter and has ordered a meeting of the Upper Yamuna River Board. It will hear the matter again on Monday. But for the last five days, when the hearing was on in the court, the Haryana government has been conspiring behind its back," she alleged.

'Himachal Pradesh is telling the court that it is ready to help, but the Harvana government is now hatching a conspiracy that even if Himachal Pradesh gives water, the problem of Delhiites will not be solved and that is why Harvana is constantly stopping the water that it has to send to Wazirabad,'

the minister alleged. She said the issue will be brought before the top court and hoped that the capital will get its share of water and the additional from Himachal Pradesh without any obstruction.

## Delhi to turn into fortress for Modi swearing-in event

AGE CORRESPONDENT

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Cabinet's swearing-in ceremony, the Delhi police commissioner Sanjay Arora has banned the use of sub-conventional aerial platforms like paragliders, para-motors, hang-gliders, UAVs, UASs, microlight aircrafts, remotely piloted aircrafts, hot air balloons, small sized powered aircrafts, quadcopters or even by para-jumping from aircraft on June 9 and 10.

"It has been reported that certain criminal, anti-social elements or terrorists inimical to India may pose a threat to the safety of the general public, dignitaries and vital installations by the use of sub-conventional aerial platforms like para-gliders, para-motors, hang gliders, UAVs, UASs, microlight aircraft, remotely piloted aircraft, hot air balloons, small size powered aircraft. quadcopters or even by para-jumping from air-craft etc," the CP order read.

A multi-layered security with five companies of paramilitary personnel, commandoes, drones and snipers will blanket the Rashtrapati Bhawan for the swearingin ceremony scheduled on

TOP LEADERS of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal, Mauritius and Seychelles are likely to attend the swearing-in ceremony. Hotels in the city such as Leela, Taj, ITC Maurya, Claridges and Oberoi have already been brought under the security cover

May 9, the Delhi police officials said. The national capital will remain on high alert on the day as dignitaries from Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) nations have been invited to the ceremony, officials said.

According to officials, dignitaries attending the swearing-in will be given designated routes from their hotels to the venue and back.

Top leaders Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal, Mauritius and Seychelles are likely to attend the swearing-in ceremony Hotels in the city such as Leela, Taj, ITC Maurya, Claridges and Oberoi have already been brought under the security cover.

Commandoes from the Delhi police's SWAT and will deployed around the President's house and various strategic locations on the event day.

**Child among 3** 

electricity dept

Noida, June 7: Three

people, including a

child, died due to elec-

tric shocks in two sep-

arate incidents in

Greater Noida in two days, the police offi-

cials said on Friday.

The police has char-

ged unidentified elec-

tricity department em-

ployees with causing

death due to negli-

gence in connection

with the death of the

child on Thursday,

A police official said

Rabupura resident

Shafiq told the police

they said.

electrocuted,

staff booked

#### ED against Kejriwal's bail petition

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

Enforcement asserted before a Delhi court on Friday it has "ample evidence" to link Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal "grave" economic offences, as it opposed his application for regular bail in a money laundering case related to the

alleged excise scam.

The central probe agency told special judge Kaveri Baweja it was in possession of several incriminating evidences against Mr Kejriwal. The judge posted the matter for June 14 for further arguments on the application.

"There is ample evidence on record to link the applicant to the commission of the offence of money laundering, and his release on bail would adversely affect further investigation to unearth the deep-rooted multi-layered conspiracy," the ED

"He is involved in grave economic offences," it alleged.

The court had on Sunday Kejriwal to judicial custody in the case. The judge had passed the order after he was produced before the court through video confer-

## After LS setback, AAP focuses on Delhi polls

New Delhi, June 7: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) recovering from the loss in the Lok Sabha polls in Delhi has started focusing on the upcoming Assembly elections in the national capital next year, galvanising its MLAs and volunteers to enhance public outreach and undertake development

The AAP, despite massive back-to-back mandates in successive Assembly polls in 2015 and 2020 in which it won 67 and 62 seats respectively, met with disappointment in the recent Lok Sabha polls failing to win any of the four constituencies it contested in Delhi.

**Gurgaon, June 7:** A 19-year-old student was

killed after a vehicle

rammed into his motor-

cycle, flinging it off the IIFCO Chowk flyover

and on to the Delhi-

below, the police said on

the

occurred on Thursday

The victim's mother,

Supriya Sharma filed a

complaint and said that

Rhythem Sharma, study-

ing at KR Mangalam

University in Gurgaon,

had gone to drop his

friend off around 6 pm

on his Yamaha motorcy-

"After dropping his friend at IFFCO Chowk,

cle, the police said.

expressway

to the

incident

Gurgaon

According

Friday.

police,

evening.

A senior party functionary said that despite the setback in the parliamentary polls, the AAP is on the Delhi focused Assembly polls due early next year. "The party leaders and

volunteers have been instructed to enhance public outreach in their respective areas. The MLAs have been instructed to ensure implementation of development works that were stalled in their constituencies due to the model code of conduct by utilising local area development funds," he said.

The BJP, which managed a clean sweep in the Lok Sabha polls for the third time in a row, won more

19-yr-old student dead after

vehicle hits bike in Gurgaon

AFTER DROPPING his

friend at IFFCO Chowk,

Rhythem took a U-turn

from the flyover and

was moving towards

**Gurgaon.** During that

time a speeding vehicle

hit my his bike. Due to

the collision, he fell

along with the motor-

cycle from the flyover

Rhythem took a U-turn

from the flyover and was

Gurgaon. During that

time a speeding vehicle hit my son's bike. Due to

the collision, he fell

along with the motorcy-

cle from the flyover," the

victim's mother Supriya

Sharma said in her com-

towards

moving



BJP supporters celebrate outside the new Parliament in New Delhi on Friday.

votes in 52 of the 70 Assembly segments spread across seven Lok Sabha constituencies, giving a wake-up call to the AAP.

"He was critically

injured and was taken

injuries at around 11:00

pm on Thursday", she

an

(FIR) was registered

against an unknown

driver under sections

279 (rash driving), 304-A

(death due to negligence)

of the Indian Penal Code

(IPC) at the Sector 18

police station on Friday

A senior police officer said that CCTV cam-

eras are installed on the

flyover which are being

examined. The body

was handed over to kin

after the postmortem.

on the com-

Report

succumbed

Information

said.

Based

plaint,

The AAP in Delhi has its task cut out with its convener and chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in jail, which leaves its second

with the challenges of organisation and strategising for the upcoming Assembly polls.

In a meeting held at the

chief minister's residence on Thursday, the AAP MLAs were instructed to hold meetings with the workers on Saturday and Sunday every week to speed up the development works after the lifting of the model code of conduct.

Also, the meetings of party councillors and vol-unteers will be held on Saturday and Sunday.

"Since chief minister Kejriwal is in jail, our struggle will continue," AAP Delhi convener Gopal Rai had said after the meeting with MLAs. PTI

#### line of leadership to deal **Enough proof to prosecute: CBI** charges Kavitha in excise case

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

The CBI on Friday filed a supplementary chargesheet in a Delhi court against BRS leader K. Kavitha in the corruption case linked to the alleged excise scam, claiming there was sufficient evidence to prosecute her in

the matter. The central probe agency filed the final report before special CBI judge Kaveri Baweja, who will take cognisance of the matter on July 6. The chargesheet was filed under relevant sections of Prevention Corruption Act.

The judge also extended the judicial custody of Ms Kavitha, a member of the Telangana Legislative Council, till June 21 in the

The agency in its report



K. Kavitha

matter. of former daughter Telangana chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao was arrested by the CBI Tihar jail in April, where she was lodged after her arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case related to

supplemen-

tary charge-

sheet in the

Another central agency-Enforcement Directorate had arrested her (46) from her Banjara Hills residence in Hyderabad on March 15, and she was in judicial custody in the

the alleged scam.

She is currently in judicial custody (JC) in both

#### that his seven-yearold son died after an electric shock when he came in contact with a pole on a street in the town. 'Based on his complaint, an FIR under

IPC section 304A has been lodged against unidentified employees of the electricity department," the official said, adding that the matter is being probed. In the other incident,

two men died in Attapir village of Greater Noida on Friday, according to the police.

"Sonu (28) and Harkiran (80) died of electric shock at a tubewell belonging to Ramesh, a co-resident of their village. A team has police reached the spot and taken the bodies into custody," a police spokesperson said. The police said fur-

ther legal proceedings are underway. -PTI

## MCD to install London-like blue plaques to increase awareness of heritage sites

**New Delhi, June 7:** The MCD will be installing blue plaques at 1,300 hersites, including schools, hospitals, police stations. across capital to national increase awareness about the heritage sites, the officials said. The initiative is similar to the blue plaque programme of London,

they said. "Our target is to complete the work in the next 15-20 days. The work has already started. These plagues will basically serve as sign boards to attract the attention of the

heritage lovers. "They will increase awareness about the her-

itage sites which otherwise go unnoticed due to unkept or no sign boards," an official said.

London's blue plaque programme, which began in 1866 and is believed to be the first of its kind, provides an informal historical walking tour of the city that commemorates notable people and their accomplishments by highlighting the places where they lived and worked.

In the first phase of the programme, 55 notified heritage sites have been identified where these have plaques installed. The civic body has over 1,300 sites under its jurisdiction.

IN THE first phase of the programme, 55 notified heritage sites have been identified where these plaques have been

"These monuments are located in the walled city area. There are a total of 1,300 notified sites where these plaques will be installed. A number of places including maqbara of important figures, hospitals and police station will be covered under this initiative," the official said.

The plaques are ready for most of the sites and they will be installed by the works or maintenance

department of the MCD, The honourees under the

Blue Plaque programme in London include famous figures from wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill to communist pioneer Karl Marx, as well as lesser known figures like theatrical wigmaker Willy Clarkson and civil engineer William Lindley, who built water and sewage systems around the world.

There are also plaques honouring foreigners like India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru and American rock star Jimi Hendrix, who lived in London only briefly. — PTI

## 27-yr-old stabbed to death over teasing woman, 1 held

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

A 27-year-old man was stabbed to death by a man for allegedly teasing a woman in Southeast Delhi, an official said, adding that they have nabbed the accused.

The accused was identified as Mohd. Javed (35) and he is also history Sunlight Colony police station.

According to the police, on Wednesday, a police control room (PCR) call was received regarding a stabbing incident the at station road at Sarai Kale Khan following which a police team was rushed to

Upon reaching the scene, the police team found Rohit a.k.a Mogli, a resident of Sarai Kale Khan lying on road with stabbed injuries and he was shifted to AIIMS trau-

ma where he was declared

as brought dead.

"Despite a murder committed in the daylight in the crowded area, no person was willing to provide details of the accused person. Accordingly, as per facts and circumstances, a case was registered at the Sunlight Colony police station and investigation

said

was taken up,"

deputy commissioner of police (Southeast) Rajesh

The DCP said that the informers were deployed in the area and it was revealed that the accused involved in the murder was also having criminal involvements and he fled from Delhi immediately after the incident.

However, the police team traced the accused to Uttar Pradesh. "Javed was nabbed from Uttar Pradesh Pradesh. and the blood-stained clothes worn by him at the time of incident as well as weapon of offence was also recovered at his instance, said the DCP.

SHORT TAKES

#### **BJP fails to retain**

**26 reserved LS seats** 

New Delhi: The BJP lost to Congress or its allies in the INDIA bloc in at least 26 reserved Lok Sabha seats across the country where it had sitting MPs, with some of them Union ministers. The BJP, however, retained at least 42 reserved constituencies and on many other such seats some of its NDA allies such as the Janata Dal (United) and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) emerged victorious. The losing candidates from the saffron party in the recently-concluded general elections included Union ministers Arjun Munda, Kaushal Kishore, Nisith Pramanik and Bharati Pravin Pawar. Among the NDA candidates, Union min-ister Arjun Ram Meghwal won from Bikaner, Chirag Paswan from Hajipur and former Bihar CM Jitan Ram Manjhi from Gaya. Polls were held in 542 of 543 LS seats with Surat being won by the BJP uncontested. - PTI

#### **MLA held for EVM** damage gets bail

Bhubaneswar: Khurda BJP MLA Prashant Jagdev, who faces the charge of damaging an electronic voting machine (EVM), has been granted interim bail for three days - June 9, 10 and 11. The additional district judge granted the bail to the newly-elected BJP legislator. He has been granted bail on three grounds, including participation in the last rites of his nephew, attending the swearing-in ceremony of the new government and on health grounds. Mr Jagdey was arrested on the charges of toppling an EVM during the third phase of polling held in Odisha on May 25 His arrest had triggered great furore with the BJP accusing the BJD of hatching a conspiracy against him. BJP workers even gheraoed Khurda sub-collector's office, demanding his imme-diate release. "We had sought one month's bail on three grounds. One was his oath-taking ceremony. The

#### **Temple to open in Estonia on June 10**

second one was on health

attend the death rituals of his nephew. Considering

everything, the court has

granted three-day bail," said

his advocate Prabhat Dash

grounds and the third was to

New Delhi: Estonia on Friday confirmed that one of the biggest Hindu temples in the European continent would open on June 10 at Lilleoru in the Baltic nation near the Estonian capital Tallinn. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiv and spans a 5,500 sq m area. The consecration will be conducted by priests from India in the presence of Estonian dignitaries and will include traditional rituals and prayers followed by cultural festivities. The temple has been described as an "archtectural" marvel and a "beacon of spiritual guidance".

#### **ABHISHEK MEETS UDDHAV AHEAD OF MODI'S OATH**

AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, JUNE 7

Alliance (NDA) at the

Trinamul Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Thursday night called on Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray in

Mumbai. The meeting between the two prominent INDIA bloc leaders assumed significance as it came amid government formation process by the BJP-led Nationalist Democratic



Centre. Mr Banerjee met Mr Thackeray at his residence "Matoshree" in Mumbai. The meeting lasted for around 90 minutes. Banerjee was accompanied by TMC Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien. Speaking about the meeting. the Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party BJP is in a minority, but still efforts are being made to form the government. "Narendra Modi and his party is in a minority but they are still trying to form the government and cooking 'khichdi'. But we have doubt that they will not cook it the right way and this will be a loss to the country and there will be political instability," Mr Raut said.

■ World leaders to attend oath-taking ceremony ■ Padma awardees among over 8K special guests to grace event

## Central Vista, rail workers invited to PM's oath

Taiwan on Friday lambasted Beijing and said it

had "no right to com-

ment" over the response

Narendra Modi to a con-

gratulatory message from Taiwanese leader Lai

and arbitrary pressure and intimidation of

Taiwan's international friends will only increase negative effects," it

It may be noted that China had on Thursday

lodged a protest with

India on the matter, after PM Modi thanked the

Taiwanese leader for the

congratulatory message

over the recent NDA elec-

toral victory and had

pledged to work forward

to closer ties as part of the

economic and technologi-

cal partnership between

'China's unreasonable

Prime

Ching-te.

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to Minister take oath of office on June 9 for the third consecutive term, over 8,000 special invitations have been sent to the individuals from the different walks of life besides several world leaders from the neighbouring countries except Pakistan.

The swearing-in ceremony will be held on Sunday at 6 pm at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhawan. According to the sources, the marginalised

communities, ambassadors of the Viksit Bharat including Railway employees working on Vande Bharat and metro trains, sanitation workers, tribal women, transgender, the labourers who were engaged in the Central Vista project and rat-hole miners who assisted in rescuing 41 trapped construction workers in Uttarkashi collapsed last year, are likely to be invited for the oath ceremony. Invitations to a large number of the beneficiaries of the central government's schemes have also been

sent, they said. Asia's first loco pilot, Ms Surekha Yadav, will attend the oath-taking ceremony of Mr Modi as Prime Minister for a third

**PRASAD PATIL** 

MUMBAI, JUNE 7

Aaditya Thackeray on

Friday urged the Janata Dal (United) and the

Telugu Desam Party to

insist on the Speaker's

post in the Lok Sabha. He

warned that the BJP will

try to break other alliance

partners if it has its

"A humble suggestion to

the possible allies of the BJP in the newly remem-

bered NDA: Get the post

of the Speaker. Having

experienced the tactics of

the BJP, the minute they

form government with

you, they will break the

promises and try to break

have experienced it earli-

er," Aaditya posted on his

X handle. He also tagged the official X handles of

the TDP and the JD(U) in

Aadity's caution to the

two parties, which are

part of the National

Democratic Alliance (NDA) at the Centre,

comes in the wake of ver-

tical splits in the Shiv

Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party in

The splits were aided by

Maharashtra.

his post.

our parties too. You'll

**Insist on Speaker's** 

post in LS: Aaditya

tells JD-U & TDP

#### Modi asks MPs not to fall prey to hoaxes about ministries, portfolios

New Delhi, June 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday urged the NDA MPs not to fall prey to hoaxes about ministries and portfolios and claimed the "INDIA bloc" could also indulge in spreading "fake news" about such issues.

Addressing a meeting of the NDA parliamentary party, he said he did not find much truth in what was being aired on TV in the last couple of days.

"I did not find any truth in what is being run. I said one should ask where do they get such information from. There had not been such an occasion in the last 10 years, so there will be such excitement.

**▶ ASIA'S FIRST** loco pilot Surekha Yadav will also attend oath-taking ceremony

term, an official from the Central Railways said on Friday. She is piloting the Vande Bharat train from Chhatrapati Shivaji Chhatrapati Terminus-Maharaj Solapur, is among ten loco pilots invited for the ceremony, the official said.

Apart from these, the prominent people from various professions like

Aaditya Thackeray

that the

fact

Maharashtra Assembly

Speaker's post was vacant

at the time and BJP legis-

lator Rahul Narwekar

was elected to the post as

soon as the regime

change in the state. Later,

Mr Narwekar ruled in favour of the Eknath

Shinde and Ajit Pawai

factions in the disqualifi-

against them by the rival

factions.

petitions

As the BJP has failed to

get a clear majority on its

own in the Lok Sabha, the

support of the TDP (16 MPs) and the JD(U) (12

MPs) has become crucial

for the Union govern-

ment's stability. Without

the two parties, the NDA's

tally will come down to

265, which will be seven seats short of the majori-

ty in the House.

Some people reach out to you and say they have high contacts and will make you minister... We fall for it thinking this could be a way to become a minister," the PM said. He said now technology is such that people could also come out with a list of ministers with even his

signatures on it. 'Some intelligent person may distribute portfolios. People are busy in government forming these days, distributing ministries. Those who know Modi know that all such attempts are useless. If you get a phone call, verify they are from the authority concerned or not," he said. — PTI

lawyers, doctors, artists. cultural performers and influencers have also been invited for the grand cere-

mony on Sunday. PM Modi's monthly radio programme "Mann Ki Baat" participants who were acknowledged by him for their contribu-tions to the nation and society are also expected to be presence at the ceremony while the prominent Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awardees will also grace the occasion.

#### Court grants Rahul bail in defamation case by BJP

Bengaluru, June 7: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday was granted bail by a special court here in connection with a case filed by the BJP's Karnataka unit for "defamatory" issuing advertisements in mainstream newspapers.

The advertisement ahead of the Assembly polls last year accused the then BJP government in the state of indulging in large-scale corruption during its 2019-2023 rule.

The court had on June 1 granted bail to chief minister Siddaramaiah and deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar, who is also the state Congress chief, aiter tney appeared before it in connection with the defamation

Judge Shivakumar had directed Mr Gandhi to appear before the court on June 7 without fail.

Mr Gandhi apologised to the court on Friday for seeking exemption from personal appearance in the last two hearings. The court accepted his apology and granted him bail on a surety of ₹75 lakhs. — PTI



Taiwanese leader for the

congratulatory message

over the NDA's recent

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the media after his meeting with President

victory in Lok Sabha said in Beijing earlier on Thursday that China opposes all forms of official interactions between the Taiwan authorities countries having diplomatic relations with China, adding, "China has protested to India about

Noting that "Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi responded President Lai Ching-te's congratulatory message", Taiwan criticised the Chinese foreign min-"representations with India on this issue" and added that Beijing had "falsely claimed" that should

resist Taiwan's "political plots". In a statement, Taiwan
A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson had

In a statement, Taiwan said, "While countries around the world are con-

successful completion of parliamentary elections and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's re-elec-tion, China is using political coercion and spreading fallacies in an attempt to confuse the international community, which in turn highlights the nature of its authoritarian system. It is not only an international practice for Taiwan and India to pay tribute to each other on the results of demo-cratic elections, but it also demonstrates fully the friendship between the two sides and their firm belief in the universal value of democracy. Other

further "Taiwan, the Republic of China, is not affiliated with the People's Republic of China. This is a status quo generally recognised by the international comadding that munity," Taiwan would "not give in because of China's intimidation and coercion".

countries have no right to

comment.

#### **Modi meets** Advani, Joshi before claim to form govt

New Delhi, June 7: Narendra Modi met BJP veterans L.K. Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi at their residences on Friday, before staking claim to form the government at the Centre for a third consecutive

Mr Modi visited Mr Advani soon after being chosen as leader of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) parliamentary party, leader of the BJP parliamentary party and leader of the BJP in the Lok Sabha.

After meeting Mr Advani, he went to the residence of Mr Joshi, a former BJP president. "Went to Advaniji's

residence and sought his blessings. Every @BJP4India karyakarta is inspired by Advani ji's monumental efforts to strengthen the party," Mr Modi later said in a

post on X. "Called on Dr Murli Manohar Joshiji. I have learnt so much from him when I was working in the party organisation. He is greatly respected across India for his wisdom and knowledge," he said in another post. Mr Modi also met former president Ram Nath Kovind.

"Met former president @ramnathkovind ji. I greatly cherish interacting with him, especially thanks to his unique perspectives of matters of policy and empowering the poor," the PM said.

Mr Modi later met President Droupadi Murmu Rashtrapati Bhavan ahead of government formation. — PTI

### ■ Demand proper investigation into 'slapping' incident Farmer outfits back CISF constable

Chandigarh, June 7: Some farmer outfits on Friday threw their weight behind the CISF woman constable Kulwinder Kaur who allegedly slapped actor JP MP-elect Kangana Ranaut, saying the entire sequence leading to the incident needs to be investigated.

Mohali police SHO (airport) Periwinkle Grewal said the matter is under investigation.

CISF officials gave those from the Mohali police information regarding the incident, another police official told reporters. He added that footage from CCTV cameras are being scanned and after that the

next course of action will be taken.

Ms Ranaut, in a video message, had on Thursday said she was hit in the face and abused by the consta ble during security check at the Chandigarh airport, the ugly fracas breaking out two days after she was elected to the Lok Sabha from Mandi in Himachal Pradesh.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha were among the prominent outfits which said they stand in support of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) woman constable.

constable,



Kulwinder Kaur

appeared to be upset with Ms Ranaut over her stance on the farmers' protests, has been suspended and an investigation has been launched. The CISF, tasked with providing security at airports, had

inquiry into the incident. SKM (Non-Political (Non-Political) Jagjit leader Singh Dallewal and Kisan viazdooi Sangnarsn Committee general secretary Sarwan Singh Pandher met Punjab's director general of police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav for a proper investigation into the matter on Friday afternoon.

"The main issue which we raised is that there should be no injustice to the constable. We have been assured that investigations are being held in an impartial manner," Mr Dallewal said after the

#### **CBI charges Lalu, Rabri, Tej & Hema over land-for-iobs scam** AGE CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

The CBI on Friday filed its final charge sheet against former railway minister Lalu Prasad in connection with the landfor-jobs scam in which his family allegedly received land parcels from ineligible candidates appointed in various Railways zones as "substitutes"

Upon conclusion of the investigation, the CBI submitted its third and final charge sheet before special judge (MP/MLA Cases) here against 78 accused, including Lalu Prasad, his wife Rabri

Devi, son Tej Pratap Yadav who has been charge sheeted for the first time, daughter Hema Yadav, former OSD Bhola Yadav and one former staff member of the RJD chief, the officials said.

During the investiga-tion, the CBI found that Lalu Prasad, in furtherance of a criminal conspiracy along with officers of Railways, his family members and others, engaged candidates as Group D substitutes in 11 zones of Indian Railways in complete violation of the extant guidelines, the Central agency spokesperson said.



state Assembly Vijay Waddetiwar, newly-elected Congress MP Varsha Gaikwad and other party leaders during a meeting at Thackeray's residence in Mumbai

## Knives out in MP Cong after LS polls wipeout

**RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY** 

The complete washout of the Congress in Madhya Pradesh in the Lok Sabha polls has triggered an infighting in the party, with a leader seeking to fix accountability for it

on the state leadership. Congress Former Legislature Party (CLP) leader Ajey Singh on demanded the leadership

review the tenure of the state party chief Jitu Patwari in the wake of the party, for the first time, drawing a blank in the just-concluded polls in the state.

'In the 1984 LS polls, the Congress had won all the 40 seats in the undivided Madhya Pradesh. The party for the first time lost all the 29 seats in Madhya Pradesh in the 2024 general election. In Chhattisgarh, carved out Madhya Pradesh in

RESPONSIBILITY **SHOULD** be fixed on the state party leadership, said former Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Ajey Singh

2000, too, the party could win one out of 11 seats,' Mr Singh said, adding this was the worst debacle faced by the party in any elections in the state. "Accountability should

the party in the elections.

The tenure of state Congress president should Patwari reviewed," he demanded.

Holding the recent mass exodus in the party as one of the reasons for the party's rout in the polls in the state, he said that responsibility should be fixed on the state party leadership for not being able to arrest the deser-

tion of leaders. "Why no one in the be fixed for the rout of party tried to stop the exodus of leaders in the

party," he wondered. Mr Singh took an indirect dig at two Congress veterans and former chief ministers Kamal Nath and Digvijay Singh for not being able to come out of the Chhindwara and Rajgarh LS constituencies to campaign for the party candidates in other seats in the state.

While Mr Nath was camping in Chhindwara to campaign for his son, Mr Singh was contesting from the Rajgarh LS seat.

## Cong not sidelining me after loss: Adhir Congress

AGE CORRESPONDENT BERHAMPORE, JUNE 7

West Bengal Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Choudhury on Friday brushed aside rumours of being sidelined by his party after losing his Šabha seat, Berhampore Murshidabad, after

Mr Choudhury claimed, "It is a rumour that the Congress high command is ignoring and sidelining me after my defeat in the polls. Our party president Mullikarjun Kharge has telephoned and invited me to join a crucial working committee meeting on Saturday in New Delhi. I will attend the meeting as a the TMC's massive win.



Choudhury

Congress for spreading Adhir Ranjan the rumour. According to the former

Trinamul

Congress MP, he became a victim of two communal forces this time.

Mr Choudhury pointed out, "I have no personal grudge against anyone. After my defeat, TMC goons tortured Congress workers for voting for me and working for me actively. It is an act of revenge politics after

	NOTICE IN	IVITING TENDER ADMINISTRATION MATHORISM						
	to roof, wall plaster, re and other allied work	24-25-E3 Electrical work regarding heavy repairs er, replacement of deteriorated doors, windows rorks in connection with shifting of record room DKZ in the section of SSE/W/DKZ-I under						
Approx cost of the works in		Rs. 8.92 lacs						
Address of the office		Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.						
Earnest Money		Rs. 17900.00						
Date & time of submission of tender		12.07.2024, 12.00 Hrs.						
Opening of tender		12.07.2024. 12.00 Hrs						
Website & notice board		www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divil. Elect. Engineer/ General, New Delhi. 1712/2						

#### SHORT TAKES

2 girls stab each other over video

Bhopal: Two teenage girls in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur stabbed each other over the circulation of a video featuring one of them, the police said on Friday. Both the girls were hospitalised with knife wounds. As per police, a video showing one of them swimming in a pond went viral, leaving her furious at the other girl, suspecting her hand in it. The 18-year-old girl, whose video went viral, held her 19-year-old friend responsible since the latter took the video of her swimming in a pond in the Kathoda area, the police

### China nat'l held in HP

for illegal India entry

Shimla: Police have arrested a Chinese national for entering the India-China border area in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district without an inner-line permit, police said on Friday. Yudong Go was arrested on Thursday and produced in the court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate at Reckong Peo in Kinnaur. He was remanded to police custody till June 10, police said. Yudong possessed marriage documents showing that he was married to an Indian woman, Bharatkar. He reached Sumdo via Dubling and was arrested because he did not have an inner-line permit. The inner-line permit is mandatory for all foreign-ers travelling beyond Dubling. So far it could not be ascertained whether he crossed the inner line by mistake or if there was other

#### Internal revolt rises in Bengal BJP unit

purpose. — PTI

■ Continued From Page 1 But who won there in her place was a mere councillor of a municipality in a village! Who knew him?'

He pointed out: "What worked behind it and why, needs to be looked into. Something must have been there. Otherwise, were those who are old and established party leaders, sent to lose this time? People plan to win the seats they lost. But now it seems that a plan was made to lose the seats which were won.'

On the other hand, former MP Locket Chatterjee, who lost at Hooghly, said: "There were some faults which need introspection and a discussion with our central leadership.'

Soumitra Khan, who won at Bishnupur in Bankura for the second consecutive time as a BJP MP. said: "Our party lost here because of some decisions of the state leadership. We had four ministers here but they never went anywhere. It reflected in the result." Mr Khan said: "People have elected me to become a minister as they want the young in the front. I maintain good relations with some district TMC leaders." claim came days after TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee had asserted that three BJP MPs have been in touch with his party for

## Delhi on alert after UN lifts 5 Naxals killed in C'garh firefight travel ban on Taliban brass

**RAKESH K SINGH** NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

The United Nations sanctions committee's decision to lift the travel ban four high-ranking Taliban officials has stirred up apprehension within intelligence and counter-terrorism circles in India. The waiver green-lights Maulvi Abdul Kabir, the political deputy of the ministry of foreign affairs, Sirajuddin affairs, Haqqani, the minister of interior affairs, Abdul Haq Wathiq, the head of intelligence, and Noor Muhammad Saqib, minister of Haj, to travel to Saudi Arabia for the pil-

grimage. The development has ignited concerns in security circles in India, which has deep historical and strategic interests in Experts Afghanistan. tracking developments in the region said the four Taliban leaders, who got the reprieve, are influential figures within the Taliban regime, each playing a crucial role in the

**SC: Ensure** 

no hoardings

collapse amid

**Mumbai rains** 

AGE CORRESPONDENT

Post the hoarding collapse in Mumbai's Ghatkopar, the Supreme

Court on Friday directed

municipal and railway

authorities to take extra

care so that no untoward

incident takes place on

either by railways or

municipal corporation

as the monsoon season has arrived in

The top court order

came while hearing a case filed by the

Municipal Corporation

of Greater Mumbai regarding the applicabil-

ity of certain provisions

Municipal Corporation Act to hoardings on rail-

A vacation bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and P.B. Varale listed the

matter next week after

directing the parties to

file their responses in

The bench said, "In the

including

meanwhile, all parties

railways, ensure that no

untoward incident hap-

Mumbai.

ways' land.

the matter.

concerned,

land or on...'

owned

land

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

THE DEVELOPMENT has ignited concerns in security circles in India, which has deep historical and strategic interests in Afghanistan

governance and security apparatus of Afghanistan. A security official said

the waiver to Sirajuddin Haggani is, in particular, an alarming development due to his leadership of the Haqqani Network. The Haqqani Network has been implicated in numerterrorist attacks, including those targeting Indian assets and interests in Afghanistan. "The decision has strategic implications as India has long been wary of the Taliban's resurgence and its potential impact for regional security and stability. The Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan has already disrupted the geopolitical balance in South Asia," a counter-ter-

rorism expert said. The UN waiver is being viewed with concern here as the Taliban could gain

further legitimacy and consolidation of power, undermining efforts to establish a stable and peaceful Afghanistan.

Experts said the decision to lift travel restrictions on high-ranking Taliban officials for spiritual tourism is a dangerous precedent with the potential to embolden other sanctioned individuals and entities, potentially eroding the effectiveness of international sanctions as a tool to curb extremism and violence. The security concerns over the relief to the Talibani top brass are not speculative as historical linkages between the Taliban and various militant groups that operate in the region, including the anti-India outfits seeking to threaten its security, are well-documented, experts said, adding that Taliban's nexus with Pakistan, which has been accused of using Afghan territory to foster anti-India terrorism, further complicates security cal-

### 2 cattle transporters found dead in C'garh

Raipur, June 7: Two cattle transporters died and another sustained serious injuries under suspicious circumstances after being allegedly chased by a mob in Chhatt-isgarh's Raipur district on Friday, police

So far there was no evidence to suggest it was a case of mob lynching and reports were awaited, said a senior offi-

The incident took place in the wee hours under Arang police station area on Raipur-Mahasamund interdistrict border, Additional superintendent of police (Raipur rural) Kirtan Rathore said. On being alerted that three persons were lying injured below a 30feet high bridge on the Mahanadi river, a police team was rushed to the spot, he said.

The truck in which they were ferrying cattle was found on the bridge. Of the three men, one was found dead and the other two were in serious condi-

They were admitted to a hospital in Mahasamund where one of them succumbed to his injuries, the official said. The deceased were identified as Guddu Khan alias Mohamed Tehsin (35) and Chand Miya (33). — *PTI* 

#### under Abujhmad, a 4,000 Seven Maoists were on sq km forested region nestled between Bastar in Chhattisgarh Gadchiroli in Maharashtra. "Seven Naxals were

Friday gunned down in an encounter with security forces in Abujhmad area in Three jawans of district reserve guard (DRG), an exclusive tribal counterinsurgency wing of Chhattisgarh police, were also injured in

in Gobel jungle along the inter-district border of Narayanpur, Dantewada,

and Kondago under Bastar. The area where the encounter took place falls

killed and three jawans injured in the incident. Bodies of all the seven Maoists were recovered. All the injured jawans are out of danger", Bastar range inspector general of police P. Sunderraj told

this newspaper.

Many more ultras were suspected to have been

Total 125 Maoists killed so far in separate encounters this year ▶ THIS WAS the fifth major anti-Naxal operation carried out in Abujhmad in the last seven weeks, in which a total 57 Maoists were gunned down by securi-

> injured in the incident, he said. This was the fifth major anti-Naxal operation carried out in Abujhmad in the last seven weeks, in which a total 57 Maoists were gunned down by security forces. Parts of districts of

Narayanpur, Bijapur and

ty forces

Kanker in Bastar division fall under Abujhmad, the only un-surveyed area in

In the biggest ever strike against Maoists by security forces in Bastar, 29 Naxals were killed in Kanker district on April 16. On April 30, ten Maoists including three women cadres were gunned down in an encounter with security forces in a forest along Narayanpur and Kanker

Total 125 Maoists have so far been killed in separate encounters in Bastar in the current year.

'May heatwave

warmest wave'

this May are nearly 1.5°C

warmer than the country's previously record-

ed hottest heatwaves,

according to a new rapid

attribution study by an

independent group of climate scientists and

analysts ClimaMeter said the

intense and prolonged

heatwave India endured

in May was a result of the naturally occurring

El Nino phenomenon

unusual warming of the

ocean surface in the cen-

tral and eastern tropical

Pacific Ocean — and the

rapidly increasing con-

centration of green-

house gases — primarily carbon dioxide and

methane — in the atmos-

researchers

researchers.

New Delhi, June Heatwaves like those experienced in India

in India 1.5°C

warmer than

### 'Survivors sat with bodies of fellow trekkers for 36 hours'

Bengaluru, June Shocked, shattered and depressed, the survivors of the trekking tragedy in Uttarakhand sat for nearly 36 hours with the bodies of their nine companions, S. Srivatsa, secretary of Karnataka mountaineering association, said while recalling the sight at the Dehradun hospital the survivors were taken

RABINDRA NATH

Bastar

the incident, police said.

The encounter took place

CHOUDHURY

Chhattisgarh.

"When I spoke to them, they (trekkers) recalled how because of the heavy wind, their windcheater, jackets and gloves were flying and visibility was zero. So, they took shelter next to a big boulder. But because of exhaustion, hypothermia and lack of sufficient oxygen, four of them collapsed at first. others collapsed "They said they unable to move, were caught in the blizzard, and became exhausted. They were carrying food but could not eat because they were unable to open the tiffin boxes amid strong winds," he said.

Later, from the lower camp, a guide and other



Tributes being paid at the mortal remains of trekkers who lost their lives after being caught in extreme weather conditions in Uttarkashi's Sahastratal on their arrival in Bengaluru.

bags and a cook managed to give them some hot water, he said while narrating the sequence of events post-tragedy.

'With that help, the (rest of them) survived. Otherwise, they would have also collapsed," he added. Among those who lost their lives was 71year-old Asha Sudhakar, a KMA member for over three decades and one of the oldest women trekkers from the state.

According to KMA she

Sudhakar in the past, who was the team leader of this trek. He survived the calamity.

"Age was not an issue at all. Asha was an experienced mountaineer and trekker. This team was a combination of mountaineers and trekkers. They were all experienced. In fact, Asha's husband was the leader of the team. Caught in the inclement weather, she unfortunately lost her life but her husband sur-

had no fault as Shakuni

misguided him. However,

Duryodhan had the free-

dom to choose Shakuni as

his guide or any other

cnaracter. II Arjun cnos

why

Srikrishna,

Duryodhan

analysed how events similar to the high temperatures in India's May heatwave changed in the present (2001-2023) compared to the past (1979temperature

changes show that similar events produce temperatures in the present climate at least 1.5°C warmer than what they would have been in the past over a large area of the region analysed. The precipitation changes do not show any significant variations," the analysis

ClimaMeter's findings underscore that heatwaves in India are reaching unbearable temperature thresholds because of fossil fuels burning, said Davide Faranda of French National Centre Scientific Resea

"There are no technological solutions for temperatures approaching 50°C. We should all act now to reduce CO2 emissions and avoid exceeding vital temperature thresholds in large areas of the subtropics," he

### mountaineers sent two more tents with sleeping had been on several such treks with her husband S. ■ Naveen Babu still rules the hearts of all the Odia people, says BJD leader BJD trying hard to keep Brand Naveen alive

**AKSHAYA KUMAR** 

**BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 7** 

Leaders of Odisha's Biju Janata Dal (BJD) are now seemingly making desper ate attempts to upkeep the brand image of party president and outgoing chief minister Naveen Patnaik. These leaders and their

in connection followers, both in their ings, be it on railway respective constituencies and social media plat-"So whoever is in charge of whichever land, please see that forms, have begun to portray him as a "visionary leader" who served with a nothing happens at least mission to develop the within a week, now that state. Besides, they have the monsoons have arrived." launched a campaign saying that Mr Patnaik, even

polls, rules in the hearts of people. "Naveen Patnaik was the

No.1 and the most popular CM in India. Naveen Babu still rules the hearts of al the Odia people," BJD leader Pratap Jena said.

The BJP took a dig at Mr Patnaik by saying that he can't escape by blaming others for the BJD's poll "Who had given appoint-

ment to V. Karthikeyan Pandian, who was on a looting spree in Odisha? Who helped Pandian? Both Pandian and Naveen are equally responsible for the situation. They (BJD

"organic alliance" in India's

political system and remem-

bered late NDA leaders

including Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Parkash Singh

Badal, Balasaheb Thackeray

and George Fernandes for

"sowing the seed" of the alliance, which he said has

turned into a fruitful one

because of people of India's

that mutual trust is at the

core of the NDA, which is

committed to the principle

of "Sarv pantha sambhava"

(all sects are equal). He also

said that the NDA is not a

grouping of parties that

have come together to get power but is committed to the principle of "nation

Amid ongoing speculation on which NDA ally will be

getting which portfolio, the

The Prime Minister said

trust in it.



Naveen Patnaik

leaders) are doing drama over the matter, which will not help them anymore. Naveen Patnaik is mainly responsible for it," BJP leader Jayanarayan Mishra said.

V. Karthikeyan Pandian, Tamil Nadu-born bureaucrat who joined the

Naveen are equally responsible for the situation. They (BJD leaders) are doing drama over not help them anymore. Naveen Patnaik is mainly

BJD ahead of the just-concluded general election, was handling the BJD affairs and indirectly running the

responsible for it

"BJD leaders are proffering a weak narrative for self-defence. No one will believe such a baseless

Shakuni? Who had given the power to Pandian? Had people chosen Naveen Patnaik or Pandian as the chief minister? A government servant tried to make the people of Odisha his servants and treated govern BJD's ministers and MPs as servants. Couldn't Naveen understand it?' asked BJP leader Pratap story. Many people have Sarangi.

# rch.

## Nitish & Naidu say Modi is 'right leader at right time'

■ Continued From Page 1 vision, zeal and execution of work, Mr Naidu said that Mr Modi executes all his policies with "true spirit." "Today, India has the right leader at the right time... This is a good opportunity for India. If we miss now, we will miss forever," said Mr Naidu thundering applause from the gathering at the Samvidhan Sadan's Central Hall. Mr

Naidu also gave credit to Mr Modi for making India a global powerhouse with his dedication and hard "We are confident that during this tenure, Mr Modi is going to make

India the biggest economy in the world. And he is also working on the Viksit Bharat vision...we are confident that under his leadership, India will become either one or two globally," said the TDP supremo. In his address, Mr Naidu said Mr Modi's rallies in Andhra Pradesh helped the TDP win 16 seats in the Lok Sabha elections. He also recalled that the Prime Minister has never taken a day off from work for more than two decades. Mr Nadu's views on regional aspirations were also shared by Mr Kumar, who, along with other NDA leaders, including JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy, Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde, NCP chief Ajit Pawar, HAM(S) chief Jitan Ram Manjhi, Apna Dal's Anupriya Patel and LJP's Chirag Paswan, supported the proposal moved by defence minister Rajnath Singh to elect Mr Modi as the leader of the NDA.

Expressing confidence that Mr Modi will develop India in a big way and also pay attention to Bihar, Mr Kumar said, "We are confident that Mr Modi will develop India and we will wholeheartedly support him every passing day... All the pending work related to Bihar will be done. It is a good thing that all of us have come together and we will all work together with you... We will all work under your leadership.

The Bihar chief minister slammed the Opposition and expressed confidence that they will be defeated in the next Lok Sabha elections.

"I have noticed that a few people have won (the Lok Sabha elections) here and there by saying useless things. They haven't done any work and never served the country. Next time you win, they will all be defeat-

ed," Mr Kumar said. The meeting in the Central Hall also saw a lot of bonhomie as well as lighter moments among the leaders, with Mr Shinde describing the alliance as a "Fevicol bond", Mr Kumar trying to touch the feet of Mr Modi, who stopped him midway, and the Prime Minister patting Uttar Pradesh minister Adityanath on his shoul-

> Mr Paswan, who repeatedly referred to Mr Modi as 'Sir' while supporting the resolution, received a warm embrace from the Prime Minister. Jana Sena Party Pawan Kalyan received a special mention in Mr Modi's speech when he said that "Pawan is not

wind but a storm". Mr Paswan credited Mr Modi for the NDA victory and asserted that India will not bow down before anyone as long as Mr Modi

is the Prime Minister. Another ally, RLD chief Jayant Singh, who was seated in the audience with other leaders, later posted on X: "NDA (New -Developed - Aspirational India) has chosen our Prime Minister for a historic third term, Narendra Modi ji!"

Prime Minister urged the ■ Continued From Page 1 life is dedicated to uphold-NDA MPs not to fall prey to ing the noble values hoaxes about ministries and enshrined in the Constitution of India, given portfolios and claimed the Opposition "INDIA bloc" could also indulge in spreadto us by Babasaheb Ambedkar. It is only due to

ing "fake news" about such the Constitution that a person like me, born into pover-While addressing the gathering, where NDA leaders and MPs, BJP president J.P. ty and into a backward family, is able to serve the nation. Nadda, senior BJP leaders and Union ministers, along-Our Constitution gives crores of people hope, strength and dignity," posted with with chief ministers of Mr Modi after he was elected the BJP-ruled states were as the NDA parliamentary present, Mr Modi hailed the party leader.
Earlier, at the NDA parliamentary party meeting, Mr
Modi termed the NDA an NDA government as the 'strongest alliance govern-

ment.' "If you see this in the context of alliances and statistics, then this is the strongest alliance government," Mr Modi said.

slammed Opposition camp for casting suspicion on EVMs and the Election Commission throughout the poll process, alleging that they wanted to stoke fire across the country the results did not suit

"However, the silenced them by June 4 evening," he said in an apparent reference to the Opposition's better-than-expected result. Mr Modi said the world

will also be drawn towards appreciating the diversity and expansiveness of Indian democracy following these

the Citing increased support for the

▶ THE CONGRESS failed to win as many seats in three Lok Sabha polls since 2014 as we have won in these elections. It has not been able to touch even the 100 mark this time

Modi vows 'strongest' alliance government

alliance in South India and Odisha, where the BJP is also set to form its maiden government, to laud the performance, Mr Modi said, "The Congress failed to win as many seats in three Lok Sabha polls since 2014 as we have won in these elections. It has not been able to touch even the 100 mark this time."

In an apparent message to the party cadre, who were expecting the party to perform better, Mr Modi said, People know that we have not lost... even a child will tell that it was the NDA that was in power before the polls and will remain in power after the polls... Where did we lose? The NDA was there yesterday, is there today and will be there tomorrow.

Mr Modi also claimed that attempts were made to not accept the NDA's win. After winning 234 seats, the Opposition camp has been claiming that the NDA failed to achieve its target of "400 paar" and dubbing it the alliance's defeat. The NDA tally stands at 293, comfortpeople's ably above the majority mark of 272.

"I can see clearly, though the INDIA bloc does not know, that they were earlier sinking slowly but are now hurtling down the abyss," Mr Modi claimed.

The PM said he asked someone on June 4 when the results were being announced if the EVM was "still alive or dead," in an apparent dig at the Oppositions' oft repeated stand on EVMs.

"These people (the Opposition) had made up their minds to ensure that people's trust in Indian democracy is broken," the Prime Minister Modi claimed.

The Prime Minister Modi said the Opposition parties belong to the last century in their mindset as they are opposed to any technological intervention, be it UPI or Aadhaar.

He accused his rivals of making comments between the last day of polling on June 1 and the counting day on June 4 as part of a conspiracy to stoke violence. Attempts were made to mislead and divide people, he

claimed. Mr Modi also said the NDA government in the next 10 years will focus on good governance, development, quality of life and minimum interference in the lives of common citizens. He said mutual trust is at the core of this alliance.

Before

reaching

Rashtrapati Bhawan stake a claim for the next government, Mr Modi met BJP veterans L.K. Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi at their residences to seek their blessings. He also met former President Ramnath

After his meeting with Ms Murmu, Mr Modi addressed the media in the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Earlier in the day, the NDA leaders had also met the President with a letter stating Mr Modi has been elected as the BJP parliamentary party leader and also letters of support from the NDA constituent parties.

"The President has asked me to work as the Prime Minister-designate and she has informed me about the oath ceremony," Mr Modi said, adding that he has informed the President that they will be comfortable if the event is held on the

evening of June 9. He said the 18th Lok Sabha is an important milestone towards fulfilling those dreams when the country celebrates 100 years of independence in 2047.

"This 18th Lok Sabha is a House House of new energy...youthful energy and people have given the NDA government one more chance," he said, adding that he will hand over the list of ministers to the President before the swearing-in ceremony.



### THE ASIAN AGE

8 JUNE 2024

## A chance for INDIA bloc to play role of effective Opp.

he decision of the INDIA bloc with 232 members in the 18th Lok Sabha not to stake claim to form government through underhand deals goes well with the spirit of democracy, and is hence welcome. The Opposition bloc has indeed failed to muster the numbers needed to have a go at power, but it can take justifiable pride in the substantial advances it has made in its paramount mission to save the Constitution and democratic institutions in this country by pro-

pelling itself as a formidable force in the lower house of Parliament.

The INDIA bloc's good showing in the elections has many reasons, but the fact that it has created its own narrative for the national elections around the real life issues of the people such as unemployment, inflation, rural distress, reservation for backward classes and farmer issues comes up at the top.

Most topics on the INDIA agenda resonated with the people in the country — unemployment has hit historical levels, Agnipath scheme sealed the opportunity for lakhs of youth to have an honourable job and a decent career, while question paper leaks cast a shadow on governmental efforts. The people felt the Opposition leaders were taking up their causes when they talked about the other issues, too. As a result, the INDIA bloc has almost doubled its numbers compared with that in

fighting an election together could also make INDIA bloc a more cohesive unit capable of coming up with a solid alternative to be presented before the people

A period in
Opposition after

the previous House.
The NDA's campaign, led by no lesser than Prime
Minister Narendra Modi, took a turn for the worse after the second phase of the poll with brazen communal statements filling the air, seeking to polarise voters on religious basis. Appeals to the Hindutva

agenda returned with extra force, too.

The absence of the INDIA leaders, especially of the Congress, was referred to by senior BJP leaders repeatedly, cursing them with the wrath of the Hindu faithful. The Congress, however, refused to be drawn into the debate and held its position and talked politics. The strategy paid back handsomely.

The reverses the Congress suffered in the Assembly elections in the Hindi heartland helped the party approach the political situation from a realistic point of view, and not from a pedestal. It resulted in better coordination with the other partners. The thumping victory the bloc managed in Uttar Pradesh proved how important trustworthiness

and pragmatism are in politics. The alliance, however, missed certain opportunities that had been offered to it on the platter. The Congress-AAP alliance in Delhi was one such. It was capable of mounting a challenge to the BJP, especially after the arrest of Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal. However, the leadership of both the parties in the state failed to recognise it and one-upmanship proved a disaster. A different result in Delhi would have changed the outcome of the national election substantially.

The people have now given the INDIA bloc an opportunity to work as a responsible Opposition, supporting the government in matters of national concern while resisting its undemocratic, unilateral moves. A period in Opposition after fighting an election together could also make INDIA bloc a more cohesive unit capable of coming up with a solid alternative to be presented before the people. It is up to it to decide how to make the most of the opportunity.

### Why not invite Pakistan PM too?

here is much to be said for the vision with which the interim government is handling the invitations to the swearing-in of Narendra Modi for the third time as Prime Minister of India. "Neighbourhood first" is the principle that is being upheld in invitations being extended to those closest to home like the leaders of Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Mauritius.

Good thinking has also been behind the compilation of the longer list that includes the public with space allocated for the heroic rat-hole miners who rescued workers from the road tunnel collapse in Uttarakhand, besides cleaners and conservancy staff, and Padma awardees, too.

There is grace in remembering the valour of the intrepid who paid no heed to their own safety in rescuing others, the sense of duty in people who must do the most menial jobs and upholding the dignity of labour and the accomplishments of

those who have earned recognition in their chosen fields.

The list would, however, have been more complete had the Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his brother Nawaz Sharif been invited to join the others who lead countries in a region that may be fraught with issues and geopolitical

tensions and yet no one is a sworn enemy of the other. After all, this swearing-in ceremony of a Modi 3.0 government represents a shift n the political sands of India for the better which promises t will be pushed to the background while humanity and its more common everyday concerns take precedence.

An invitation to Pakistan would have recognised a message of contrition that came from across the border with Nawaz Sharif admitting that Islamabad had violated the Lahore Declaration he had signed with Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee in 1999, with the Kargil war following soon afterwards.

It stands to reason that the senior Pakistan politician would not have spoken thus without tacit approval from the Pakistan Army. While the big issues of Pakistan's ISI sponsoring terror on Indian soil and Pakistan's old vanity subject of Kashmir, whose special status was withdrawn by India in 2019, may seem insurmountable problems, the least that can be done at such a time is to accept the olive

Ignoring for the moment the China factor which will always be there in the region, India may do well to address bilateral issues and protect its interests, towards which restoration of trade ties, which would be beneficial logistics-wise to Pakistan, might well be a starting point to a more realistic position on relationships.

#### THE ASIAN AGE

KAUSHIK MITTER

Printer & Publishe

"Sufis celebrate the vine

It's but a metaphor, a sign, They plead with Saki to fill up

Which yields nectar to the cup

The Chalice they believe is God's

Oh Bachchoo, calculate the odds

Of Unity being beyond control?"

Divine Unity with their soul...

- New Delhi: Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002. Phone (011) 23211124.
- Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New
- Delhi 110 002 at BFL Infotech Ltd., C-9, Sector-III, Noida -201301 London: Quickmarsh Ltd, 8th Floor, Block 2, Elizabeth House, 39 York Road, London, SE1 7NQ. RNI Registration number: 57290/94
- Farrukh Dhondy

— From **The Must Calendar**, by Bachchoo he 2024 elections are upon us in this year of world democracy. In Africa, eighteen countries go to the polls, in America fourteen, in Asia twenty-one,

Australia and four Pacific territories.
The Mexican, South African and Indian ones are over, disappointing some and causing others to declare triumphs of democracy. I'll stay

But then I have a vote in the July 4 UK general election. The campaigns of the parties are in full flow and various polls put Labour ahead

of the Tories by 20 or 17 points.

The first TV debate of this election campaign between Hedgie Soongone and Unkleir Starmer, the Labour leader, took place on Tuesday. Hedgie repeatedly needled Unkleir, passing a campaigning message to the studio

pendent review of tax pledges undertaken by the civil service predicts that Labour would put up taxes for every household by £2,000 a year. He repeated this taunt several times with

something of a challenging smirk on his face. The next morning the newspapers and channels revealed that Hedgie had been, at best, "misleading the public" and at worst "lying through his teeth". They had discovered that James Bowler, the chief Treasury civil servant, had emphatically asserted in writing that the Treasury's civil service had made no

So, even if 51 per cent of viewers thought that Hedgie had done better than Unklier in the debate, the revelation that he had taunted the latter with a lie should now widen the gap in Labour's favour. Or does the British electorate

want a PM with his ankle-length pants on fire? In another peculiar incident, Hedgie was being interviewed on some right-wing platform by a journalist interviewer called Piers Morgan — widely seen as Mr Vainglory himself. These bods, talking about Hedgie's vow to send illegal immigrants on flights to Rwanda. ventured into a bet. Morgan bet Hedgie £1,000 that the flights would not take off before the election. This was noted by the media. Hedgie is the richest PM Britain has had and £1,000 is probably what he pays for a pair of designer underpants. Morgan is not short of a penny or

says the Rwanda plan will be implemented

Naturally, Morgan asks for the "grand" which Hedgie owes him as a result of "losing" the bet. Hedgie shamelessly protests that he won the bet because some weeks ago, one of these illegal immigrants, whose asylum claim failed, had volunteered to go to Rwanda and the Home Office gave him £3,000 to get on a flight. Hedgie said this was tantamount to his Rwanda deportation pledge working so he wouldn't pay up. This was at best disingenuous and Piers Morgan protested in print.

As I said, the one grand is as nothing to either of these punters. They should, to my mind, have taken a bet which would really contain some jeopardy. They could, for instance, have wagered that the loser would get on a flight to Rwanda and stay there with his family and perhaps even with his associates — Hedgie with Cruella Braverman, Ugly Patel, Clair Coutinho and a few others — and Morgan with the owners of and the presenter-colleagues on the right-wing TV channels for which he

And that, gentle reader, is enough of one loser (as Donald Wigwarm calls his opponents), and so on to the next who has, after insisting he would not, U-turnly announced his candidature for the parliamentary seat of Clacton in the East of England. This is Nigel Farage, who formed the UKIP party which advocated a stronger Brexit than Boris Johnson at the time. The Party then became the Brexit Party and later called itself "Reform", its present name under whose banner Farage is standing. The Trumpeting epithet can be legitimately and literally applied to him as poor Nigel has stood in seven public elections, five for Westminster, and lost

His first policy announcement on entering the fray was that his party would immediately stop all immigration, illegal and, under the comprehensive statement, possibly even the

"legal" ones. No Johnny foreigner here! He hasn't said how he'd stop the wretched of the earth — and some chancers looking for a better life — coming over on boats. Would he get the Royal Navy or the Coast Guard to drown the boats by firing on them? Would he more humanely apprehend every boat and get the Navy to sail them off to Robinson Crusoe island or dump them on some other nation's unmanned shore? Of course, closing down all British work visa and student visa departments worldwide would stop the "legals" coming over also.

Ho hum — Reform won't form a government. Not now, and from the evidence of the British electorate in the past, ignoring the fascist Oswald Mosley and sending the xenophobe Enoch Powell to virtual exile as a Northern



## Can the new NDA work together for survival?



Sanjeev Ahluwalia

lon Musk cancelled a pre-poll meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on feeble grounds and went on a business call to China instead. In doing so, he displayed intuition (aided by AI?) that eluded the domestic pollsters about outcomes in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. In the end, the pollsters ate hum-ble pie as the BJP strug-gled to a total of 240 seats out of 543, 32 short of a simple majority, and far below its 2019 level of 303 seats.

Even in Varanasi, the Prime Minister's adopted constituency, the win margin (difference between the votes of the winner and the next best candidate) was 1,52,513 (about 25 per cent). Observers were quick to point out that just 242 km to the west in the heart of Awadh, in Rae Bareli, a family bastion passed on by Sonia Gandhi to tion, the win margin was 57 per cent. "Pappu", as the ruling alliance sometimes derisively refers to Rahul Gandhi, seems to

have come a long way. The 2024 Lok Sabha elections unleashed two tremors for the BJP. The first was the shock that the BJP is not "atma nirbhar" for survival. With just 240 seats versus the 272 needed to form a government, it now desperately needs the alliance partners - principally the 16 Telugu Desam Party seats in Andhra Pradesh and 12 JD-U seats in Bihar — to survive with a wafer-thin majority. This elevates the political profiles of both Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Nitesh Kumar within the NDA to "white knights" from their earlier status as junior alliance partners. The allocation of Union Cabinet portfolios will reflect this. If the BJP is to retain the core sovereign

portfolios of finance, home, external affairs and defence, it will have to give up other key portfolios Power, petroleum and natural gas, coal and mines, IT, urban affairs and housing or railways. This will dissolve the existing closeknit, intra-party, walled pattern of functioning, with the Prime Minister's Office being the dominant driving force via a direct connect with top civil ser-

The second tremor was the structural shift in electoral preferences across states. The biggest shock was the tidal wave of support in Uttar Pradesh for the Samajwadi Party, an INDIA alliance partner, which won 37 of the 80 seats, with the BJP left with 33. The Congress was a distant third with eight seats but the INDIA alliance, with 47 seats, won more than 50 per cent of the seats.

vants in the ministries.

were the West Bengal results, where Mamata Trinamul Banerjee's Congress swept the polls, with 29 of the 42 seats. The BJP was a distant second with 12 seats, whilst the Congress was reduced to just one seat. Rajasthan, where the BJP recently came to power in the Assembly polls, chose to play truant in the Lok elections and returned eight Congress seats, though with 14 out of 25 seats the BJP retained its electoral dominance. Haryana also chose to divide the 10 seats evenly between the BJP and the Congress. In Bihar, whilst the NDA remained dominant with Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United) polling 12 seats, the same as the BJP, the balance of power shifts away from the BJP. In Maharashtra, attempting to cannibalise its alliance partner the Shiv Sena (Uddhav ThaManagement experts believe that in mergers, getting the senior executives to realign expectations is the most difficult part. This becomes worse in coalition politics, where oddballs cannot just be booted out.

ckeray) has not helped. The BJP got just nine of the 48 seats, its NDA alliance partners Shiv Sena (Shinde) got seven seats and the NCP (of Ajit Pawar) one seat. In comparison, the Congress got the largest number of seats (13) and together with its INDIA alliance partners – Sharad Pawar ÑCP (8) and the Uddhav Thackarey Shiv Sena (9) — a majority of 30 out of 48 seats.

It is unwise, however, to assume that the BJP's vote bank has dissipated. It won all 29 seats in Madhya Pradesh and 25 out of 26 seats in Gujarat. In the hill states of North India, the BJP is well entrenched. Himachal Pradesh, which recently elected a Congress government in the Assembly elections, kept its ontions open by giving a five out of five victory for the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections. In Uttarakhand, the five out of five win was unexceptional since the recent Assembly elections were also won by the BJP. The BJP won all seven

seats in Delhi, decimating the Congress and AAP. More importantly, the BJP's foray into the South continues unabated. In Karnataka, the BJP won 17 the 28 seats. In Telangana, it won eight of with the Congress.

the 17 seats, drawing level The Assembly elections, held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls, reflected continuity in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. But change was the leitmotif in the two larger states. In Odisha, the BJP triumphed by ejecting chief minister Naveen Patnaik, son of the legendary World War II pilot Biju Patnaik, who was chief minister (1961-

63) in a Congress government. The Biju Janata Dal (BJD), in power since 2000, was ripe for a drubbing after nearly a quarter century of decent but somnolent rule by Naveen Pat-naik, who unbelievably, drafted a civil servant turned politician to manage the 2024 election. That the Indian political class and the electorate prefers a red line between the bureaucracy and politicians was amply displayed by the results. The BJP, with 78 seats, swept past the 73 seats needed for a majority. The BJD was reduced to 51 seats. The Congress came in third, with 14 seats. In the Andhra Pradesh

Assembly polls, Nara Chandrababu Naidu, the original Andhra economic reformer, early digital governance aficionado of the 2000s, and the architect of the new bifurcated Andhra Pradesh in 2014, with its brand-new capital city at Amravati, struck a century with his Telugu Desam Party winning 135 of the 175 seats, leaving the earlier ruling YSR Congress with just 11 seats. Significantly, BJP came in third with eight seats, continuing to consolidate support across all five states in the South.

Management experts believe that in mergers, getting the senior executives to realign expecta-tions is the most difficult part. This becomes worse in coalition politics, where oddballs cannot just be booted out. Cabinet colleagues, especially if they hold substantive portfolios, and alliance partners must be cajoled and negotiated with, not bludgeoned, or ignored into submission. Can Prime Minister Modi shed the President Xi style of "remote, unyielding supreme leadership" projected by him, retrieve his earlier collaborative inner self, and use his expertise at shaping political trends to ensure stability? The survival of the new NDA government is hostage to his personal transformation.

> The writer is adviser Observer Research Foundation

The recent report from the European Union's climate change monitoring service underscores a concerning pattern; for the past year, each consecutive month has broken temperature records, with an average increase of 1.63 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This sustained temperature rise demands immediate action to prevent further escalation into what UN Secretary-General António Guterres has termed "climate hell". India has experienced devastating heatwaves in recent months, resulting in 25,000 cases of heatstroke and 56 fatalities, highlighting the urgent need for global attention to address this pressing issue.

> **Amarjeet Kumar** Hazaribagh

#### **MEDIA REMISS**

VILE ABUSE of Muslims on social media has now shifted to the Hindus of Uttar Pradesh, especially Ayodhya for rejecting Mr Modi and the BJP. The loss of Ayodhya is galling because a completely unknown and unsung face has defeated a well-known BJP candidate. Those indulating in this abuse are outs local residents. The outsiders have absolutely no idea of the distress caused to the local population in providing topclass facilities for tourists visiting the temple. The media too failed to report the actual situation on the ground and the anger of the people.

**Anthony Henriques** 

#### **WATER MAFIA**

THE SUPREME Court's directive to Haryana to ensure that the additional water Himachal Pradesh has agreed to supply reaches Delhi underscores the issue of water politics in India. Since HP does not share a border with Delhi, the water must be routed through Wazirabad Barrage in Haryana and the Upper Yamuna River Board will measure the extra water entering Hathinikund before trans porting it to Wazirabad and Delhi. Delhi is a political victim and the Supreme Court will monitor whether Harvana is cutting off water supply. Meanwhile, the Delhi government also needs to fix its inefficiencies, including water wastage reported to be over a shocking 50 per cent due to leakage, theft and tanker mafia.

Abhijit Roy Jamshedpur



Did Sunak 'lie' in

**UK TV debate?** 

Immigration still

poll hot button...

in Europe twenty-nine and then there's

schtum — two of these are none of my business

and one has to be so careful nowadays!

and viewing audiences, saying that an inde-

such calculation or claim.

two either. Then Hedgie calls the election and

works or worked. None of them will be missed.



SHORT TAKES

#### **104 KILLED IN VILLAGE ATTACK, SAYS SUDAN PANEL**

Port Sudan, June 6: A Sudanese pro-democracy activists' committee Thursday reported "more than 104" dead in a single day when paramilitary forces attacked a village, as the UN warned of mass displacement and starvation. The Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which have been at war with the regular army since April 2023, on Wednesday attacked the central village of Wad al-Noura in al-Jazira state "in two waves" with heavy the artillery, Madani Resistance

#### **NORWAY GAS FLOW TO UK RESUMES AFTER OUTAGE**

Oslo, June 7: The flow of Norwegian gas to northern England via the Langeled pipeline resumed on Friday as repairs were completed following a June 2 outage that triggered renewed concerns over energy security in Europe. "The ramp-up of the gas transport from the Nyhamna processing plant to the receiving terminal in Easington is ongoing," Norwegian pipeline system operator Gassco said. The outage was caused by a crack in a two-inch pipeline onboard Equinor's offshore Sleipner Riser platform.

#### **VATICAN ARRESTS EX-STAFF OVER MANUSCRIPT SALE**

Vatican, June 7: Vatican police arrested a former employee for allegedly trying to sell to the city-state a 17th-century manuscript by Italian Baroque master Gian Lorenzo Bernini that had previously disappeared from archives, a Vatican spokesman said. Experts said the 18-page document, with gilded miniatures, contains the first details of the decorative features in the canopy of St. Peter's Basilica designed by sculptor and architect Bernini. Bernini is considered the leading master of Italian Baroque architecture.

#### **ANTWERP PORT CLOSES DOCK DUE TO OIL SPILL**

Brussels, June 7: Authorities at the port of Antwerp have closed a dock and are using drones to monitor the fallout irom an oil spill that occurred while a ship was bunkering at one of its docks, a port spokesperson said. Belgium's biggest port closed its Deurganck Dock as well as the Kieldrecht lock, the largest lock in the world when considering water volume, to prevent the spill's spread. The port spokesperson said 20 ships needed to be cleaned from the oil before they could leave the dock, as well as the dock's walls

#### **SAMSUNG STAFF** STAGE FIRST EVER **STRIKE: UNION**

Seoul, June 6: Workers at Samsung Electronics in South Korea staged the first ever strike at the company on Friday, the head of a major union representing tens of thousands of people said. Management at the firm has been locked in negotiations with the union over wages since January but the two sides have failed to narrow their dif-ferences. "The first strike at Samsung Electronics is taking place today through the use of paid leave, and it is understood that many employees are participating," Son Woo-mok, head of the union said.

#### **NEPAL RECALLS ENVOYS FROM** 11 COUNTRIES

Kathmandu, June 7: Nepal government has recalled ambassadors from 11 countries, including those serving in India and the US and appointed under the Nepali Congress' quota, three months after Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' terminated his alliance with the party and joined hands with KP Sharma Oli. Despite strong reservations from Deputy Prime Minister and minister for foreign affairs Narayan Kaji Shrestha, the government on Thursday recalled these ambassadors, including Nepal's envoy to India Shankar

## 28 killed as Israel hits Gaza, tanks advance

Fresh offensive after 40 people killed in attack on school

barded central and southern areas again on Friday, killing at least 28 Palestinians, and tank forces advanced to the western edges of Rafah.

A month after rumbling into Rafah, tank-led forces have advanced to the southwest fringes of the city that skirts the Gaza Strip's border with Egypt, residents said.

They said tanks were stationed in the al-Izba dis-trict near the Mediterranean coast while snipers had commandeered some buildings and high ground, trapping people in their homes. They said Israel machinegun fire had made it too

dangerous to go out. Gaza health officials said two Palestinians had been killed in Rafah from tank shelling. In central Gaza, Palestinians medics said at least 15 people died overnight in Israeli bom-bardments. "I think the occupation forces are trying to reach the beach area of Rafah. The raids were tactical, they entered under heavy fire and then retreated,

Palestinian said.
In Khan Younis, north of Rafah, an Israeli airstrike on a house killed eight people and wounded several, including children, medics said. In north Gaza, three Palestinians were killed in an Israeli airstrike on a Gaza City school building that was sheltering displaced fami-

lies, rescue workers said. Hamas said on Friday militants in Deir al-Balah shelled a house where Israeli troops were barricaded, killing some and



Palestinians pray for people killed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip at a hospital in Deir al Balah

#### **UN SEES RISK OF ISRAEL-LEBANON CONFLICT GETTING BROADER SOON**

United Nations, June 7: UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres called Thursday for an end to hostilities along

wounding others. It said helicopters were seen landing to extricate the

stricken Israeli unit. The Israeli military focused on central Gaza in its latest update, saying it had killed "dozens" of militants and destroyed more militant infrastructure in continuing operations in the al-Bureij refugee camp and nearby city of Deir al-Balah.

Israel's military blames Hamas for Gaza's high civilian death toll, accusing it of operating within densely populated neighbourhoods, schools and hospitals as cover, something it denies. UN and humanitarian officials

Desi flavour in UK poll

— Reuters accuse Israel of using disproportionate force in the

demarcation line between

Lebanon and Israel, warn-

ing of the risk of a broad-

On Thursday, Israel hit an al-Nuseirat school building and a Hamas official said 40 people were killed including women and children sheltering at the UN site. "It's just another horrific example of the price that civilians are paying, that Palestinian men, women and children who are just

trying to survive, who are being forced to move around in sort of a death circle around Gaza, trying to find safety, are paying, spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said.

#### **HOUTHIS DETAIN** 9 UN STAFFERS **IN CRACKDOWN**

Dubai, June 7: At least nine Yemeni employees of United Nations agencies have been detained by Yemen's Houthi rebels under unclear circumstances, authorities said Friday, as the rebels face increasing financial pressure and airstrikes from a US-led coalition. Others working for aid groups also likely have been taken.

The detentions come as the Houthis, who seized Yemen's capital nearly a decade ago and have been fighting a Saudi-led coalition since shortly after, have been targeting ship-ping throughout the Red Sea corridor over the Israel-Hamas war in the

Gaza Strip.
But while gaining more attention internationally, the secretive group has cracked down at dissent at home, including recently sentencing 44 people to death.

Regional officials, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorised to brief journalists, confirmed the UN detentions. Those held include staff from the UN human rights agency, its development program, the World Food Program and one working for the office of its special envoy, the officials said. The wife of one of those held is also detained.

## Biden sorry for delay in sending arms to Ukraine

Paris, June 7: U.S. President Joe Biden met President Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Paris on Friday, apologized for congressional delays in approving the latest US aid package, and announced a fresh \$225 million tranche on the sidelines of D-Day events. The meeting was their

first face-to-face encounter since Zelenskyy visited the US in December, when the two pressed Republicans to overcome opposition in their party to more support for Ukraine. They will meet again next week at a G7 summit in Italy, as rich Western nations discuss using Russian assets frozen after the Ukraine invasion to provide \$50 billion for Ukraine. Zelenskyy said last month that Western countries are taking too long to make decisions about aid.

"You haven't bowed down, you haven't yielded at all, you continue to fight in a way that is ... just remarkable," Biden told the Ukrainian leader at the start of their meeting. "We're not going to walk away from you." Biden apologised to Zelenskyy for the delays before the last US aid package passed in Congress in April. — Reuters



US President Joe Biden meets Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Paris on Friday.

### Putin to boost trade in BRICS currencies

**St Petersberg, June 7:** Russian President Russian President Vladimir Putin said Russia would seek to boost the share of settlements conducted in the currencies of BRICS countries — the group of economies includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South

"Last year the share of payments for Russian exports in the so-called currencies of unfriendly states halved, while the share of the rouble in export and as "unfriendly counimport transactions is tries". - Reuters



growing - it is approach-Putin said.

Russia regularly refers to the mostly Western nations imposed sanctions on it over the war in Ukraine

### Trump: Biden border order to go

Phoenix, June Donald Trump said he will reverse US President Joe Biden's order clamping down on illegal border crossings, in his first campaign event since becoming a convicted felon.

The expected Republican Party nominee also threatened to impose tariffs on countries that do not stem the flow of migrants into the United States, as he seeks to make

electoral capital on an issue polls show resonates with voters.

Asked by an audience member at an event in the must-win state of Arizona what he would do to shut off the flow of people entering the US via the southern border — including migrants from China and the Middle East -Trump said he would use

economic measures.
"We have tremendous

economic power... if China or some other country is behaving badly, we have things called tariffs that are so severe," he

said. "We are going to be so tough and if a country is not going to behave, we're going to tariff the hell out of that country," he added, without giving details on what size or kind of tar-

iffs he would impose.

#### **BIRD FLU HUMAN CASE WAS DUE TO MULTIPLE** FACTORS: W.H.O.

Geneva, June 7: A man infected with H5N2 bird flu, the first confirmed human infection with the strain, died from multiple factors, the WHO said on Friday. adding that investigations were continuing.

The World Health Org anization announced on Wednesday that the first laboratory-confirmed human case of infection H5N2 influenza virus had been reported from Mexico.

Mexico's health ministry said the 59-year-old man had "a history of chronic kidney disease, type 2 diabetes (and) long-standing systemic arterial hypertension". He was bedridden for

three weeks before the onset of acute symptoms, developing fever, shortness of breath, diarrhoea, nausea and general malaise on April 17. The man was taken to hospital in Mexico City on April 24 and died later that day. "The death is a multi-factorial death, not a death attributable to H5N2," WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier said in Geneva. "The patient came to the hospital after weeks of multi-factorial background of multi other diseases," he said. His body was subsequently routinely tested for flu and other viruses, and H5N2 was detected. Lindmeier said. Seventeen contacts of the case in the hospital were identified. All tested negative for influenza. In the man's place of residence, 12 contacts in the weeks beforehand were identified. All tested negative.

"Investigations are ongoing. Serology is ongoing. That means the blood testing of contacts to see if there was any possible earlier infec-

tion," Lindmeier said. "The infection of H5N2 is being investigated to see whether he was infected by somebody visiting or by any contact with any animals before." The WHO said on Wednesday that the source of exposure to the virus was unknown, though H5N2 viruses were reported in poultry in Mexico.



SNP leader John Swinney (centre) and parliamentary candidate Chris Stephens (right) during their visit to Glasgow Gurdwara while on the general election campaign trail on

## China patrols waters near disputed islands, irks Japan

**Tokyo, June 7:** Japan lodged a protest against Beijing on Friday after four armed Chinese coastguard vessels entered waters that Tokyo consid-

ers its territory. The Japanese government said it was the first time that four Chinese vessels carrying what appeared to be cannons had entered its territorial waters in the East China Sea surrounding the islands, which Tokyo calls the Senkaku and Beijing calls the Diaoyu.

"I am not in a position to

state what the Chinese side's intentions are, but the intrusion of vessels belonging to China's coastguard into (our) territory is a breach of inter-national law," Chief Cabinet Secretary

Yoshimasa Hayashi said. China's coastguard said that it had patrolled the waters with weapons. It said its patrol was a "routine action" to safeguard sovereignty and a "necessary step" for peace and stability as well as to counter Japan's "negative

#### **CHINA OPPOSES U.S. ARMS SALES TO TAIWAN**

**Beijing, June 7:** China is strongly opposed to US arms sales to Taiwan and urges Washington to withdraw them immediately, the defence ministry said on Friday.

The ministry said it had lodged a complaint to the United States over the — *Reuters* matter. — Reuters

### Sunak apologises for leaving D-Day SUNAK WAS not

London, June 7: British Minister Rishi apologised Friday for leaving D-Day commemorations i France early to return to the election campaign decision slammed as disgraceful by his political rivals.

Sunak, who is fighting to keep his job in Britain's July 4 election, said that, on reflection the decision was a mistake. Sunak was not alongside leaders including US President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Ukrainian Volodymyr Zelenskyy for the major memorial event at Omaha Beach in Normandy on Thursday. Former Prime Minister David Cameron, who is now foreign minister, represented the U.K.

Labour Party leader Keir Starmer, the current favorite to win the election, attended and was pictured meeting Zelenskyy and other lead-

Sunak had earlier attended a ceremony at the British memorial in Normandy alongside King Charles III and surviving World War II veterans. He also attended a commemoration Portsmouth, England, the day before.

Sunak wrote on X, for-

alongside leaders including US President Ine Riden, French **President Emmanuel** Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and volodymyr Zelenskyy for the major memorial event at Omaha Beach.

merly Twitter, that the 80th anniversary of the invasion helped free Europe from the Nazis should be about those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. The last thing I want is for the commemorations to be overshadowed by politics. He added: On reflection,

it was a mistake not to stay in France longer and I apologise," he wrote.

The prime minister recorded an interview with broadcaster ITV on Thursday after returning from France, though he said that was not the reason he cut short his trip. Sunak insisted he stuck

to the itinerary that had been laid out for him for D-Day weeks before he called the election.

On reflection it was a mistake not to stay longer and Ive apologized for that, but I also dont think its right to be political in the midst of D-Day commemorations," he said.

#### TALKS WITH ONLY THOSE WHO WIELD **REAL POWER IN PAK, SAYS IMRAN**

Islamabad, June 7: Pakistan's jailed former PM Imran Khan said on would be held only with those who wield real power in the country.

The PTI founder said this during an informal chat with journalists in the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi after hear-ing of the Al-Qadir Trust corruption case.

"We will talk with those who have power. They (parties in the government) do not have power," 71-year-old Khan said, adding that during the meeting about the Punjab election on 14 May 2023, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) members had said that Pakistan Army Chief Gen. Asim Munir had decided against holding the election.

The powerful Pakistan Army, which has ruled the coup-prone country for more than half of its 75-plus years of existence, has wielded considerable power in matters of security and foreign policy. When pointed out by a journalist that the Supreme Court has also now asked him to talk to other political parties, Khan said he did not even negotiate with (PM) Shaukat Aziz during the Musharraf era.

## FEAR | FLIGHT | Aviation experts assert that flying remains among the safest forms of travel

#### Aerophobia rises in Singapore after turbulence Singapore, June 7: More forms of travel, some serv- • AEROPHOBIA CAN as akin to riding a roller because

people in Singapore are seeking treatment for aerophobia — the fear of flying — following the severe turbulence incident that struck a Singapore Airlines flight over the Irrawaddy Basin Myanmar last month.

Aerophobia can range from slight uneasiness to very severe panic attacks triggered by a thought or impending occasion of flying, according to a Channel News Asia report on Friday. While aviation experts say that flying remains among the safest

ice providers have seen a spike in people seeking to address this fear, according to the report.

On May 21, SQ321, en route from London to Singapore, encountered extreme turbulence. The Boeing 777-300ER aircraft was carrying 211 passengers and a crew of 18 when it made an emergency landing at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport.

One passenger a 73-yearold British man died and dozens were injured, some of them seriously. Some SQ321 passengers

range from slight uneasiness to very severe panic attacks triggered by a thought or impending occasion of flying, according to a Channel News Asia report on

painted a harrowing scene in an interview with the channel.

Friday.

Those who were unbelted flew out of their seats and onto the ceiling of the plane, before slamming down. described the experience

coaster. A few days later, turbulence on a Qatar Airways flight from Doha to Dublin in Ireland also led to several injuries.

Specialist psychology clinic Psych Connect used to receive a query about aerophobia once every few months, but now gets at least two enquiries daily. The clinic's founder, Dr

Sanveen Kang, said the Qatar Airways incident was a double whammy for people who thought SQ321 was a rare event. I think the timing of these two events is also quite notable

before the holidays with the local schools, and with the international schools, they are (going) for summer break. So, people have been travelling for two to

three months, she said. Because of Singapore's limited geographical landscape, many leave the country for holidays as

well, she noted. We don't have the oppor-tunity, apart from some of the surrounding regions, to get on a boat and go on holiday. If we want to leave Singapore and experience

other cultures, we are very

limited by flying, the Channel report quoted Dr Kang as saying

Even if people were not on the affected flights, they could be developing aerophobia after listening to passengers' accounts and reading about the challenges they faced, Dr Kang pointed out. It is a reinforcer for those who are predisposed to such anxieties, she said. When people talk to their friends and family members about such incidents and their fears, this normalises such anxiety as well, added Dr Kang.

Markets make

INDICATO	RS	%
Sensex	76,693.36	2.16
Nifty 50	23,290.15	2.05
S&P 500*	5,344.69	0.15
Dollar (₹)	83.38	0.11
Pound Sterling (₹)	106.69	0.02
Euro (₹)	90.81	0.001
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	71,736▼1,395	1.91
Brent crude (\$/bbl)	* 80.14	0.34
IN 10-Yr bond yield	7.017	0.003
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	d* 4.301	0.019
* As of 8:30 PM IS	Τ	

#### TVS Srichakra launches new industrial tyres

Manufacturers of two, threewheeler and off-highway tyres TVS Srichakra has launched new steel belted agro-industrial radial tyres to be used in agricultural and industrial applications. The tyre has been designed for use in compact wheel loaders and backhoe loaders engaged in agricultural and industrial applications, said company business head Karthikeyan S in a statement on Friday.



#### Tata launches Altroz Racer in three trims

Tata Motors introduced the Altroz Racer, a sporty version of its hatchback in three trims The starting price is ₹9.49 L. "Its high power output combined with a tech-first approach, makes the Racer desirable for the new gen customers who are connected fashion forward and want to drive a car that makes then stand out," said Vivek Srivatsa, chief commercial officer, Tata Passenger Electric Mobility.

#### **Kishore Soan** takes additional charge as ESIC DG

The labour ministry on Friday announced that Kamal Kishore Soan has taken additional charge of Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation. Soan's appointment is effective from May 31. He has experience in governance and management of various departments in Jharkhand, including land revenue management and district administration, agriculture, health, and transport, a statement said.

#### TCS launches GenAI platform WisdomNext

TCS said it has launched a Gen Al platform WisdomNext. It aggregates multiple generative artificial intelligence technologies into a single interface and enables companies to adopt technology at scale, lower costs and operate within a reg-WisdomNext helps customers unlock the potential of their data," said Siva Ganesan, head, Al.Cloud unit, TCS.

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## FY25 GDP growth at 7.2%: RBI

#### RBI panel keeps repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for eighth straight policy meeting

Bulk deposit thresh-

**Mumbai, June 7:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday revised upwards the GDP growth projection for the current fiscal to 7.2 per cent from 7 per cent on rising private consumption and revival of demand in rural areas. RBI'a Monetary Policy Committee, consisting of three RBI and an equal number of external members, kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent for an eighth straight policy meeting and stuck to its relatively hawkish stance of "withdrawal of accommodation", RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said in

Unveiling the bi-monthly monetary policy, Das said National Statistical Office (NSO) pegged India's real

his statement

hiked in February 2023 old limit kept at ₹3 cr Focus on withdrawfrom ₹2 crore al of accommodative RBI to set up Digital monetary policy Payments Intelligence stance to bring down Platform to mitigate payment fraud risks inflation Inflation forecast Auto replenishment for FY25 kept at 4.5%
• Food inflation still of balance Fastag, NCMC, and UPI-Lite remains a concern wallets brought under Forex reserves at a the e-mandate framehigh of \$651.5 billion

**MONETARY POLICY HIGHLIGHTS** 

gross domestic product (GDP) growth at 8.2 per cent in 2023-24

Repo rate was last

'During 2024-25 so far, domestic economic activimaintained adding that manufacturing activity continues to gain ground on the back of strengthening domestic

Also, the services sector

evident in available highfrequency indicators.

In his monetary policy statement, Governor Das said private consumption, the mainstay of aggregate demand, is recovering with steady discretionary spending in urban areas. The revival in rural

demand is getting a fillip from improving farm sector activity, and investment activity continues to gain traction on the back of ongoing expansion in non-food bank credit.

of above normal southwest monsoon by the India Meteorological Department is expected to boost kharif production and replenish reservoir levels.

He also said the forecast

Real GDP growth for 2024-25 is projected at 7.2

per cent with Q1 at 7.3 per cent, Q2 at 7.2 per cent, Q3 at 7.3 per cent, and Q4 at 7.2 per cent. The risks are evenly balanced," he said. When the projected GDP

growth of 7.2 per cent for FY25 materialises, it will be the fourth consecutive year with growth at or above 7 per cent. The healthy balance

sheets of banks and corporates, the government's thrust on capex, high capacity usage, and busi-ness optimism augur well for investments, he said.

"While we do consider the impact of monetary policy advanced economies on India, our actions are determined by domestic growth-inflation conditions and outlook,

to move part of the

reserve outside India to be

stored within the country, he said, adding, "That's it.

Nothing more should be

The country's overall

gold holding increased by 27.46 metric tonnes in

FY24, and it stands at 822

metric tonnes, as per offi-

A part of the precious

metal is stored abroad, the sources said, adding that

India also had its holding

with the Bank of England

The movement of 100

MT gold into India has

taken the overall quantity

stored locally to over 408

like other countries.

read into it".

cial data.

IT stocks outperformed on hopes of softening of interest rates worldwide after European Central time in five years. Nifty IT index surged

oharma (1.80 per cent). Foreign portfolio

investors turned net buyers after three sessions of heavy selling by ₹4,391.02 crore. The domestic institutions booked profit and were net sellers by ₹1,289.75 crore.



**RAVI RANJAN PRASAD** MUMBAI, JUNE 7

Market rose more than 2 per cent making fresh highs. The Sensex rose to 76,795. intra-day as RBI revised GDP growth rate for current fiscal to 7.2 per cent and kept repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent.

The Sensex gained 2.16 per cent or 1,618 points to close at 76,693. The Nifty-50 gained 468 point or 2.05 23,290.15 after clocking a new high of 23,320.2. BSE's market capitalisa-

tion surged to over ₹423.49 lakh crore or \$5.08 trillion making investors richer by over ₹7.6 lakh crore.

All round buying saw BSE Mid-cap index gain 1.28 per cent and BSE Small-cap index gained 2.18 per cent.

Bank cut interest rate by 25 basis points for the first

3.37 per cent while Nifty Bank surged 1.04 per cent, other gainers included Nifty auto (2.56 per cent), oil & gas (2.10 per cent), realty (2.08 per cent) and

"Domestic markets shrugged off the weak global cues, as investors cheered the RBI's higher growth forecast which

India's rapid growth aiding



formed on hopes of softening of interest rates worldwide after European Central Bank cut interest rate by 25 basis points for the first time in 5 years. The Nifty IT index surged 3.37 per cent.

fresh high above the 76k-mark," said Prashanth Tapse, analyst, Mehta Equities.

"Arrival of monsoon on time raised hopes of soft-ening inflation. With elec-tion uncertainty over, investors are hopeful that focus will shift to reforms and the upcoming Union

Budget," said Tapse. Global cues added to the positivity with the European Central Bank announcing interest rate cut by 25bps for the first time in nearly five years, moving faster than its US and UK counterparts. Now, hopes have revived that the US Fed might cut interest rates in September based on recent macro data points, said Siddhartha Khemka, head, retail research,

Next week, focus will be on allocation of cabinet portfolios. Market will continue to be volatile with upward bias, said

## RBI flags rise of unsecured loans

Mumbai, June 7: Banks need to re-strategise their business to deal with the persistent gap between credit and deposit growth, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said on Friday.

He also said that further actions on moderating growth in unsecured loans could be taken, if

In November last year, RBI had flagged certain concerns on excessive growth in the unsecured retail loans and over-reliance of NBFCs on bank funding.

'Recent data suggests that there is some moderation in these loans and advances. We are closely

AI ASSISTANT FOR

California, June 7: Meta

Platforms Inc. is adding

new artificial intelligence

features to its messaging

app WhatsApp, including

an AI assistant that can

help businesses connect

with customers, answer

questions, and sell their

goods and services via

the new AI-powered assis-

tant with businesses in

India and Singapore, followed by Brazil. These

new products were built

for businesses that handle

customer service queries

The new features will

support more than 200

million businesses that

rely on WhatsApp to chat

with their customers, the

"Any business should be able to quickly stand up an agent that can talk to

your customers, provide

support and facilitate commerce," Meta chief executive officer Mark

Zuckerberg had said on

announced the new assis-

tant during an event in São Paulo. *—Bloomberg* 

when he

and interactions.

company said.

Thursday

WhatsApp will soon test

BUSINESSES

monitoring the incoming data to ascertain if further measures are necessary," he said.

"The message is to convey that RBI is watchful of every aspect of financial sector especially in the banking sector. We are agile, we are watchful and if and when some further measures are required, we will come,"

reporters.

Das said that the boards and top management of regulated entities should ensure that risk limits and exposures for each line of business are kept well within their respective risk appetite frame-

New Delhi, June 7:

Leading stock exchange

BSE on Friday said lag in

receiving payments from banks led to delay in

assigning net asset value

(NAV) to investors who

oought mutual funds on

June 4 and there was no

technical glitch at its end.

plained on social media

for failing to square off

Several investors pur-

chased their mutual funds

before the cut-off time,

assigned the NAV, which

determines the fund's

value for June 5 instead of

June 4. This resulted in

substantial financial loss-

that there was no techni-

cal glitch at BSE Clearing

'It is hereby clarified

were

their positions.

although they

es to such investors.

Many investors had com-

#### RBI brought 100MT gold from UK to store locally, says Das Mumbai, June 7: The Reserve Bank of India has brought 100 metric tonnes of gold reserve from the UK to India as there is enough domestic storage capacity, and nothing more should be read into

it, Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Friday. The RBI moved 100 metric tonnes of its gold stored in the UK to domestic vaults in FY24. This is one of the biggest movements of gold undertaken by the country since 1991, when pledging a substantial part of the gold holding to tide over a foreign exchange crisis resulted in its movement out of

The quantum of gold

House (ICCL) on June 4th.

Prima Facie, there was a

lag in receiving details of

payments aggregator(s) /

hank(s) for few customers

which led to the delayed

NAV." BSE said in a state-

after several broking plat-

forms alleged BSE for a

glitch in the mutual fund

system of the exchange on

June 4, which led the

orders to go through the

next day (June 5), when the equity markets had partially recouped some

Market crashed on June

4 the day of Lok Sabha

election results in which

₹31 lakh crore investors

wealth was wiped out, the

the worst single-day fall in

of their losses.

four years.

The clarification came

**BSE** denies tech glitch

on election results day

### **ADANI GETS 0&M CONTRACT FOR**

**KOLKATA PORT** 

stored outside was static

for a long time, Reserve

Bank of India Governor

'In recent years, the data

shows that the Reserve

Bank is buying gold as a

part of its reserves, and

the quantum was going

up. We have domestic (storage) capacity," he

Das said here.

New Delhi, June 7: Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) said it secured a five-vear operation and maintenance contract for the container facility at Syama Prasad Port Mookerjee

APSEZ has to deploy cargo handling equipment within seven months from the letter of acceptance date, the company said in a statement.

The presence of APSEZ at the dock is likely to improve connectivity between the terminal and its container ports, particularly with the transhipment hubs at Vizhinjam and Colombo that are targeted for commissioning during the year, it further

#### start-ups return to India New Delhi, June 7: India's strong growth is leading to a trend of 'reverse flipping' as domestic start-ups that once used to move abroad for capital access and tax benefits are now returning nome, a top gov ernment official has said.

Commerce Sunil Barthwal also said that the digital economy along with emerging technologies like AI and the rise of data centres were key to future Indian growth.

He was speaking at an event in Singapore organised by the commerce ministry to showcase various investment opportunities in India. It was organised on the sidelines of the inaugural Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Clean



like AI and the rise of data centres are key to future growth. India has over one lakh start-ups that are recognised by government.

DIGITAL ECONOMY

with emerging tech-

Economy Investor Forum in Singapore.

Barthwal stressed how India's growth rate is nearly double that of other emerging market economies.

'He remarked on how this strong growth is also leading to a trend of 'reverse flipping', where Indian start-ups that once moved abroad for capital access and tax benefits are now returning home," the

ministry said in a statement on Friday.

India's economy grew by 8.2 per cent in the fiscal year that ended in March 2024, cementing the country's position as the fastest-growing economy in the world.

The country has over one lakh government-recognised start-ups, the commerce secretary fur-

#### Apple planning to launch Passwords app California, June 7: Apple versions of its iPhone, by the iCloud Keychain, a

Inc. will introduce a new homegrown app next week called Passwords, aiming to make it easier for customers to log in to websites and software, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

The company is planning the new app as part of iOS 18, iPadOS 18 and macOS 15, the next major iPad and Mac operating systems, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the initiative hasn't been announced. The software, which can generate passwords and keep track of them, will be unveiled June 10 at Worldwide Developers Conference.

long-existing Apple service that can sync passwords and account information between different devices. This capability was previously hidden inside the company's settings app or presented when a user logs in to a website. By turning the feature

dedicated app,

Apple is trying to get more people to use secure pass-words and bolster the privacy of its devices

The new app will take on password managers like 1Password and LastPass, and Apple will allow users to import passwords from rival services.

A representative for Apple declined to com-

### **IMF** tells nations to work on fiscal consolidation

SANGEETHA G

International Monetary Fund advised countries, including India, to begin fiscal consolidation in order to bring fiscal positions back to pre-pandemic levels.

When asked about the concern IMF expressed about the governments being tempted to increase public spending during election years in countries, including Mexico and India, Julie Kozack, director of the communications department said in a press briefing that IMF's advice at the time of the Spring Meetings still remains.

"Our advice is that this is the time for countries to really begin fiscal consolidation, and it's important to bring fiscal positions back to their pre-pandemic levels. So countries do need decisive efforts to safeguard public finances and to rebuild fiscal

buffers," she said. "This is really our key message coming out of this publication at the Spring Meetings, that now is the time for countries to



rebuild fiscal buffers at a time when debt pressures are high and deficits are high. And this advice holds in an election year, irrespective whether there are elections this year, it is the right advice in our assessment at this time," she The global economic out-

look has improved relative to where the IMF had expected it, she said. "Inflation has

declining, and we assessed in April that risks to the global outlook were balanced. Despite the resilience of the global economy, many countries are continuing to struggle with high levels of debt and high fiscal deficits," she said.

#### **FREEZE | FRAME** Matches scheduled to coincide with peak viewership hours in Asia

## Ad rates zoom for India-Pak T20 clash

The new app is powered

New York, June 7: Global firms are splurging on advertising for the upcoming cricket match between India and Pakistan held in the US, tapping into the spending power of the South Asian diaspora.

The rival countries are set to play each other on June 9 in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in New York's Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, a venue erected in three months using modular stands from the Formula 1 Grand Prix arena in Las Vegas. The tournament is being held

in the US for the first time

be played in Caribbean

The clash has added significance given Pakistan on Thursday fell to a shock defeat to the US, a major boost to the host nation playing in their first ever World Cup and ranked 18th in the world behind Nepal and the

Ad slots for the game could sell for as much as ₹40 lakh (\$48,000) for 10 seconds, said Santosh N., managing partner at D&P Advisory, which provides sports valuation services. "The India-Pakistan game



always commands a premium.

A 10-second slot for India games would be fetching about ₹20 lakh on average, he added. In comparison, a Super Bowl ad is a reported \$6.5 million for

30 seconds, and about  $\pounds 400,\!000$  (\$511,000) for 30seconds during the 2022 football World Cup for UK advertising. Multinational firms like Emirates Group, Saudi Aramco and Coca-Cola Co.

are among the companies sponsoring the monthlong tournament. The matches have also been scheduled to coincide with peak viewership hours in South Asian countries. For example, the India-Pakistan match will be played at 10:30 am in New York on Sunday, when it

will be evening in India.

During the Cricket

last year, a 10-second slot was estimated to cost ₹30 lakh. The higher pricing compared to the T20 World Cup reflects the greater hype for the sport when held in India, according to Chandrashekar Mantha, partner at Deloitte India. He added that some advertising budget will already have been allocated to the Indian Premier League, which concluded two weeks ago.

World Cup held in India

Indians in the US are among the wealthiest groups with a median income of about \$1,20,000. –Bloomberg



#### **SHORT SINGLES**

Dallas (USA), June 7: Newcomers USA on

Thursday shocked former

champions Pakistan via the Super Over to record

their biggest win in a T20 World Cup match that reflected the shambolic state of affairs in the

The result was reminiscent of Pakistan's three-wicket loss to Ireland in the 2007 ODI World Cup in

the West Indies, which

knocked them out of that

tournament.

from the front.

off Netravalkar (2/18).

USA started their chase

on a bright note, scoring

44 runs in the powerplay.

Asian giants' cricket.

#### Scotland trounce Namibia to go top

aptain Richie Berrington Cupsta-ged his Namibian counterpart in leading Scotland to a table-topping, five-wicket victory in Group B at the T20 World Cup at Kensington Oval here on

Thwarted by the weather in their opening fixture against England two days earlier at the same venue, Berrington's composed unbeaten 47 off 36 balls (two fours, three sixes) and timely support of the aggressive Michael Leask (35 off 17 balls, four sixes) paced the Scots to a winning total of 157 for five with nine balls to spare.

Their combined effort in a fifth-

wicket partnership of 74 rendered Gerhard Erasmus' all-round contribution in vain after the Namibian captain had topscored with 52 out of a total of 155 for nine, followed by figures of two for 29 off four overs as Scotland wobbled at 73 for four in the 11th over.

This was Scotland's first-ever victory over Namibia in a T20 International and lifts them to the head of the standings on three points from two games in a group that also includes the defending champions England and 2021 win-

ners Australia.

Brief scores: Namibia 155/9 in 20 overs (Gerhard Erasmus 52, Zane Green 28; Brad Wheal 3/33, Brad Currie 2/16) lost to Scotland 157/5 in 18.3 overs (Richie Berrington 47\*, Michael Leask 35; G. Erasmus 2/29; Bernard Scholtz 1/20).

#### Canada defeat Irish by 12 runs

Canada joined USA to conjure Upset No. 2 of the tournament by beating Ireland by 12 runs in their Group 'A' match of the T20 World Cup in New York on Friday. The second successive defeat left Ireland at the bottom of the table and staring down the barrel. A modest target of 138 was too much for the Irish, who could only manage 127 for 7 in the stipulated overs. There was no cream in the top order which collapsed badly, leaving No.6 George Dockrell (30 not out) and Mark Adair (34) with too much to do. They put on 62 runs off 41 balls for the seventh wicket though, but that was not enough.

Brief scores: Canada 137/7 in 20 overs (Nicholas Kirton 49, Shreyas Movva 37; Craig Young 2/32, Barry McCarthy 2/24) beat Ireland 125/7 in 20 overs (George Dockrell 30 not out, Mark Adair 34; Jeremy Gordon

#### **England set to** face Australia

Defending champions England will look to restitch their T20 World Cup campaign through an improved bowling effort when they face old' rival Australia in a Group B match on Saturday.

England's opening game against Scotland was rained off after the latter made 90 for no loss in 10 overs, forcing the teams to take home a point each.

But even those 60 balls showed the need for England to buckle up in the bowling department, to begin with.

Scottish openers George Munsey and Michael Jones scored freely against all England bowlers, and Australia carry far more lethal

guns in their line-up.
David Warner and Marcus
Stoinis showed the extent of damage they can do while outclassing Oman in their tournament opener.

Once again, there will be a lot of focus on Jofra Archer, who gave away 12 runs in two overs against Scotland, as the pacer continues his comeback trail into top-flight cricket after injury.

# US HEY!

### American idols upset former world champions Pakistan in group game



USA's Saurabh Nethralvakar celebrates after his team beat Pakistan in Super Over in the T20 World Cup Group A at the Grand Prairie Cricket Stadium in Grand Prairie, Texas on Thursday,

Patel showed his prowess through the off-side, picking up two consecutive Patel led from the front as he played his shots to pick up consecutive boundaries off Shaheen boundaries off Iftikhar Ahmed through the cover region. Patel was at his Shah Afridi in the fourth over. Naseem Shah gave Pakistan the first break-through when Taylor destructive best as he first hit Afridi over mid-off for a boundary and then clobnicked one to Mohammad bered the bowler over his behind the head for a six to bring up stumps. Bur new man his 50 off 34 balls. A 68-run second wicket stand was finally broken by Rauf, who got the better of Gous Andries Gous meant business as he picked up two fours in the same over.

with a quick delivery. Wickets were the need of the hour for Pakistan and they picked up the important scalp of Patel, who

edged one to Rizwan off

Mohammad Amir. Aaron Jones (36 not out off 26), who played a blinder against Canada in their last match, lived up to the expectations and in the company Nitish Kum-ar (14 not out off 14) took the match into Super Over.

With 12 needed off three balls, Jones smashed a full toss of Rauf over square leg for a six and then got a single to bring down the target to five off last ball. Earlier, Pakistan lost Usman Khan as he mist-imed a Kenjige delivery.

Fakhar Zaman tried to force his way with his aggressive instincts but fell short when he paddle-swept a simple catch to Taylor off Ali Khan in the

#### **SCOREBOARD**

Pakistan: Rizwan c Netravalkar Pakistan: Mohammad Rizwan c Taylor b Netravalkar 9, Babar Azam Ibw Jasdeep Singh 44, Usman Khan c Kumar b Kenjige 3, Fakhar Zaman c Taylor b Ali Khan 11, Shadab Khan c Netravalkar b Kenjige 40, Azam Khan Ibw Kenjige 0, Iftikhar Ahmed Ibw Netravalkar 18, Shaheen Shah Afridi not out 2 3, Haris Rauf not out 3. Extras: (II-4, 2-4) 8. Total: (for 7 wickets in 20 overs) 159.
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-14, 3-26, 4-98, 5-98, 6-125, 7-139.
Bowling: Nosthush

Kenjige 4-0-30-3, Saurabh Netravalkar 4-0-18-2, Ali Khan 4-0-30-1, Harmeet Singh 4-0-34-0,

Jasdeep Singh 3-0-37-1. **USA:** Steven Taylor c
Mohammad Rizwan b Naseem Shah 12, Monank Naseem Shah 12, Monank Patel c Mohammad Rizwan b Mohammad Amir 50, Andries Gous b Haris Rauf 35, Aaron Jones not out 36, Nitish Kumar not out 14. Extras: (Ib-1, w-11) 12.

Total: (for 3 wickets in 20 overs) 159.

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-104, 3-111.

Bowling: Shaheen Shah

104, 3-111.

Bowling: Shaheen Shah
Afridi 4-0-33-0,
Mohammad Amir 4-0-251, Naseem Shah 4-0-26-1,
Haris Rauf 4-0-37-1,
Shadab Khan 3-0-27-0,
Iftikhar Ahmed 1-0-10-0.

Super Over USA 18/0 in 1 Super Over: USA 18/0 in 1 over. Pakistan 13/1 in 1

fifth over, as Pakistan slumped to 26 for 3.

Shadab Khan (40 off 25) eased the pressure by hit-ting Jasdeep Singh for two consecutive sixes and then skipper Babar Azam (44 43) finished with a boundary to pick up 20 runs from the 10th over.

With the momentum on their side, the Pakistani duo went on the offensive and smashed Harmeet Singh to all parts of the ground. But then Kenjige picked up two wickets --Shadab and Azam Khan -off consecutive deliveries to bring USA back into the contest. Azam fell short of another fifty as he was caught in front of the wicket by Jasdeep. Towards the end, Iftikhar Ahmed (18 off 14) and Shaheen Afridi (23 not out off 16 balls) played good hands to take Pakistan beyond the 150-run mark.

Babar said at the post match press conference.

'See, if you don't exe-

#### **POINTS TABLE**

GROUP A						
TEAMS	P	w	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
USA	2	2	0	0	4	+0.626
INDIA	1	1	0	0	2	+3.065
CANADA	2	1	1	0	2	-0.274
PAKISTAN	1	0	1	0	0	0.000
IRELAND	2	0	2	0	0	-1.712

P	w	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
2	1	0	0	3	0.736
1	1	0	0	2	+1.950
2	1	1	0	2	-0.309
1	0	0	1	1	000
2	0	2	0	0	-0.975
	2 1 2 1	2 1 1 1 2 1 1 0	2 1 0 1 1 0 2 1 1 1 0 0	2 1 0 0 1 1 0 0 2 1 1 0 1 0 0 1	2     1     0     0     3       1     1     0     0     2       2     1     1     0     2       1     0     0     1     1

GROUP C						
TEAMS	P	W	L	N/R	Pts	NRR
AFGHANISTAN	1	1	0	0	2	+6.250
WEST INDIES	1	1	0	0	2	+0.411
UGANDA	2	1	1	0	2	-2.952
PNG	2	0	2	0	0	-0.434
NEW ZEALAND	0	0	0	0	0	000

GROUP D							
P	w	L	N/R	Pts	NRR		
1	1	0	0	2	+1.048		
1	1	0	0	2	+0.539		
1	0	1	0	0	-0.539		
1	0	1	0	0	-1.048		
0	0	0	0	0	000		
	1 1 1	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 1 0 1 0	1 1 0 1 1 0 1 0 1 1 0 1	1 1 0 0 1 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0	1     1     0     0     2       1     1     0     0     2       1     0     1     0     0       1     0     1     0     0       1     0     1     0     0	1     1     0     0     2     +1.048       1     1     0     0     2     +0.539       1     0     1     0     0     -0.539       1     0     1     0     0     -1.048	



Hyderabad's Vincent Vinay Kumar (from left) with USA players Jasdeep Singh, captain Monank Patel and

## Hyderabad hand in USA's big win

MOSES KONDETY | DC NEW YORK, JUNE 7

The United States may have defeated former champion Pakistan in the ongoing T20 World Cup but there is a Hyderabad hand in the historic victory. Meet Vincent Vinay Kumar Dasari, who has worked with this determined bunch and built them into world

beaters.
The Level 'B' certified coach from the National Cricket Academy-BCCI with an 18-year experience worked with an assorted American bunch as their Batting Coach, and punched big time. The team went through the grind during a camp in Bengaluru last year and won the ICC T20 World Cup Qualifying 1 tournament in Namibia.

Vincent, who played 33 Ranji Trophy matches for Andhra in the 1990s, was in fray to be the Head Coach and was the first to be interviewed before Australian international Stuart Law was commis-

sioned for the job. "I am so happy for the side, which is a blend of players of Indian, West Indian and Pakistani origins. They all mingled and gelled well on the ground," Vincent, who is currently in the US on a visit, told this newspaper. The secret of Team

• Vincent Vinay Kumar, a Level 'B' certified coach from the National Cricket Academy-BCCI has worked with this assorted bunch of American players as their batting coach, running them through a camp in Bengaluru last year, following which they won an ICC qualifying event.

USA's success is mental preparation. "During my stint, I had worked on the players' mindset as much as their batting skills. I told them that they should not treat any team as a big side," the 55-year-

old informed.
One line Vincent told players that certainly had an impact was: "Don't ever think that you are the underdogs, just fight it out."

They did and slayed a Goliath on Thursday to become the toast of the nation and the talking point of cricket and the outside world.

Vincent does keep in touch with players. He congratulated Aaron Jones, who has been shining with the bat for the USA, on the big win. The explosive batsman replied with: "Thanks coach. All your hard work is paying off now."

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## Rauf accused of Babar blames complacency ball tampering

Dallas, June 7: USA bowler Rusty Theron has accused Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf of ball tampering during the T20 World Cup match between the two sides.

Theron, who is not part of the USA squad, alleged that Rauf was running his thumbnails over the ball, which was two overs old, and hence it was reversing.

The 38-year-old seamer, who used to play for South Africa before, also slammed the ICC for turning a blind eye to the alleged incident. "@ICC are we just going

to pretend Pakistan aren't scratching the hell out of this freshly changed ball? Reversing the ball that's just been changed 2 overs "You can literally see Harris Rauf run-



ning his thumb nail over the ball at the top of his mark. @usacricket #PakvsUSA," Theron wrote on 'X'.

Co-hosts USA stunned Pakistan as they beat the former champions via a Super Over on Thursday to pull of the first upset of this edition's T20 World

### for upset loss against USA stunned by the Super Over defeat to USA in their T20 World Cup opener, an upset Pakistan cap-

tain Babar Azam conceded that his side was guilty of taking things "a little lightly" and failed to come good in any department of the game.
Co-hosts USA pulled off

the first upset of the ongong event, edging out former champions and last edition's finalists Pakistan in the Super Over here on Thursday.

The defeat was a stark reminder of Pakistan's unpredictability, which has often seen them lose to teams that may not seem strong on paper. Pakistan had lost to Zimbabwe in the last T20 World Cup in Australia and recently the 'Men In



series. against a team like this (associate nations), you relax a little, you take things a little lightly,"

Babar Azam Green' were beaten by Ireland during a bilateral "Whenever you come in any tournament, you do the best preparation always. You can say it's a kind of mindset. When you come up

cute your plan against any team, then whatever team it is, they will beat you. So, I believe that we are not up to the mark in executing. We are doing well in preparation but in the match, we are not executing our plans as a team," he added.
The skipper was critical of his side's performance as Pakistan were simply outplayed by the debutants. "I am upset. We are

not playing good in all three departments, he said. "For six overs, we did not capitalise properly, but later on, after the 10th over we got momentum, but again we lost too many wickets and then your momentum is gone," Babar pointed out. — *PTI* 

## Praggu goes down fighting to Caruana

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa went down fighting against Fabiano Caruana of United States while world No.1 Magnus Carlsen inflicted an Armaggeddon defeat on Fran-ce's Firouzja Alireza in the penultimate round of Norway inflicted Chess tournament. here.

With 16 points in his bag, Carlsen stretched his lead to 1.5 points over nearest rival Hikaru Nakamura, who was in for a shock as World Champion Ding Liren, for once, did not blow his position away.

Praggnanandhaa, despite the against Caruana in

Stavanger (Norway) June 7: Armageddon, is still third on Indian Grandmaster R 13 points, a full point ahead of Alireza. Caruana on 10.5 comes in next in standings ahead of Nakamura's party.

In the women's section, R Vaishali succumbed to another loss at the hands of Tingjie Lei of China and was relegated to fourth spot while Koneru Humpy went down to leader Wenju Ju of China.

Wenjun Ju of China strengthen her claim for the title by moving to 16 points. Tingjie Lei and Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine follow her 1.5 points behind while Vaishali on 11.5 is a distant fourth.

## Swiatek to clash with Paolini

**Paris, June 5:** Iga Swiatek will play first-time Grand Slam finalist Jasmine search of a third successive French Open title, with 17-year-old Mirra Andreeva's remarkable run ending in tears on Thursday.

World number Swiatek defeated US Open champion Coco Gauff 6-2, 6-4 to extend her winning streak in Paris to 20 matches and continue the Pole's dominance of her American rival.

Swiatek has now won 11 of her 12 matches against Gauff, all in straight sets, and could become only the fourth woman to win four Roland Garros titles in the



Poland's Iga Swiatek returns to USA's Coco Gauff during their semi-final match of the French Open at Roland Garros in Paris on Thursday.

ately grabbed the initia- withstood break points in

Open era -- after Justine tive against Gauff with a Henin, Chris Evert and Steffi Graf. She immediof the match. Swiatek

She closed out the first set without trouble, but Gauff threatened a fight-back when she nosed 3-1 ahead in the second set after wiping away tears

games, before striking again to move up a double

following an argument with the chair umpire over a line call. Swiatek though responded the very next game and won four in a row, eventually clinching victory on her

fourth match point. Paolini will be the unexpected challenger to Swiatek's crown on Saturday after the 28-year-old swept Italian Andreeva 6-3,  $6\bar{-1}$ . —  $\overline{AFP}$