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Will secure lesser votes than NOTA: BJP on Prashant Kishor's electoral debut in Bihar bypoll

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SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

04-07-2026

Total pilgrims - 90,546
Tonsures - 36,503
Hundi kankulu - 5,93 CR
Laddu sale - 4,61 Lac
Annaprashadams - 2,54 Lac
Medical treatment - 3,362
Waiting Compartments...
Outside line at Silathonnam.

Approx. Darshan Time for Saravardashanam (with out SSD Tokens) - 18 - 24 H.

Centre notifies rules of origin of goods under India-UK CETA

New Delhi (TSIT): The Finance Ministry has notified the rules for determining the origin of goods under the India-United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), paving the way for the trade pact to come into force on July 15. The rules, issued by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), establish the framework for determining whether goods qualify for preferential tariff treatment under the agreement and prescribe compliance requirements for exporters and importers. According to the notification, titled the Customs Tariff (Determination of Origin of Goods under the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between India and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) Rules, 2026, the provisions will take effect from July 15, 2026. Under the notified framework, a product will qualify as originating in India or the United Kingdom if it is wholly obtained in either country, produced entirely from originating materials, or manufactured using non-originating inputs while meeting the product-specific rules of origin specified under the agreement.

Monsoon knocks on Delhi, Haryana and Punjab;

IMD warns of heavy rain, strong winds over next week

Panchkula (TSIT)

After days of humid weather and intermittent showers, the southwest monsoon is finally poised to sweep across the remaining parts of Haryana and Punjab, bringing widespread rainfall and a significant change in weather over the coming week. The India Meteorological Department (IMD), in its All India Weather Summary and Forecast Bulletin issued at 08:44 IST on Saturday, said conditions have become favourable for the southwest monsoon to advance into the remaining parts of Haryana and Punjab, some more parts of Rajasthan, Gujarat and the North Arabian Sea during the next four days.

According to the IMD, the Northern Limit of Monsoon currently passes through 22°N/60°E, 22°N/65°E, Jamnagar, Udaipur, Ajmer,



Jhunjhunu, Hisar, Bathinda and 32.5°N/70°E, indicating that the monsoon is now on the doorstep of the remaining parts of Haryana. The weather office has forecast isolated to scattered rainfall over Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi on July 5 and again during July 9-10, while rainfall activity is expected to intensify into a fairly wide-

spread to widespread spell from July 6 to July 8.

Adding to the wet spell, the IMD has warned of isolated heavy rainfall across Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi during July 6-8, signalling the first major monsoon spell for the region.

Saturday may also witness thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds reaching 40-50

kmph and gusting up to 60 kmph at isolated places over Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi. Similar conditions have been forecast for Punjab Punjab is expected to witness a similar weather pattern, with scattered showers on Saturday giving way to widespread rainfall during July 6-8, accompanied by isolated heavy rain.

CM Chandrababu Calls for 'Golden Lives' for the Poor Through P4 Initiative

■ Bridging the Rich-Poor Gap is the Government's Goal

Visakhapatnam (TSIT)

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said the State Government is implementing the P4 (Public-Private-People Partnership for Prosperity) initiative as a long-term solution to eradicate poverty through active public participation. Addressing a meeting of Bangaru Kutumbalu (Golden Families) and Margadarsis (Mentors) in Kuppam on Sunday, he said the programme aims to transform the lives of poor families and reduce economic inequalities in society.

The Chief Minister stated that the primary objective of the initiative is the social and economic empowerment of identified poor families. He stressed that beneficiaries should become



financially self-reliant instead of depending solely on government assistance and eventually reach a stage where they can support others. Naidu explained that the government is pursuing a Zero Poverty mission through the MBK 10:20 model, under which the top 10 percent of economically stronger sections are encouraged to mentor and support the bottom 20 percent of poor families. He

revealed that nearly 1.2 million Bangaru Kutumbalu have already been identified across the State, while more than 110,000 Margadarsis have voluntarily joined the programme, reflecting growing public confidence in the initiative.

In Kuppam Assembly constituency, the responsibility for the development of 9,000 Bangaru Kutumbalu has been entrusted to corporate part-

ners including Adani Group, TVS Motor Company, and MEGA. The Chief Minister urged mentors and corporate partners to continuously monitor the progress of these families and help them achieve sustainable livelihoods. Naidu also announced that the success stories of beneficiary families would be widely publicised to inspire others.

He emphasized that increasing household incomes and reducing economic disparities are essential for inclusive development and reiterated the government's commitment to making the P4 initiative a national model for poverty eradication. Chittoor MP Daggumalla Prasada Rao, public representatives, senior officials, corporate representatives, mentors, and members of Bangaru Kutumbalu attended the programme.

Opposition's job is to make allegations : CM Shivakumar

Bengaluru (TSIT)

Karnataka Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar on Sunday hit back at the Opposition over its criticism of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, saying that making allegations is the responsibility of Opposition parties.

Speaking to mediapersons at the residence of AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, Shivakumar said the government is committed to ensuring justice for every citizen and protecting their voting rights.

"On behalf of the government, we must ensure justice for everyone, and we have appealed to all citizens to safeguard their voting rights. We too have our own protest. Wherever we need to protest lawfully, we will protest," he said.

The Chief Minister was responding to allegations by Opposition parties that



the SIR process was being conducted from a single location instead of through the prescribed door-to-door verification process.

Reiterating the government's stand, Shivakumar said the administration remains focused on conducting the process fairly while ensuring that every eligible voter is able to exercise their democratic rights. He maintained that lawful protests are a democratic right and the government would continue to raise its concerns through constitutional and legal means whenever necessary.

KTR demands lifting of water from Kannepalli to protect Telangana from drought

Hyderabad (TSIT):

BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao on Sunday demanded that the Congress government immediately operate the Kannepalli Pump House and lift Godavari waters to protect Telangana from an impending drought, warn-



ing that the State could face a severe water crisis due to the combined impact of El Niño, deficient rainfall and government inaction.

Addressing the media after inspecting the Kannepalli Pump House, KTR said 26 out of Telangana's 33 districts are already facing drought-like conditions, while lakhs of cusecs of Godavari water continue to flow wastefully into the sea because the government has failed to utilise the existing Kaleshwaram infrastructure. He accused the Congress government of displaying complete apathy towards farmers despite repeated warnings from weather experts about El Nino and below-normal rainfall. "Instead of preparing for a drought and protecting agriculture, the government is allowing precious water to go waste while farmers suffer," he said. KTR urged the government to immediately restart the Kannepalli pumps and fill reservoirs to provide irrigation and drinking water across Telangana.

Kaleshwaram Barrages Unsafe Until Scientific Rehabilitation is Complete Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy

Hyderabad, July 5: Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Sunday asserted that the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) cannot be operated until comprehensive scientific rehabilitation is completed, accusing the BRS of spreading misinformation on the issue.

Addressing a press conference at the State Secretariat, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) has prohibited operation of the three barrages until all rehabilitation works are completed and safety is certified. Rejecting BRS claims that



the Kannepalli pump house at Medigadda could be immediately operated, he maintained that "this is not politics, but engineering and public safety."

Minister said the final NDSA report has raised serious concerns over the structural integrity of all three barrages, citing compromised foundations, seepage, piping beneath the structures, inadequate

stilling basins, poor energy dissipation systems and construction quality deficiencies. He warned that storing water before rectifying these defects could have serious consequences for downstream areas, including Bhadrachalam.

He said the State Government has launched a comprehensive scientific rehabilitation programme involving Ground

Penetrating Radar surveys, nearly 100 deep boreholes, hydraulic modelling, Computational Fluid Dynamics analysis and digital twin simulations. The studies are being carried out by CWPRS Pune and global consultant Afry in association with IIT Bombay under the supervision of the NDSA and the Central Water Commission.

According to the Minister, preliminary studies indicate that continuous diaphragm walls and strengthening of stilling basins may be required across all three barrages. Rehabilitation designs are expected to be finalised during the current monsoon, with construction scheduled to begin after floodwaters recede.

Mumbai rains: Man dies after tree falls on him, Mayor advises caution amid Red alert



Mumbai (TSIT)

In a tragic incident in Mumbai, a man was killed after a tree collapsed on him as heavy rains and strong winds lashed several parts of the city on Sunday.

Mayor Ritu Tawde appealed to people to stay

indoors and exercise caution amid the harsh weather.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had on Saturday issued a critical Red alert for Mumbai, Thane, and several neighbouring districts as relentless monsoon downpours lashed the region, officials

said. In the incident reported by NDTV from the city's Kurla area, the 63-year-old man, who recently bought a shop in the neighbourhood, had come there to prepare for its opening day when the falling tree struck him with great force. The tragedy was caught on CCTV camera.

The Mayor has announced Rs 5 lakh compensation for him.

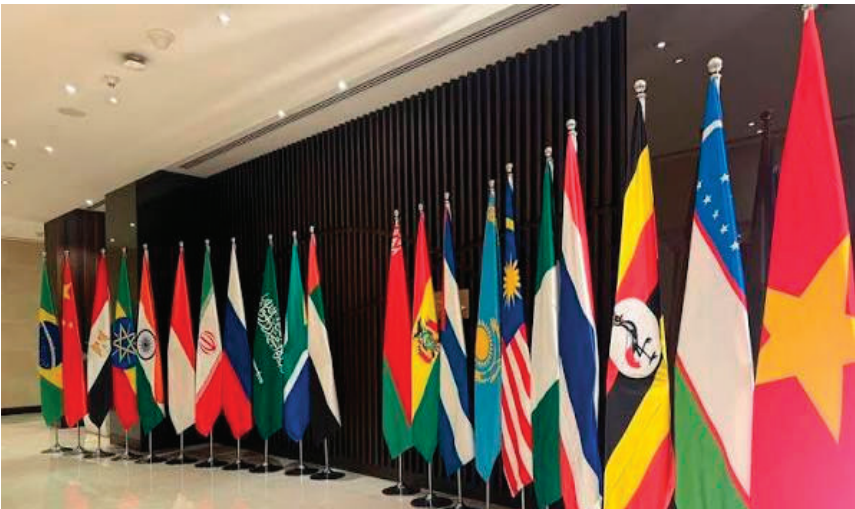
In another tragedy on Saturday, an 18-year-old lost his life after a branch of a tree fell on him while he was driving a motorcycle in Mumbai's Aarey Colony area. The victim lost consciousness and was immediately rushed to hospital where doctors declared him brought dead, police said.

India to lead BRICS Anti-Drug summit in Guwahati

New Delhi, Jul 5: India will host the BRICS Heads of Anti-Drug Agencies Meeting in Guwahati, Assam, on July 6 and 7, bringing together senior officials from member nations to strengthen cooperation against the growing global threat of drug trafficking. The two-day conference will centre on three major priorities — combating synthetic drugs and the diversion of precursor chemicals, enhancing intelligence-sharing and coordinated enforcement, and expanding institutional cooperation and capacity building.

Organised by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, the meeting will serve as a platform for the heads of anti-drug agencies from BRICS nations to deepen operational collaboration and reinforce long-term institutional partnerships.

Representatives from all BRICS countries will review the prevailing drug scenario in their respective nations while participating in six thematic sessions addressing emerging challenges in global narcotics control. Discussions will cover the use of digital technologies for real-time drug interdiction, dismantling darknet-based trafficking networks, tackling the spread of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), preventing the diversion of pre-



cursor chemicals, strengthening drug demand reduction initiatives, and improving institutional mechanisms for combating illicit narcotics.

The meeting will conclude with the adoption of a joint declaration outlining the shared commitments of BRICS members in addressing transnational drug-related challenges.

In a statement, the Ministry of Home Affairs noted that the global narcotics landscape has undergone rapid transformation, driven by the rise of synthetic drugs, New Psychoactive Substances, darknet-enabled trafficking, and cryptocurrency-based financial

transactions that facilitate organised crime across borders. At the same time, advances in data analytics, financial intelligence, and interdiction technologies have created new opportunities for stronger international cooperation. According to the ministry, India intends to use the Guwahati meeting to shift BRICS cooperation beyond dialogue towards practical, action-oriented collaboration by promoting closer operational coordination, intelligence exchange, capacity development, and joint responses to emerging drug threats.

The summit also provides India with an opportunity to highlight

its intensified efforts to curb drug trafficking and substance abuse. The government has stepped up action against organised criminal networks involved in illicit narcotics while simultaneously focusing on public awareness campaigns, community participation, and treatment and rehabilitation programmes for individuals affected by addiction.

As part of its comprehensive strategy, India has recently unveiled the Vision Document on Narcotics Control (2026–2029), aimed at strengthening institutional capabilities and enhancing the country's overall response to drug-related crimes.

During its BRICS chairmanship, India will advocate greater cooperation in sharing intelligence on clandestine drug laboratories, monitoring precursor chemicals and pharmaceutical substances, exchanging information on emerging synthetic drug trends, conducting joint training programmes, promoting expert exchanges, and adopting best practices in narcotics enforcement. India's BRICS Chairship is guided by the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability," reflecting the people-centric and humanity-first vision outlined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 2025 Rio Summit.

West Bengal police arrest alleged sand mafia kingpin Ajay Hari in West Burdwan

Kolkata, Jul 5: Police have arrested alleged sand mafia kingpin Ajay Hari in West Bengal's West Burdwan district, marking a significant breakthrough in an ongoing crackdown against illegal sand mining and smuggling operations in the state. Hari was apprehended by personnel from the Malandighi police outpost in the Bidhbihar area on Saturday night. He is scheduled to be produced before the Durgapur Sub-Divisional Court, where investigators are expected to seek his custody for further interrogation.

According to police officials, Hari is suspected of running a large-scale illegal sand extraction and smuggling network that allegedly generated enormous illicit profits. Investigators claim the proceeds were used to acquire properties, luxury homes, vehicles and other assets worth several crores of rupees.

During custodial questioning, police intend to identify other members of the alleged syndicate, trace the financial trail, and uncover the operational network behind the illegal mining activities. Officials said Hari has long been accused of illegally extracting sand from the Ajay River and transporting it through an organised smuggling network. Authorities also alleged that despite repeated accusations over the years, no substantial action was taken against him under the previous administration.

Police sources further claimed that Hari maintained close links with leaders of the Trinamool Congress, allegations that have surfaced repeatedly in connection with the illegal mining racket. According to local accounts cited by investigators, illegal sand mining in the Durgapur region first gained momentum during the Left Front regime and expanded significantly in the years that followed under the Trinamool Congress government.



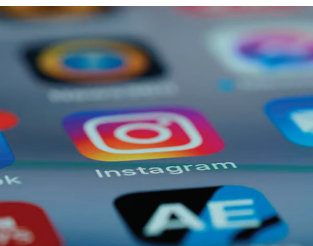
Centre issues notice to Meta over child abuse content on Instagram

New Delhi, Jul 5: The Centre has issued a notice to Meta over the alleged presence of child sexual exploitative and abuse material (CSEAM) in paid advertisements on Instagram, directing the company to immediately remove such content and submit an explanation within seven days, according to official sources.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has instructed Instagram to disable all advertisements and content that promote or facilitate access to child sexual abuse material on its platform.

The action follows a BBC Eye investigation, which alleged that Instagram displayed paid advertisements containing terms related to child sexual abuse that redirected users to Telegram channels where illegal content was reportedly being sold for as little as Rs 99.

According to the report, the advertisements had cleared Instagram's moderation process before appearing on the platform. As part of its investigation, the BBC created a test Instagram account in India and followed several profiles posting sexually suggestive content. Within days, the account reportedly began receiving advertisements



offering explicit material, including content depicting children in sexually suggestive situations linked to Telegram channels.

The investigation identified around 30 unique advertisements allegedly promoting child sexual abuse material, along with several advertisements featuring adult pornographic content.

Among the reported advertisements were images allegedly depicting minors in sexually explicit situations and content suggesting the sexual exploitation of children.

The BBC also claimed that Instagram initially determined one of the reported advertisements did not violate its community standards despite the nature of the content.

Following queries from the broadcaster, Meta said it had removed the reported advertisements, suspended the associated accounts and blocked URLs linked to policy-violating content.

Centre withdraws emergency gas supply curbs



New Delhi, Jul 5: The Centre has withdrawn the emergency natural gas supply controls imposed earlier this year following disruptions in liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments caused by the conflict in the Middle East, according to a government notification issued on Saturday.

The emergency measures had been introduced after the conflict disrupted LNG shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, with several suppliers invoking force majeure clauses. The situation had necessitated the diversion of natural gas supplies to priority sectors to ensure uninterrupted availability.

To regulate the production, allocation, diversion, distribu-

tion, acquisition, use and consumption of natural gas, including LNG and regasified LNG, the Centre had notified the Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order, 2026 on Mar. 9, 2026. The latest notification stated that the conflict has since been brought under a ceasefire, negotiations are underway, and maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz has resumed. In view of the improved situation, the Centre has notified the Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) (Amendment) Order, 2026, withdrawing the emergency supply controls. The amended order comes into effect from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Police machinery under Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu heading in 'dangerous direction': Jagan Mohan Reddy

Amaravati, July 5 : Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said on Sunday that the police machinery under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's 'malicious' rule was heading in a highly dangerous direction.

He accused the Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu of steering the police system in Andhra Pradesh toward a perilous path to facilitate political suppression and silence those who question him.

In a social media post on X, the YSRCP Chief told Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu that Andhra Pradesh needs is neither a regime of 'rowdy policing' nor 'Jungle Raj'.

"The state requires an administration that ensures public safety and a system that delivers justice to victims. It needs a society that believes everyone is equal before the law. We need a police force that operates in accordance with the Constitution rather than acting on political directives," he said.

Jagan Mohan Reddy



alleged that Chandrababu Naidu through the toxic precedents had sown seeds of poison across the state and these are gradually sprouting and transforming into poisonous trees.

"There is no urgency in the investigation when children go missing. There is no action taken even when complaints regarding crimes against women are filed. No arrests were made even after a tribal woman was stripped and assaulted. Yet, if the state government is questioned on social media, you resort to filing cases, making arrests, inflicting torture, and invoking non-bailable

sections?" the former Chief Minister said.

He cited various incidents, including the case of little Ganeswari from the Tunli constituency in Kakinada district who went missing a month ago, delay in registering the case of sexual assault against a mentally challenged girl in Peddapuram and a former TDP Councillor assaulting a tribal woman after stripping her naked in Nellore district.

"The case involving the custodial death of Sai Krishna and the subsequent disappearance of his body has rocked the state;

you still have no answers to the questions raised by his mother. The public was deeply distressed by the suicide of Kranthi Kumar, the dying declaration he gave, and the fact that people witnessed it unfold on social media. Incidents such as the custodial deaths of Gangamma and Tirupatamma, and the suicide of Kalavathi due to police harassment, have brought great disrepute to the state's police force. Yet, there is no check on your brazen conduct."

The former Chief Minister accused Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu of diverting public attention from these issues, by directing every Station House Officer to charge social media activists under non-bailable sections and link their cases to organised crime, rather than applying the relevant standard provisions. "This is an extremely dangerous trend. Attempting to intimidate people because you cannot answer their questions amounts to nothing less than the murder of democracy," Jagan Mohan Reddy said.

'Will secure lesser votes than NOTA': BJP on Prashant Kishor's electoral debut in Bihar bypoll

New Delhi, July 5 : After the announcement of the electoral debut of Jan Suraj founder Prashant Kishor in the upcoming Bankipur Assembly constituency bypoll, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday remarked that Kishor will secure "lesser votes than even the None of the Above (NOTA)" voting option.

Election strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor is set to contest by-elections from Bihar's Bankipur Assembly seat, a stronghold of the BJP for decades, Jan Suraj Party (JSP) Chief Manoj Bharti said.

Earlier, BJP President Nitin Nabin won this seat by a significant margin in the Bihar Assembly elections.

Speaking to IANS regarding the political development, BJP National Spokesperson R.P. Singh said: "He (Kishor) is contesting only to lose his deposit. He will not even get as many votes as NOTA." Echoing similar view, BJP leader Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain said: "Whether Prashant Kishor

contests or anyone else, it will make no difference. The BJP has been winning the Bankipur Assembly seat for the past 30 years."

"Nitin Nabin has been MLA from Bankipur, who is the National President (of BJP) today. The people of Bankipur are extremely happy and they will vote for the BJP candidate this time too, with a huge majority," he added.

Janata Dal-United leader Chandeshwar Prasad said: "Everyone is free to contest elections. There is no restriction on anyone." However, he asserted: "According to me, he (Kishor) will not succeed in this election." Earlier on Sunday, Prashant Kishor addressed the media in Patna, saying that the JSP will fight the by-election with full conviction and vigour, saying that the party's victory will lay the foundation for the beginning of "alternative politics" in the state. "For the past four years, Jan Suraj has been my life, and for the next ten years, until



the vision of change in Bihar is achieved. I have no other purpose. I consider the responsibility of contesting the Bankipur by-election as a step towards that goal. Thousands and millions of people were connected

with the ideas and efforts of Jan Suraj in November 2025. After the 2025 Assembly poll results, many felt disappointed or discouraged. Most of them believe that if Jan Suraj wins the Bankipur by-election, it will

not only strengthen the movement but also help revive the vision of change in Bihar. I accept this responsibility with humility and thank all my colleagues, workers, and leaders," Kishor said.

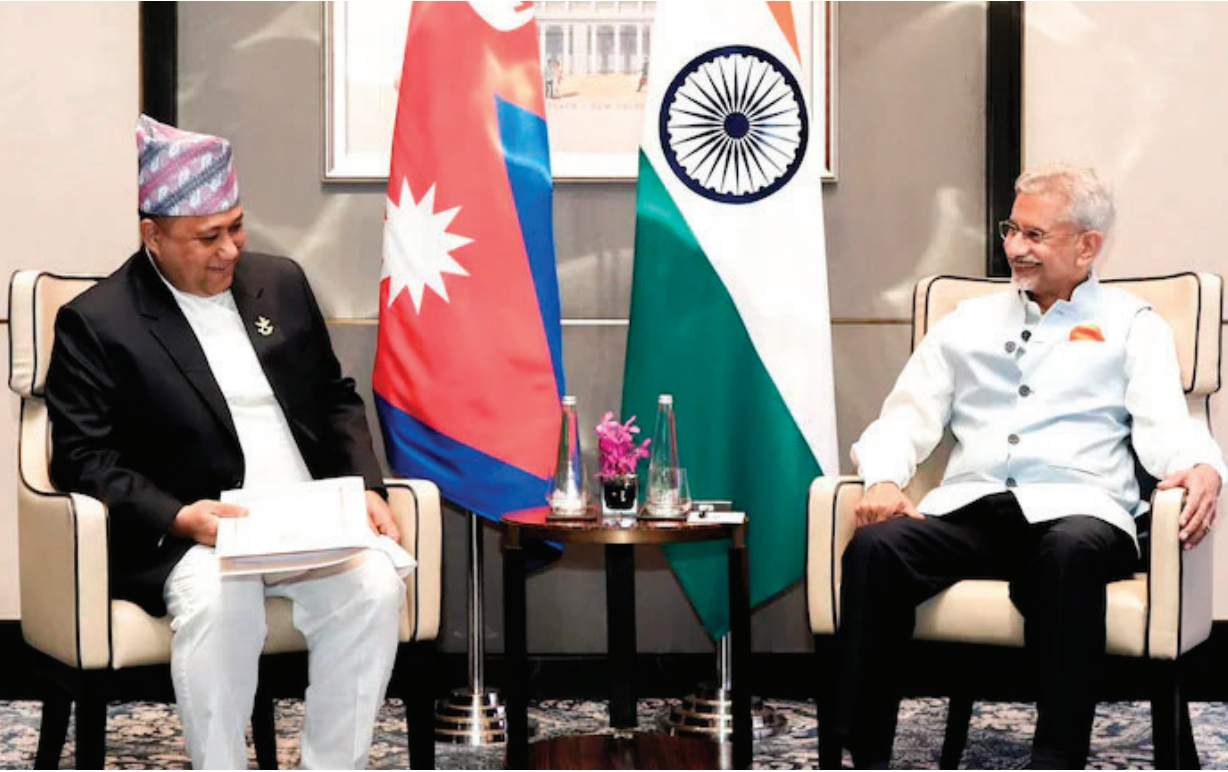
EDITORIAL

Sanand's Semiconductor Hub: A New Identity for Atmanirbhar Bharat?

The operation of the CG Semi Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Sanand, Gujarat, is not merely an industrial project; it is a historic step that defines the trajectory of India's technological future. At a time when the global economy is increasingly reliant on semiconductor chips, India establishing a strong presence in this sector is crucial for both national self-reliance and economic security. On July 4, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the CG Semi OSAT facility in Sanand, Gujarat, and dedicated it to the nation. The function of an OSAT facility involves the assembly, packaging, and testing of chips following their initial fabrication. This constitutes a vital link in the semiconductor industry's supply chain. Until now, India has been almost entirely dependent on foreign companies and imported chips in this sector; consequently, the country's electronics, automotive, telecommunications, and defense sectors have remained vulnerable to global crises or supply chain disruptions. The unit established in Sanand will prove to be a significant step towards reducing this dependency. Developed with an investment of approximately ₹7,600 crore, this project has the potential to carve out a new identity for India within the global semiconductor value chain. The plant will undertake the packaging and testing of chips for the automotive, consumer electronics, telecommunications, 5G, Internet of Things (IoT), and energy sectors. This will strengthen the country's electronics manufacturing sector and provide fresh momentum to the 'Make in India' and 'Digital India' initiatives. A major benefit of this project will be the creation of employment opportunities. The growth of high-tech industries will generate new prospects for engineers, technicians, and researchers. This will provide the country's youth with training and experience in cutting-edge technologies, helping to establish India not merely as a consumer but as a producer of technology products. Thousands of direct and indirect jobs are expected to be created in the coming years. Sanand has already been a major hub for the automobile and manufacturing industries. Now, with the arrival of the semiconductor industry, this region could evolve into India's 'Silicon Valley.' The presence of other global companies, along with investments and research activities, will be encouraged here, thereby boosting the industrial capacity of not just Gujarat but the entire nation. The semiconductor industry holds strategic importance globally. The world witnessed the adverse effects of chip shortages during the COVID-19 pandemic and times of international tension. In this context, developing an indigenous semiconductor ecosystem is essential for India—not only from an economic perspective but also from a strategic one. The OSAT center in Sanand stands as a symbol of India's confidence and visionary policy in this direction. Undoubtedly, the CG Semi OSAT facility established in Sanand, Gujarat, will serve as a vehicle to propel India toward new heights of technological self-reliance, employment generation, export growth, and global competitiveness. This marks not just the beginning of an industry, but the laying of a foundation for the dream of a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India)—a nation that will stand in the front ranks of the world's advanced technological powers.

ANTICIPATING A NEW ERA IN NEPAL-INDIA RELATIONS

It has not been long since contemporary global dynamics began to be described as a "field of exploding realities" within an "era of uncertain fluidity." Amidst constant shifts in the balance of power, alliances, and international relations, nations must remain hyper-vigilant and entirely prepared to safeguard their national aspirations and core interests. The relationship between Nepal and India is no exception to this reality. Geography, civilization, deep people-to-people ties, and a shared commitment to democratic ideals provide a stable foundation for the relationship between these two neighbours. However, geopolitical dynamics are constantly evolving. The drivers of this fluidity are multidimensional, no single nation or government is solely responsible for these shifts. The impressive rise of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), which secured a near two-thirds majority as a fresh political force, has generated widespread expectations of long-term political stability in Nepal. Crucially, this internal political stability must now be leveraged as a tool to maintain geopolitical equilibrium. To be sure, this is not the first time Nepal has seen a government with a near two-thirds majority. In the 2017 general elections, the left-wing alliance achieved a similar landslide victory. However, that was a shared success between two distinct entities, the CPN-UML and the CPN (Maoist Centre) and was deeply entangled in the sharp internal contradictions of the communist movement. Consequently, that massive mandate was squandered, leaving the country's geopolitical balance even more fractured. Following the Gen Z movement and the recent general elections, Nepal has entered a new chapter of opportunity. These historic milestones have generated profound expectations for a meaningful shift in both political mindset and governance.



The young, newly appointed Prime Minister, Balendra Shah, has already made it clear that Nepal will move away from traditional, passive concepts like acting as a "buffer state" or maintaining "equal distance." Instead, his administration aims to pursue a foreign policy centered on being a "dynamic bridge" and practicing "equal proximity." While analysts and politicians may debate the semantics of these terms, the core intent and spirit behind them are what matter most. Meaningful efforts driven by genuine goodwill are bound to yield positive results. Recently, RSP Chairman Rabi Lamichhane concluded a five-day visit to India. Undertaken at the invitation of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Lamichhane's visit should be viewed as a strategic effort to elevate bilateral ties within this altered political context. High-level engagements of this nature are rarely confined to mere state formalities, they are driven by a strong sense of purpose and underlying missions. It is precisely this

shared sense of purpose that makes such high-level dialogues possible. Lamichhane's meetings with top-tier Indian leadership—including PM Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, indicate that India is keenly observing and welcoming Nepal's new political landscape. It also underscores that New Delhi continues to accord high priority to its relationship with Kathmandu. Immediately after Lamichhane's return, Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal embarked on an official visit to New Delhi. The meetings between Minister Khanal and his Indian counterpart, S. Jaishankar, culminated in several preliminary agreements. These initial understandings signal a harmonious start to cooperation under Nepal's new political dispensation. Nevertheless, persistent issues like the boundary dispute continue to shadow bilateral ties. It remains unclear what specif-

ic discussions the RSP leadership and the current government held with their Indian counterparts on this matter, or what response they received, as both sides have publicly maintained their traditional stances. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs recently urged observers to look at the spirit rather than the literal wording of Prime Minister Balendra Shah's remarks during a parliamentary Q&A session. While the cloud of suspicion has thinned slightly following clarifications that the Prime Minister's remarks on "encroachment" were meant in the context of "cross-border occupation" and that Nepal is not seeking British mediation on the boundary issue, the ruling coalition must deeply reflect on whether these diplomatic maneuvers are sufficient. While governance shortcomings in domestic politics may be forgiven or have limited fallout, any signs of immaturity in managing geopolitical balance and diplomatic relations can carry an incredibly high price tag. The boundary disputes over Kalapani, Lipulekh, and Limpiyadhura are historical. There is no alternative to resolving these issues through bilateral talks and quiet diplomacy aimed at fostering mutual trust and empathy. Finding the right resolution for long-standing issues can take time; impatience, hyperbole, or any form of political extremism will not yield positive results. More importantly, a stalemate on one specific issue should not be allowed to paralyze progress across other dimensions of the relationship. In this altered environment, both India and Nepal must clearly define their current priorities and core concerns. Nepal needs to articulate exactly what it expects from India, requiring a well-defined, mutually agreed-upon agenda. The strengthening of bilateral ties must be anchored in structured agendas rather than emotional rhetoric or preconceived notions. If certain legacy issues prove too difficult for either side to navigate right now, both nations must be prepared to shelve them temporarily.

The report of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) is a case in point. It has been eight years since this joint report was prepared. If it has become unacceptable, the reasons behind this gridlock need to be openly addressed. Could a new joint task force not be formed to review it under the current realities? When joint initiatives undertaken through bilateral consensus stall because one party finds them problematic, every effort must be made to find a mutually acceptable middle ground. If that proves impossible, there is no choice but to shelve the matter for the time being. Geopolitical dynamism demands that relationships be viewed through the lens of adaptation, review, and continuous improvement rather than rigidity or stagnation. Protecting shared interests does not mean compromising on sovereignty or surrendering core principles. Traditional frameworks, such as the historic 'Roti-Beti' connection, now require a modern redefinition. While the profound social, cultural, religious, and civilizational ties between the two nations remain foundational, they cannot endure in the modern era without contemporary connectivity, robust physical infrastructure, and deep economic cooperation. In today's world, economic partnership is paramount, and infrastructure is an absolute prerequisite for deepening that economic collaboration. In Nepal, there is frequent and loud public discourse surrounding a potential railway connection northward to China. In contrast, very little attention is paid to the fact that a Raxaul-Kathmandu railway line to the south - favoured by much easier geography - would be faster to build, significantly cheaper, and far more economically viable. If both governments demonstrate strong political will, constructing this 136-kilometer railway line would not take long.

WHEN EARNINGS BECOME MORE IMPORTANT THAN RELATIONSHIPS

-Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

In Indian society, the family has been not merely a collection of blood relations, but a vibrant institution of trust, sacrifice, partnership, and mutual responsibility. The greatest strength of this institution was that it encompassed both rights and duties. As times changed, education expanded, and women's participation expanded beyond the confines of the home, reaching education, administration, medicine, justice, the military, science, and industry. Economic independence gave women new confidence, the ability to make decisions, and social respect. This change was not only necessary but also a significant step towards a just society. But every social change brings with it new challenges. Today, as both husband and wife earn, the question of sharing responsibilities alongside financial sharing has become more important than ever. Unfortunately, this balance appears to be deteriorating in many families. In some cases, there is an overemphasis on rights, while in others, duties are neglected. As a result, relationships are losing the ease and closeness that once characterized joint families. For a long time, in Indian society, the man was considered the economic pillar of the family. His wife, children, and parents were considered to have a moral right to his earnings. He considered his income not personal property but the family's capital. On the other hand, women's contributions were more visible in domes-

tic labor, child rearing, and family management. In modern times, circumstances have changed. Women are contributing as much financially as men by working hard. Therefore, the natural expectation was that economic responsibilities would be shared equally. However, in practice, the picture is often not so simple. Today, in many families, it's common knowledge that the husband's income is still considered the primary source of income, while the wife's income is considered a means of personal savings, personal investment, or personal independence. This isn't the case in every family, but where it exists, it causes dissatisfaction. If the husband bears every major household expense, but the wife's income is kept separate from family responsibilities, the principle of equality remains incomplete. Similarly, if the husband expects the wife to work, manage the household, and yet lack independence in financial decisions, this is also unjust. The problem isn't one party's, but one of double standards. Equality doesn't just mean equal rights. It also means equal responsibility. If both earn, they should share responsibility for the family's needs, future plans, children's education, elderly care, and emergencies. Financial partnership means not only combining income, but also building trust. The other aspect of the problem is psychological. Money not only provides comfort, it also gives confidence. But if this confidence turns into arrogance, it cre-

ates distance in relationships. Sometimes, it is seen that those with higher incomes begin to feel more empowered to make decisions. This tendency has been seen in men and is now visible in some women as well. Therefore, it would not be correct to say that financial arrogance is a problem of only one gender. The arrogance of wealth changes the person, not their gender. Today, in social media and public discourse, male-female relationships are often presented as a conflict. One side asserts its rights, while the other laments the injustices it has suffered. In this tug-of-war, family, communication, and partnership are left behind. Any ideology that aims to establish balance should be welcomed. However, if its interpretation limits rights to the exclusion of duties, it is natural for imbalance to arise in society. It's also true that millions of women today spend their entire income on their families. Along with their jobs, they also shoulder the responsibilities of home, children, and the elderly. There are many families where husbands and wives share their earnings without any accounting and make decisions together. Therefore, blaming any one group is neither fair nor factual. The aim of social analysis should not be to make accusations, but to understand trends and find solutions. The problem becomes serious when financial transparency between husband and wife disappears. When income, savings, investments, and expenses become separate worlds, suspicion

begins to creep into the relationship. Financial secrecy sometimes turns into emotional distance. Marriage is a partnership, not a business contract. Trust is its greatest asset. The greatest irony of modern life is that conveniences have increased, but satisfaction has decreased. Incomes have risen, but communication has diminished. Independence has increased, but partnerships have weakened. In the past, families lived together even with limited resources because decisions were made collectively. Today, resources are plentiful, but a mindset of "mine" and "yours" often divides relationships. Here's another important question. Is domestic labor less valuable than economic income? If the wife manages the home and the husband earns outside, is the breadwinner the sole breadwinner of the family? Absolutely not. Similarly, if the wife also works, is it appropriate to leave all the household responsibilities to her? The answer to this is also no. A family will remain balanced only when both economic and domestic labor are equally respected. This changing environment is also affecting children. When they see their parents embroiled in economic competition, their own definitions of relationships begin to shift. They learn a language of rights rather than cooperation. This is a matter of concern for future generations. Family not only creates the present, it also shapes the future. What is the solution? The solution lies not in blaming one party, but in strengthening family communication.

IT'S THE SMALL THINGS

On a warm summer day, amongst the buzzing bylanes of MG road, Bengaluru, leaning over a random wall, was a guy sticking some posters as he scrolled through Facebook with his other hand. The irony is very striking – he was posting on a wall as he was scrolling through posts on his wall. That's when it hit me: maybe the walls of the city are the OG social media wall after all. We scroll past them mindlessly as endless voices speak over each other. I'm still new to the city. I looked up the 'places to see', ticked off the 'food to eat', but all of that feels like it has shrouded what the city truly is. Maybe if I looked at the 'brick-and-mortar' feed buzzing past me all the time, and the city would unravel itself? Most walls flaunt how aesthetic and elegant they are. Some invite you for a cozy coffee, promising you to make you forget the hustle and bustle on the other side. Others offer a glimpse of what deep pockets can get you in the city. On one side are murals – huge and bright – are making people stop and click. On the other are chaotic graffiti on abandoned shutters and peeling paints over battered walls, not warranting a second look. Every glance decides what becomes part of the city's open-air museum and what is dismissed as vandalism. This is how the city takes shape. It reveals what it was, what it could have been, and what it is becoming – from raw and real to manicured and polished. It took nothing more than an unattended facade to give a snapshot of the politics in posters. Visibility is



power, and the walls are its front lines. Every election cycle, the city walls seem to turn into partisan scoreboards and canvases to stake territorial claims. In this era of algorithmic echo chambers, these walls speak simply show how the tides are turning. The government too leaves an imprint of its agenda across wherever it has authority – Metro walls, government buildings, public parks – the space for the authority to voice its self-praise is huge. Dissent rarely seems to find place, these days, however and when it is, it is quickly deemed vandalism and snubbed out by break of dawn. Paint is power. In the city of hustle and startups, we can expect nothing less. On one side, facades are rented out, advertising to sell us more aspirations and dreams. And right beneath them, as we bring down our chins to reality, a whole other economy is crawling on. Dozens of street-preneurs use the by-lane walls to advertise their services and

wares – on the extreme opposite of the spectrum, things we absolutely need. Under the grand metro mural celebrating the women frontline workers near Vivekananda road metro, as I impatiently wait for the red light to turn green, an old woman swarms through the traffic unable to earn her daily bread. The city walls contrast the reality it faces in ways more than one. Extravagant art depicting nature and magnificent birds are made on the very walls, built by cutting decades-old trees and filling up lakes. In another corner, we see a crude sketch of Ambedkar on the tinsheets of makeshift slums of the city. The utopia of the walls maybe is a constant reminder of where we, as people, should head to. The contrast is perhaps meant to keep us grounded. The author is a senior journalist, thinker, and political commentator. After marriage, husband and wife should openly discuss financial expectations,

savings, investments, family expenses, and personal needs. It should be agreed that both will contribute to the family according to their respective capacities. Whether someone's income is high or low should not be the criterion for respect. The true meaning of economic independence is not freedom, but responsible freedom. A free person is one who accepts their duties along with their rights. If earnings become a means of personal convenience, leaving the collective needs of the family behind, even economic prosperity cannot save relationships. Today, we need to forge a new definition of equality. One in which men abandon their traditional superiority and embrace partnership, and women respect their economic independence and family responsibilities equally. Both see each other as collaborators, not competitors. Marriage is not a platform for victory or defeat, but a shared journey through life.

ICICI BANK SIGNS PACT WITH PRUDENTIAL TO RECLASSIFY UK FIRM TO 'INVESTOR' STATUS POST BHARTI LIFE DEAL

ICICI Bank Ltd. reclassified Prudential Corp.Holdings Ltd. to the position of 'investor' from its previous designation as 'promoter' for its company ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co. according to an exchange filing from the bank on Sunday. This implies that the UK-based firm will now abstain from voting on any matters of the company requiring special resolution, in cases where such matters do not adversely impact any right or interest of the firm in the company. Prudential will further arrange for the resignation of its nominee director on the board of the company with effect from the date on which the company approves the company's reclassification application. The firm will not be nominating a director on the board of the company as it is no longer a promoter entity. ICICI Bank will also vote in favour of the appointment or replacement of the director to be nominated by Prudential on the board of the company. This will be subject to Prudential holding 10% shareholding in the company while not holding promoter status or more than 10% shareholding in other life insurance firms in India. This development



comes after ICIC Bank commenced the proceedings to acquire a majority of shareholding in ICICI Prudential Life Insurance after closing a deal with Bharti Life Insurance. As per the deal figures, Prudential Plc will acquire three-fourth stake in the India-headquartered Bharti Life Insurance, according to a release issued on May 17. Prudential "has agreed to buy 75% stake", Bharti Enterprises said, in the statement issued on the acquisition deal related to its insurance arm. The initial

transaction is valued at Rs 3,500 crore, with a potential additional payout of Rs 700 crore, Prudential said in a separate release. The deal marks an entry of Prudential as controlling shareholder in Bharti Life Insurance. The transaction, however, is subject to regulatory approvals and other customary conditions. Through this acquisition, Prudential is expected to leverage Bharti Life platform to expand life and health insurance offerings in India amid rising demand and digital adoption.

Indian Railways approves Rs 226 crore signalling upgrade on SECR's Durg-Taroki section

New Delhi: Indian Railways on Wednesday approved a Rs 226 crore project to modernise signalling infrastructure on the Durg-Taroki section of the Raipur Division under South East Central Railway (SECR), marking a significant step towards improving operational safety and efficiency. The sanctioned project involves replacing the existing Panel Interlocking (PI) system with advanced Electronic Interlocking (EI) technology at 13 stations across the section. The up-grade is aimed at strengthening train operations through a more reliable, automated and technology-driven signalling system. "The project involves replacing the existing Panel Interlocking (PI) system with Electronic Interlocking (EI) at 13 stations, enabling safer, more reliable and technology-driven train operations," the Ministry of



Railways said. The stations covered under the project are Marauda, Risama, Gundardehi, Latabor, Balod, Kusumkasa, Dalli Rajhara, Gudum, Bhanupratappur, Keoti, Antagarh, Taroki and the Raipur Store Depot. "The transition from Panel Interlocking to Electronic Interlocking will significantly modernise signalling infrastructure on this important section, improving operational

flexibility and system reliability," the ministry added. Electronic Interlocking is an advanced signalling system that automates route setting and signal operations while incorporating multiple safety safeguards. Compared with the conventional Panel Interlocking system, EI offers higher reliability, improved operational flexibility and quicker restoration of services in the event of disruptions.

"The project will enhance the safety and reliability of train operations, improve punctuality and provide a stronger technological foundation for handling growing passenger and freight traffic on the South East Central Railway network," the ministry mentioned. According to Indian Railways, the upgrade is expected to reduce signalling-related failures, enhance the safety of train movements and improve punctuality. The modernised signalling infrastructure will also help the section accommodate increasing passenger and freight traffic more efficiently. "The approval is part of Indian Railways' ongoing programme to modernise signalling systems across the national network through advanced technologies, ensuring safer, smarter and more efficient railway operations," the ministry stated.

How are Sensex and Nifty 50 likely to perform next week amid US-Iran war?

The Indian stock market wrapped up the week on a strong note, led by robust domestic macroeconomic data, healthy GST collections, improving industrial output, and sustained growth in both the manufacturing and services sectors. Investor sentiment also received a boost from expectations of a more accommodative global monetary policy after weaker-than-expected US labour market data. Despite mixed global signals and a slight moderation in India's services sector activity, benchmark indices remained resilient. The Nifty rose 0.90% to end at 24,270.80, while the Sensex gained 0.86% to close at 77,763.91 for the week. Ponnudi R, CEO - Enrich Money, believes that investors are expected to remain focused on developments in the US-Iran negotiations, with markets looking for greater clarity on the prospects of a formal agreement. While recent reports point to constructive engagement, any setback could revive geopolitical concerns and weigh on risk sentiment. "Crude oil prices will remain in focus after stabilising around \$68-69 a barrel as concerns over disruptions to shipments through the Strait of Hormuz eased. Sustained stability in energy prices would be supportive for India's inflation outlook and external balances. Following softer-than-expected US labour market data, which reinforced expectations of a less hawkish Federal Reserve, investors will closely scrutinise the minutes of the Fed's June policy meeting for further insights into policymakers' assessment of the econom-



ic outlook and the likely trajectory of interest rates," he said. Stock market trading strategy Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Religare Broking, said that the market continues to benefit from a favourable domestic macroeconomic backdrop, improving earnings visibility, and expectations of a more supportive global liquidity environment. Going forward, the earnings season is likely to take centre stage, alongside geopolitical developments, in shaping near-term market direction. "Investors should continue to focus on fundamentally strong companies with healthy balance sheets, improving earnings visibility, and relative strength. Banking, pharma, realty, and defence remain among the preferred sectors along with the broader indices, given their sustained relative outperformance in recent weeks. At the same time, maintaining disciplined position siz-

ing and prudent risk management remains essential, as global developments and earnings-related reactions could continue to drive short-term volatility," Mishra said. Key technical levels to watch out for next week - Sensex On the Sensex outlook, Ponnudi of Enrich Money said that the index continues to trade with a constructive bias after sustaining above its recent breakout levels. From a technical perspective, the 78,100-78,200 region is expected to act as the immediate resistance. A sustained move above this band could strengthen bullish momentum and open the door for an advance towards the 79,000 region. "On the downside, the 77,500-77,400 zone is expected to provide immediate support, followed by the 77,000 region. Holding above these levels will be crucial to preserve the broader recovery trend. Overall, the technical outlook

remains cautiously positive, although sustained buying above immediate resistance will be required to confirm the next leg of the rally," he added. Nifty 50 On the Nifty 50 outlook, Aakash Shah, Technical Research Analyst at Choice Broking, said that the index continues to trade above its 100-day EMA (24,131) and has successfully closed above the falling resistance trendline near 24,200, both of which are expected to act as immediate support levels in the coming week. Shah further noted that the index formed a bearish candle on the daily chart after profit booking at higher levels, it managed to sustain the bullish gap, indicating that the broader trend remains positive. "For the coming week, 24,050-24,150 is expected to act as the immediate support zone, while 24,421 (200-day EMA) remains the first major resistance. A sustained move above 24,421 could open the doors for a rally towards 24,600, which coincides with the April swing high and remains a crucial hurdle for the bulls," he said. Bank Nifty Meanwhile, on the Bank Nifty outlook, Shah added that the index formed a sizeable bearish candle, reflecting profit booking and lack of follow-through buying at higher levels. Momentum indicators suggest that the index is currently undergoing a consolidation phase. The index continues to maintain relative strength versus the broader market, but its relative momentum is beginning to fade. "From a technical perspective, the immediate support zone is placed at 57,400-57,500.

GOVT LIKELY TO SEND NOTICE TO WHATSAPP OVER UPCOMING CONTROVERSIAL USERNAME FEATURE

New Delhi: Alarmed at a possible misuse of an upcoming global username feature by Meta's WhatsApp, the government is considering issuing a notice to the Mark Zuckerberg-run social media giant. The matter is related to concerns that, like Telegram, the feature can allegedly be misused, and the government has expressed displeasure and serious concerns over it, according to government sources. Sources earlier indicated that popular messaging platforms could be held accountable if new features create opportunities for fraud, amid growing debate over WhatsApp's recently announced username feature. They said that messaging platforms like WhatsApp must ensure that their products are not misused for impersonation or misinformation. WhatsApp is launching usernames for privacy, enabling users to interact without disclosing phone numbers. While this can protect user identity, cyber security experts warn of risks like impersonation and scams, highlighting the necessity for robust anti-abuse measures to ensure safety of

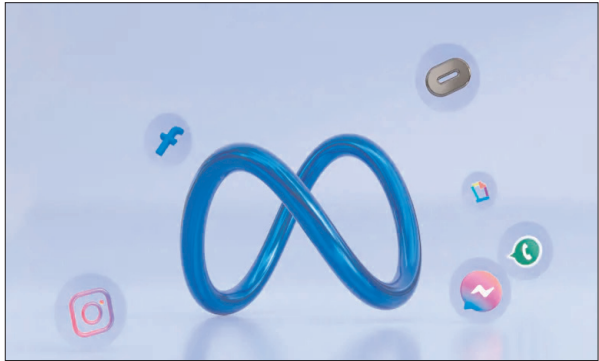


millions of users in India. WhatsApp has announced the rollout of usernames, allowing users of the instant messaging platform to communicate with family, friends, or businesses without sharing their phone numbers. According to WhatsApp, users will soon be able to pick unique usernames, similar to those on social media platforms. Meta described the move as "designed to protect the privacy of your phone number," adding that

"people need to know your exact username to contact you." Earlier, Telegram and Signal also allowed users to hide their phone numbers and use only a username for a very long time. However, the Indian laws require messaging platforms like WhatsApp and Telegram to link to a verified mobile number. Under the Telecom Cyber Security Rules, 2024, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) enforces strict SIM-binding mandates to combat digital fraud.

Meta Says It Has Zero-Tolerance Policy Against CSAM, Uses AI To Detect Violations

Meta stated that it has a zero tolerance policy for soliciting or sharing CSAM, including in advertisements, via a statement from its spokesperson to NDTV Profit on Sunday. The company claimed that it uses advanced AI to proactively detect violating content and individuals. "We're in a constant battle with criminals who hide among our 3.5 billion users and try to evade our detection," the company stated. This development comes after the centre issued a formal notice to Meta directing it to immediately disable all Instagram advertisements and content that allegedly promoted or facilitated access to Child Sexual Exploitative and Abuse Material. The parent company of Instagram said that expert teams are constantly working to improve defenses, develop new technology root out predators and block links to violating websites. "We share intelligence with other companies so they can take action too," the spokesperson



said. The notice to Meta was initiated by India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). MeitY officials had told NDTV Profit that they have ordered Instagram to disable all content facilitating access to child sexual abuse material. The Government issued a stern notice to Meta on child sexual abuse material in paid ads on Instagram and it sought a detailed explanation within seven days. Failure to furnish information may invite legal action under the IT Act and POC SO. The Government further mandated immediate corrective measures against any

'algorithmic amplification' of child sexual abuse material. The ministry also demanded explanations as to how such advertisements were approved and displayed on Instagram. The spokesperson added that Meta's expert teams are continually improving the company's defences, developing new technologies to identify predators, blocking links to websites hosting abusive content, and sharing intelligence with other technology companies to help them take action. The statement comes after reports that Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology

Ashwini Vaishnaw directed the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to summon Meta officials over advertisements allegedly promoting child sexual abuse that appeared on Instagram. According to sources, the ministry is expected to seek an explanation from the US-based technology company on how such advertisements appeared on Instagram and what safeguards are in place to prevent the circulation of such content. Meta, which owns Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, is also likely to be asked to explain its advertisement review processes, content moderation systems and the measures it has adopted to detect, remove and prevent child sexual abuse-related content on its platforms. The ministry is expected to seek details on the company's enforcement mechanisms and the steps being taken to further strengthen protections against illegal and harmful content, sources had said.

NYKAA SEES STRONG Q1 GROWTH LED BY BEAUTY, FASHION BUSINESSES

Highlights
■ FSN E-Commerce Ventures Ltd., the parent of Nykaa, expects consolidated gross merchandise value (GMV) and net sales value (NSV) growth in the early-30% range for the June quarter, with consolidated revenue growth likely to accelerate to nearly 30%, driven by sustained momentum across its beauty and fashion businesses.

FSN E-Commerce Ventures Ltd., the parent of Nykaa, expects consolidated gross merchandise value (GMV) and net sales value (NSV) growth in the early-30% range for the June quarter, with consolidated revenue growth likely to accelerate to nearly 30%, driven by sustained momentum across its beauty and fashion businesses. The company said its beauty vertical is expected to deliver NSV and net revenue growth in the late-20% range during the quarter, with net revenue growth likely to trail NSV marginally. It attributed the performance to robust customer acquisition, strong omnichannel execu-



tion and healthy growth in marketing income. Nykaa said its omnichannel beauty business continued to expand, while retail performance was supported by both like-for-like growth and continued expansion of its store network. The company also highlighted the strong performance of its owned brands portfolio. "House of Nykaa continues to demonstrate rapid growth, with brands such as Kay Beauty, Nykaa Cosmetics and Dot & Key delivering consistent success," the company said in its quarterly business update. The fashion business is expected to remain the fastest-grow-

ing segment, with NSV growth projected in the mid-50% range. Nykaa said the business benefited from lower operational leakages, an expanding brand assortment on its core platform and continued investments in customer acquisition. "All major fashion categories delivered strong performance during the quarter, while our partnership with Nike has shown encouraging early results," the company said. The company added that ongoing marketing investments continued to support new customer acquisition across both beauty and fashion, positioning the business for another quarter of healthy growth.

ALL OF US WILL NEED TO DO OUR PART TO CREATE THE NEXT 250 YEARS OF AMERICAN GREATNESS - VANCE



Vice President JD Vance has thanked President Donald Trump as he delivers a speech on USS Kearsarge in New York City. He says the US celebrates 250 years of "American daring and American naval excellence". "Today we celebrate 250 years of America, facing the future without fear. We celebrate 250 years of proving what a free people can achieve," he says. Vance pays tribute to the US' sailors, police officers, emergency workers as well as the dozens of Navy chiefs who are visiting the country from around the world. He then proceeds to read the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights and among these rights are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Vance says that 250 years later these words remind US citizens who they are

as a people, noting that the words still carry tremendous power. Vice-President JD Vance is kicking off celebrations this morning with a speech aboard the USS Kearsarge in New York Harbor. You can watch live at the top of this page. Officials say the USS Kearsarge will be the "centrepiece" of the day's festivities in the harbour, with Vance speaking following the International Naval Review 250, led by the Navy's acting Secretary Hung Cao. Vance will deliver remarks "commemorating America's 250th birthday", honouring service personnel and celebrating the "strength, leadership and freedom" that has made the US the "greatest nation in the history of the world", say officials. Events to celebrate the nation's 250th birthday are being organised by two competing entities. America250 was established by Congress a decade ago to plan nonpartisan events.



■ Ukraine strikes St Petersburg oil terminal, naval base as Putin's 'Davos' gets under way

US marks 250th independence anniversary with nationwide celebrations as temperatures soar

US history is built on "carving a great civilisation out of the wilderness", he says as he adds that everything the US has done, it has done together - not as citizens divided against each other. Vance says that all US citizens have played their part before referencing the US' role in World War Two and when its astronauts went to the moon. "All of us have a part, all of us had our part... All of us will need to do our part to create the next 250 years of American greatness," he adds. He says he is proud of all Americans and says happy birthday to the nation before wrapping up. On the other side of the Atlantic, King Charles has hailed the relationship between the US and the UK in a message commemorat-



ing the US's 250th birthday. "Through centuries of shared challenge and achievement, our nations have built a relationship founded on friendship, trust and a belief in liberty, the rule of law and the dignity of all people," His Majesty says in a statement shared on X. "I have no doubt we will continue to defend our shared values," he adds.

The connection between our people is one I trust will only grow stronger." Celebrations are taking place across the US today to mark its 250th birthday. Large-scale fireworks, a fly-over of fighter jets, and a Trump rally are among the events marking Independence Day in Washington DC alone. Elsewhere, artists includ-

ing Christina Aguilera, Mary J Blige and the Smashing Pumpkins are set to perform at celebratory concerts - in Philadelphia, New York, and Los Angeles respectively. But some planned events have already been disrupted as forecasters warn of extremely hot temperatures and thunderstorms, as a sweltering heatwave grips parts of the eastern and central US. Multiple events across the country have already been cancelled - with some pushed back to later in the day. In a speech at the iconic Mount Rushmore last night, US President Donald Trump called the holiday "one of the most extraordinary days in the history of the world".

Pope urges Europe to do more for migrants while visiting gateway island



Pope Leo XIV has called on European leaders to rise to the "momentous challenge" of handling migration as he visited the Italian island of Lampedusa. The pontiff urged Europe to help new arrivals integrate better and improve conditions in their home countries, during a mass on the island, which receives tens of thousands of migrants a year. "Those who have lost their lives in this sea are victims both of decisions that were made and of decisions that were not made," the Pope said. Since becoming the head of the Catholic Church in May 2025, the Pope has repeatedly called for greater support for migrants and criticised anti-migrant policies. His trip comes two weeks after the EU approved tougher migrants rules that allow stricter border controls and broader detention powers. It marks a wider trend of governments hardening their stance on undocumented migration, with many, including the UK and Italy, adopting measures aimed at deterring it. The Pope began the trip with a visit to a cemetery on Lampedusa and prayed at the graves of migrants who had died while making the dangerous journey from Africa to Europe across the Mediterranean Sea. He also stood at the "Door of Europe" memorial for those who had perished attempting the crossing and spoke to a migrant family. "From this far-flung corner of Europe on the Mediterranean Sea, one can more clearly perceive the momentous challenge that the phenomenon of migra-

tion poses to European societies," the Pope told Catholics on the island. "Europe is capable of addressing the crisis in this region in a comprehensive manner, integrating immediate relief efforts into a long-term strategic plan capable of receiving, protecting, supporting and integrating migrants" while "assisting developing countries so that no one is forced to emigrate", he said. The island of Lampedusa - which sits 90 miles (145km) off Tunisia's coast - is home to a migrant reception centre that is overcrowded with challenging living conditions. Those who make the journey often travel in poorly maintained and overcrowded vessels, making sea crossings more perilous for those aboard. More than 1,400 people have died or gone missing while attempting to cross the Mediterranean this year, including 28 children, according to the UN's International Organization for Migration. New migrants, rescue officials, members of aid groups and the Italian Coast Guard were among those to gather to see the Pope. The Pope "continues to accompany you, support you and encourage you", he told the gathering. "The pope's visit speaks to every one of us," Kandeh Abdourahman, a migrant who arrived in Lampedusa in 2015, told news agency Reuters. It was "a reminder that our stories are seen, that welcome is not just a word but an act of humanity", said Abdourahman, now a cultural mediator with the International Rescue Committee.

Large crowds gather in Tehran on first day of Ayatollah Khamenei's funeral

Large crowds of black-clad mourners have gathered outside Tehran's main mosque to pay their respects to Iran's former supreme leader on the first day of his funeral commemorations. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's body is currently lying in state at the Grand Mosalla, ahead of his eventual burial in his hometown of Mashhad next Thursday. Authorities expect 15-20 million people to attend the ceremonies across Iran and Iraq over the coming days, which take place more than four months after Khamenei was killed in US and Israeli strikes. Masses of supporters of the Islamic regime turned out on Saturday morning, reportedly chanting slogans against the US and in support of revenge for the ayatollah's killing. "We came [to the funeral] because we promised the supreme leader we would stand by him to the very end," 37-year-old professor Reza told news agency AFP in the Grand Mosalla's courtyard. "For a long time, we shouted that we would



sacrifice our lives for the leader, but it was he who sacrificed himself for us." Arash Rahimi, 40, told Reuters: "Everyone here has come to avenge the blood of their supreme leader. "As our leader has said, we have a blood feud with the United States. Our relations with the United States will never be good." Khamenei was killed during joint Israeli and US strikes on Iran in late February, in what quickly spiralled into a wider region-

al conflict. US President Donald Trump said Iran's government was "dying to settle" a peace deal to end the war after a preliminary agreement was struck between the two, adding on Friday: "We gave them [Iran] a week off for a funeral because we're nice." Much of central Tehran will be locked down over the weekend as the funeral ceremony gets under way. It is expected to be the largest funeral ever in terms of attendees as a pro-

portion of the country's population. Khamenei's body will lie in the Grand Mosalla for three days, alongside the remains of family members who were also killed in the air strikes. There will then be three further days of events outside of the capital. On Tuesday, his body will be moved to Qom, to the south of Tehran, where a senior Shia cleric will lead funeral prayers at Jamkaran, one of Iran's most prominent and symbolic religious sites.

Keiko Fujimori declared winner of Peru's presidential election weeks after vote

Right-wing candidate Keiko Fujimori has been declared the winner of Peru's tight presidential election, nearly a month after the vote took place. The 51-year-old won 50.135% of voters' support in the runoff, held on 7 June, to 49.865% for left-wing candidate Roberto Sánchez - a margin of less than 50,000 votes, figures certified by Peru's electoral court show. It is the fourth time the daughter of disgraced former President Alberto Fujimori has sought the South American nation's presidency, promising this time to oversee a crackdown on organised crime. Her election, coinciding with the election of Abelardo de la Espriella in Colombia, marks a shift towards the right in Latin American politics. Fujimori said she would assume the role of president "with responsibility, humility and a deep sense of duty". "Each day of this transi-



tion process is an opportunity to listen, engage in dialogue and arrive prepared at the start of the new government," she added, with what appeared to be a nod to her thin mandate. Sánchez, 57, has alleged the runoff election had been "seriously compromised" and threatened legal action, arguing that strong support for Fujimori among Peruvian voters abroad was a sign of irregularities. After the result was declared on Friday, his party appealed against the electoral court's proclamation, calling for the vote to be nullified.



Brutal heat cancels Fourth of July events, from DC to Philadelphia

Taylor Swift marries Travis Kelce in NYC ceremony officiated by Adam Sandler

Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce have officially tied the knot at New York's Madison Square Garden, in a star-studded ceremony officiated by actor Adam Sandler. The pair wore Christian Dior, Swift's publicist said, and did not have bridesmaids and groomsmen. Swift's brother, Austin Swift, served as her man of honour, and Jason Kelce, Travis's brother, was his best man. The event shuttered one of Manhattan's busiest corridors and brought out Hollywood A-list stars, such as actors Hugh Grant and Jason Sudeikis, singer Benson Boone and model Gigi Hadid. Fans huddled outside the venue throughout the day, with some onlookers climbing scaffolding to



try catch a better view. The wedding celebrations began on Thursday with a much smaller "pre-party" event, according to permit filed with New York City officials. The ceremony on Friday was much a larger event, with a stream of blacked-out SUVs seen driving through a pop-up tent erected outside the stadium to shield guests' arrival.

Some celebrity guests were still spotted upon their arrival, including model Gigi Hadid, her actor boyfriend Bradley Cooper, actress Dakota Johnson, and members of Kelce's football team, the Kansas City Chiefs. As Swift's publicist, Tree Paine, said confirmed the pair had officially wed, an announcement appeared on a display outside

Madison Square Garden that read "JUST&T MARRIED" - a play on Taylor and Travis's names. Jonathan Anderson, a creative director at Dior, designed Swift and Kelce's outfits, Paine said. "This is the designer's first couture wedding dress for a world-renowned celebrity," Paine said in a statement. Their shoes were custom made by Christian Louboutin, she added, and Swift wore Cartier jewellery. The New York City Police (NYPD) closed the streets around the arena midday, closing them off to vehicles and pedestrian traffic. Swifties - the singer's legion of fans - lined nearby blocks around the arena, braving sweltering temperatures of up to 37C (98.6F).

Portugal Reach Dallas Ahead Of FIFA World Cup Clash With Spain

Portugal superstar Cristiano Ronaldo reached Dallas with the national side ahead of their FIFA World Cup round of 16 clash against Spain. Spain versus Portugal, scheduled for July 7, 12:30 AM, is set to be a clash of generations, with the 41-year-old Portugal icon, club football giant Cristiano Ronaldo, set to encounter the next generation of Spanish football, spearheaded by 18-year-old Lamine Yamal. The 2010 champions, Spain, who have not conceded in any of their FIFA WC 2026 games so far, will face a tough test against Cristiano's men, who are still searching for that perfect all-round game, especially against big sides. The match against Spain takes place on July 7, 12:30 AM IST. Posting an Instagram story, Cristiano greeted fans in Dallas with a caption, "Hello Dallas" Against Croatia in the round of 32, Ronaldo became the first player in history to feature in a FIFA World Cup knock-



out match at the age of 41 or older. The match also marked a unique milestone, as it was the first in World Cup history to feature two outfield players aged 40 or above, with Ronaldo facing former Real Madrid teammate Luka Modric. The appearance also saw Ronaldo extend another record, as he became the oldest goalscorer in World Cup

knockout history at 41 years and 147 days, further underlining his longevity and enduring impact at the highest level. This was also his first-ever FIFA World Cup knockout goal, removing a massive stain from his illustrious career. Portugal started off with a dull 1-1 draw against DR Congo in the group stage, with Cristiano failing to make an impact

and inviting a lot of criticism with his poor performance. During the match against Uzbekistan, a 5-0 win, Ronaldo led Portugal's charge with two goals, while Nuno Mendes and Rafael Leao also found the net. An own goal involving Uzbekistan goalkeeper Abduvohid Nematov further compounded the misery for Fabio Cannavaro's side as

Roberto Martinez's men secured their first win of the tournament in emphatic fashion. Ronaldo's brace saw him become Portugal's all-time leading scorer in FIFA World Cup history, taking his tally to 10 goals, surpassing Eusebio's record of nine. Eusebio, a Portuguese legend and 1965 Ballon d'Or winner, famously guided the team to third place at the 1966 World Cup. Behind Ronaldo and Eusebio, Pauleta is third on Portugal's World Cup scoring list with four goals. Ronaldo also became the first player to score in six different FIFA World Cup tournaments, ending his 10-match goalless streak across major competitions (the FIFA World Cup and the Euro Championship). After this, they made it to round of 32 with a goalless draw against Colombia. Against Croatia, they managed to survive the lead taken by the 2018 runners-up, with Cristiano and Goncalos Ramos firing goals to lead them to 2-1 win.

Stay humble - the Premier League feud about to hit world stage

One of the Premier League's most gripping personal feuds goes global on Sunday when Brazil face Norway in the World Cup last 16. Norway's irresistible force of Manchester City striker Erling Haaland comes up against Brazil's immovable object in the shape of Arsenal defender Gabriel in New York New Jersey Stadium. Haaland and Gabriel have been central figures as their clubs battle for domestic supremacy, creating a rivalry that regularly boils over into animosity. The outcome of their latest confrontation will go a long way to deciding whether it is Brazil or Norway who advance to the quarter-finals, where they will face either England or Mexico. Former England striker Chris Sutton told BBC Sport: "For all the battling for the Golden Boot between the greats such as Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappe, Harry Kane and Haaland, there have not been any great personal duels. Now we have one. "This is the standout per-



sonal duel of the World Cup so far and make no mistake, it will have a huge bearing on the outcome of the game. "It is the standout because of the bad feeling we know exists between the pair. I am sure there is a level of respect great players have for each other, but everything we've seen between them suggests they don't like each other too much." Former England captain Alan Shearer is also relishing the confrontation between the pair, saying: "That will be a great battle because there is definitely a

bit of niggle there. "They don't like each other which is fine, you don't have to like your opponent, and we have seen them have clashes before so that's definitely one to look forward to." Adding further intrigue is the statistical quirk that five-time world champions Brazil have never beaten Norway in four attempts - drawing two and losing two. This makes Norway the only side the Selecao have faced, but never won against. Turn the clock back to Sunday 22 September, 2024.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's 1st Social Media Post After India Debut Takes Internet By Storm

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi took to social media to share a heartfelt message for his fans after making his international debut for India in the second T20I against England on Saturday. The 15-year-old prodigy had been the subject of much discussion after Team India opted not to hand him his debut cap during the two T20Is against Ireland, despite his heroics in the IPL. After missing the opening match of the five-game series against England, Sooryavanshi finally got his opportunity in Manchester and scored 14 runs off 10 balls in his first international outing. Although India ended up losing the match by four wickets, Sooryavanshi's debut emerged as the biggest talk-



ing point of the day. The young batter expressed his gratitude to fans, teammates, and senior players, thanking everyone who supported and believed in him throughout his journey. Sharing a photograph of himself in the India jersey on his Instagram story after the match, the teenage batter

said representing the national team was a privilege and pledged to continue giving his best whenever called upon. "Overwhelmed by all the messages. Thank you to everyone of my well-wishers and seniors for your constant love and support. I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to represent my country, and I'll

always try to give my best for my team every single time. Thank you for everything, everyone," the 15-year-old, who broke Sachin Tendulkar and Shafali Verma's record to become the youngest debutant, wrote in an Instagram story. His emotional post quickly drew praise from fans, who congratulated him on achieving a major milestone and wished him success for the future. Speaking of the game, the hosts bounced back emphatically to defeat India by four wickets in the second T20I, chasing down 191 with an over to spare. Despite Arshdeep Singh's double strike in the opening over, Harry Brook's explosive 39 off 15 balls shifted the momentum before Jacob Bethell anchored the chase with an unbeaten 76 off 46 deliveries.

Sunil Gavaskar Hits The Bull's-Eye On Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Getting Stumped On 14 In Debut India vs England Match

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's international debut innings lasted 10 balls. In those 10 balls, two deliveries from Jofra Archer and Josh Tongue flew for sixes. He did announce his arrival on the big stage, but had he scored a few more runs, billions of fans watching the second India vs England T20I would have enjoyed it even more. On the fifth ball of the fifth over, Sooryavanshi was stumped off Will Jacks. The left-hander stepped out against a flat delivery outside off, but his attempted cut went in vain as he was outfoxed and Jos Buttler completed the dismissal. Sooryavanshi returned with 14 off 10 balls. India great Sunil Gavaskar said it was highly uncharacter-



istic of Sooryavanshi to go for such a cut shot. "That is not his shot. His shot is the cover drive," Sunil Gavaskar said on Sony Sports while discussing Sooryavanshi's dismissal. Earlier, Gavaskar called Sooryavanshi India's baby. "I won't be surprised if he gets going from the first ball. Everybody watching in India will be jumping.

held by Sachin Tendulkar (Test debut at 16 years and 205 days; ODI debut at 16 years and 238 days). Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's much-awaited and massively hyped debut ended in a whimper, but India, riding on Tilak Varma's last-over heroics, managed a decent 190 for 7 against England in overcast and windy conditions during the second T20 International on Saturday. Sooryavanshi struggled to cope with the extra bounce but hit a six each off Archer and Tongue. The first came when Archer tried to cramp him for room, and the left-hander played a no-look whip-scoop behind square for six. The shot against Josh Tongue was a more familiar IPL-style hoick over long-on.

HODGKINSON BEATEN INTO SECOND BY ODIRA IN EUGENE

Olympic 800m champion Keely Hodgkinson was beaten for the second consecutive Diamond League race as she finished behind Lilian Odira in Eugene. The Kenyan athlete, who is the reigning world champion over the distance, surged past the Briton in the home straight to win in a time of one minute and 56.19 seconds. It was a season's best performance for-



mance from Odira, with Hodgkinson crossing the line second in one minute and 56.73 seconds, well short of the British record she set in Stockholm in June, when Audrey Werro triumphed. It was also way off the oldest world record on the track of one minute 53.28 seconds set by Czech athlete Jarmila Kratochvilova in 1983.

However, that never looked like being a realistic goal in Oregon, with Hodgkinson emerging for the race with both knees heavily strapped - after a bad fall - and as a consequence, making a laboured start. It has been a mixed season for Hodgkinson, who had to pull out of the 400m final at the UK Athletics Championships last month after feeling "a little twinge".

Babar Azam Handed Big Responsibility As Pakistan Make Test Leadership Change

=Star batter Babar Azam has returned as Pakistan's Test captain after the team announced its squad for the upcoming series against the West Indies and England. Babar replaces Shan Masood at the helm of the Test side as Pakistan look to strengthen their chances in the World Test Championship cycle. The selectors have made several changes to the squad, including the inclusion of four uncapped players. Pakistan will face the West Indies in a two-Test series starting July 25, before taking on England in a three-match Test series beginning August 19. The four uncapped players are, left-arm spinner Ali Usman, batter Muhammad Awaiz Zafar, fast bowler Ubaid Shah, and wicketkeeper-batter Muhammad Ghazi Ghori. Meanwhile, Saud Shakeel has been included in the squad for the England



series, subject to passing a fitness test ahead of the tour. Pakistan are currently placed ninth in the World Test Championship standings. It is worth noting Shan Masood's stint as Pakistan's Test captain proved to be one of the most challenging in the format's history. He led the side in 16 Tests and suffered defeat in 12 of them, making him the first captain in Test cricket to lose as many as 12 of his first 16 matches in charge. Under his leadership, Pakistan also went through a

seven-Test losing streak, matching the team's longest sequence of defeats in the longest format. Pakistan squad for West Indies: Babar Azam (c), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Fazal, Ali Usman, Azan Awaiz, Imam ul Haq, Khurram Shahzad, Mohammad Abbas, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Awaiz Zafar, Muhammad Ghazi Ghori, Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha, Shan Masood, Ubaid Shah Pakistan squad for England.

Eala wins 'for all the girls with ruffled socks and chubby cheeks'



Three years ago, Alexandra Eala was presented with her graduation diploma from the Rafael Nadal tennis academy by Iga Swiatek. The Pole was world number one and had just won her third French Open title. She told the players assembled in front of her that she hoped they "would give 100%" to whatever they did in the future. "I hope you will be tenacious," she said, "external I hope no matter what you do in the future years, if you're going to do it the best way possible, I'm sure you'll have no regrets at the end." Eala took those words to heart. On Saturday, she produced a brave, crowd-enthraling performance on Wimbledon's Centre Court to stun defending champion

Swiatek 7-6 (11-9) 6-2. With it, she became the first player from the Philippines to reach the fourth round of a Grand Slam in the Open era. Asked what the victory meant, the 21-year-old replied: "I went to train every day after school with my ruffled socks, light-up shoes and chubby cheeks - to younger me this is everything. "It is incredible to have my countrymen cheering me on, knowing that we are all in this together. "This goes out to them, my family and all the girls with ruffled socks and chubby cheeks. It means the world." Eala played tennis as a youngster with her brother and grandfather, telling she "still can't keep up" with her older brother, even now.



France head coach Didier Deschamps defended captain Kylian Mbappe regarding criticism over his leadership during the ongoing FIFA World Cup 2026. There has been a lot of chatter on social media regarding Mbappe's status in the team with more users even inking-

"You Make Him Seem Like A Dictator": France Coach Makes Huge Remark On Kylian Mbappe

ly referring to him as 'dictator'. Deschamps completely dismissed such talks and said that his perceived image is nowhere close to his presence in the squad. "No, he hasn't changed. You make him seem like a dictator. Kylian has an image for some people on the outside that doesn't correspond at all to reality," Deschamps told reporters after Mbappe scored to guide France to the quarterfinals with a 1-0 victory over Paraguay. Deschamps said his players were prepared for Paraguay's physical approach. Reflecting on the fiercely contested Round of 16 encounter, Deschamps said his squad had anticipated the nature of the match and managed to remain disciplined

throughout. "I've seen a lot of things," Deschamps said, as quoted by Reuters. "I have prepared the players. The players were expecting this game. I do not want to criticise Paraguay. Each team plays the way they want. But there were some insults from the other bench which I could have done without," he added. "The most important thing is that by the end of the game, there were no disagreements and that we (did not) get another card," he said. Deschamps acknowledged the physical nature of the contest, saying both teams committed numerous fouls. "We got three yellow cards with a lot of fouls. I'm not say-

ing that we did not make any fouls, but there were a lot from both teams." The France coach also dismissed suggestions that Mbappe had only recently developed into a mature leader, insisting the striker had always displayed those qualities while representing the national team. "There was a lot of media saying that he has evolved," Deschamps said, as quoted by Reuters. "I don't want to contradict myself, but Kylian has an image for you that is far from reality." "I don't want to lie. I've said from the first day that he had this spirit. He gave all his athletic efforts. He's a great top-notch player on the pitch. But when he speaks, he speaks for the entire group."

Lovely Hero Aadi Saikumar Launches Heartwarming Track "Aanandhala Vela" From Vasudheva Sutham

The promotional campaign for Vasudheva Sutham continues to build momentum with the release of another melodious track, Aanandhala Vela. The lyrical song was officially unveiled by Lovely Hero Aadi Saikumar, who extended his heartfelt wishes to the entire team after watching the video. Impressed by the film's promotional material, he described the project as highly promising and wished everyone involved great success ahead of its theatrical release.

Produced by Dhanalaxmi Badarla under the Rainbow Cinemas banner and directed by Vykunt Bonu, Vasudheva Sutham stars Master Mahendran and Ambika Vani in the lead roles. The family entertainer laced with devotional and action elements is all set to arrive in theatres on July 10.

Over the past few weeks, the film has steadily generated curiosity with its first-look posters, glimpse, teaser, and trailer, all of which have received an encouraging response from audiences. Taking the musical promotions a step further, the makers have now



The promotional campaign for Vasudheva Sutham continues to build momentum with the release of another melodious track, Aanandhala Vela.

Aanandhala Vela, a cheerful and emotionally uplifting number that beautifully reflects the warmth and togetherness at the heart of the film. Penned by Chaitanya Prasad, the song is elevated by the soulful voices of Sai Charan Bhaskaruni and Shruthika Samudrala, while star

composer Mani Sharma enriches it with a vibrant and memorable melody. The visuals accompanying the lyrical video radiate festive energy and family bonding, making the song an instant feel-good celebration. The song goes beyond family and talks about the power of love and emotional connections. It says that love brings hope, dreams, and happiness into life. The catchy tune and uplifting music make these emotions even more special and enjoyable. Overall, Aanandhala Vela is a

heartwarming song that celebrates love, family, and togetherness. The song indeed raises expectations for Vasudheva Sutham, giving audiences a glimpse of an emotional and entertaining film. Adding further strength to the technical team is cinematographer Jiju Sunny, widely recognized for his acclaimed work in Parking. With its promotional campaign striking the right chord and the music receiving a positive response, Vasudheva Sutham is gearing up for a grand theatrical release in 5 more days.

Chennai Love Story Hosts Grand Love Carnival in Vijayawada



AP Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishnam Raju and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh Attend the Grand Love Carnival Event of Chennai Love Story in Vijayawada; Fourth Single "Hoyila Hoyila" Released Hero Kiran Abbavaram impresses with his natural and settled performance – Andhra Pradesh Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh The songs themselves reveal that Chennai Love Story will be an emotionally touching film – Andhra Pradesh Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishnam Raju Audiences will enjoy the beautiful and meaningful aspects of love explored in Chennai Love Story – Producer SKN Chennai Love Story will

surely win your hearts – Story Writer and Producer Sai Rajesh Chennai Love Story will be a timeless romantic film that audiences will cherish for years – Producer Dheeraj Mogilineni Steven and Nidhi's love story is unlike anything you've seen before. They will become your friends by the end of the film – Actress Sri Gouri Priya Chennai Love Story will present a love story that audiences have never witnessed before on the big screen – Hero Kiran Abbavaram The grand Love Carnival event of Chennai Love Story was held amid enthusiastic cheers from fans at Raj Yuvraj Theatre in Vijayawada. Andhra Pradesh Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishnam Raju and State

Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh attended the event as chief guests, while Jana Sena Party leader Panchakarla Sandeep was also present. On the occasion, the makers officially launched the film's fourth lyrical single, "Hoyila Hoyila." Dheeraj Mogilineni said, "We held our first promotional event in Tirupati, and this event was initially planned for Visakhapatnam. Due to heavy rains, we shifted the venue to Vijayawada, which happens to be my hometown, making it even more special. Telugu cinema has witnessed many love stories, but Chennai Love Story will remain memorable forever. Audiences will witness its magic on July 24. Kiran Abbavaram has worked incredibly hard for this

film, even shooting continuously for nearly 60 hours without proper rest over the past few days. That's why I feel like calling him 'Kiran Bangaram.' Sri Gouri Priya will earn even more recognition with this film. Though director Ravi Namburri couldn't attend due to post-production work, he has made an excellent film. My friends Sai Rajesh and SKN have always stood behind my success." Actress Sri Gouri Priya said, "I love Vijayawada, and I'm delighted to celebrate our film with all of you here. Watching the teaser and songs with the audience today was an emotional experience. We've been working on this film for one and a half years, and in another 20 days, it will finally reach audiences.

Star Heroes Must Speak Up on Issues Facing Small Films: Actor-Director Sheraz Mehdi



Actor-director Sheraz Mehdi has alleged that a major conspiracy is being carried out against small-budget films in the Telugu film industry, claiming that it has now turned into a "mafia." Expressing his anguish over the difficulties faced during the release and re-release of his film O Andala Rakshasi, Sheraz addressed the media at the Telangana Film Chamber after he was allegedly denied permission to hold a press conference at the Telugu Film Chamber. Sheraz claimed that the Telugu Film Chamber refused to provide him a platform because they feared he would expose the industry's internal problems. "Whenever I speak about the issues in the industry, they fear I will reveal the truth about them. That is why I was denied permission to conduct a press meet at the Telugu Film Chamber," he alleged. Questioning the discrimina-

tion, Sheraz said that if even Hyderabad locals are not given an opportunity there, then who actually deserves it. He further stated that everyone in the Telugu Film Chamber—from the peon to the president—is aware of the industry's problems, but none of them has the authority to act. "They have all become mere puppets. Compassion has disappeared from the Chamber, and arrogance has taken its place," he remarked. Small Films Facing Severe Discrimination Sheraz alleged that small-budget films are being subjected to discrimination in every aspect, including theatrical releases, OTT platforms, audio rights, satellite rights, and dubbed-language rights. Recalling his own experience, he said: "I was promised 20 theatres in the city, but eventually I was given only five. That is why I had to cancel the original release."

ON THE OCCASION OF NANDAMURI KALYAN RAM'S BIRTHDAY, TEAM #VENKYANIL5 #NKRAR2 UNVEILED HIS TRADITIONAL & STYLISH FIRST LOOK

One of the most exciting projects in Telugu cinema is shaping up to be a perfect festive family entertainer as Victory Venkatesh, Nandamuri Kalyan Ram, and blockbuster hit machine Anil Ravipudi come together for a grand entertainer, currently referred to as #VenkyAnil5 and #NkrAR2. The prestigious venture is being produced by Sahu Garapati under the Shine Screens banner on a lavish scale. Adding further strength to the project, Suresh Productions, Smt. Archana, and Zee Studios are presenting the film. Marking Kalyan Ram's birthday, the makers unveiled his first look from the movie, presenting him in a lively and celebratory avatar. Dressed in a traditional white pancha and kurta with a flower garland around his neck, Kalyan Ram is seen striking an energetic dance pose with effortless swagger. Sporting stylish sunglasses and a cheerful smile, he radiates festive charm.

Set against the backdrop of a beautifully decorated traditional house adorned with colorful floral garlands and surrounded by women dancing joyfully, the poster perfectly captures the festive spirit of the film. It is truly an "Acha Telugu" first look, hinting at a wholesome family entertainer packed with fun, humor, emotions, and grand celebrations. Remarkably, Kalyan Ram opened an Instagram account (@nandamurikalyanram) to unveil and share his first look from the film. "It's always a delight to be in @AnilRavipudi's zone... This Sankranti 2027, get ready for a blast! #VenkyAnil5 #NKRAR2" he wrote on Instagram. This once again reflects the unique promotional strategies director Anil Ravipudi adopts for his movies. Bringing together an impressive ensemble, National Award-winning actress Keerthy Suresh stars opposite Venkatesh, while Krithi Shetty is paired with Kalyan Ram.



Narne Nithiin, Radha Krishna Reddy, Venkat K Narayana, KVN Productions' #NN5 Launched Grandly With Traditional Puja Ceremony

Young hero Narne Nithiin is continuing his impressive rise with an exciting new project after delivering a hat-trick of successful films. The actor has joined hands with director Radha Krishna Reddy, who recently made his directorial debut with Junior, for a youthful romantic entertainer. Tentatively titled #NN5, the film is being produced by Venkat K Narayana under the prestigious KVN Productions banner, with Lohitha NK as creative producer. Renowned for backing ambitious, high-scale ventures across multiple film industries, KVN Productions has earned a reputation as one of the country's leading production houses. Staying true to its legacy of delivering



grand cinematic experiences, the banner is mounting #NN5 with lavish production values, promising to present Narne Nithiin in a refreshing and entertaining new avatar. Anikha Surendran and Megha

Shetty play the female leads opposite Narne Nithiin. The film's creatively designed announcement poster, released earlier, has already sparked considerable curiosity among audiences. The film was launched

today with a grand traditional puja ceremony. Producer Venkat K Narayana sounded the clap for the muhurtham shot, while popular cinematographer Senthil Kumar switched on the camera.

Posani Krishna Murali Operation Aruna Reddy trailer release grand release on 17th of this month



The film team has released the official trailer of the film 'Operation Aruna Reddy' starring famous writer, actor and director Posani Krishna Murali in the lead role. On this occasion, the film unit has also officially announced the release date of the film.

'Operation Aruna Reddy' will hit the theaters on 17th of this month. Speaking on the occasion, Posani Krishna Murali said, "I am confident that this film will impress all sections of the audience. I request everyone to come to the theaters with their families and watch the film and support it."