









## DISAPPOINTMENT WRIT LARGE AFTER CONG TICKET DISTRIBUTION

AJIT MAINDOLA  
NEW DELHI

The political equation of Congress has become quite jarring with Lok Sabha elections just ahead. Internally, Congress is grappling with infinite issues and by fielding the formidable players into the fray has somehow, stirred the waters even further. Two of the Rajya Sabha members Digvijay Singh and KC Venugopal contesting Lok Sabha elections creating a situation of imbalance when it comes to Rajya Sabha. Moreover, now Deependra Hooda also wants to try his luck in the Lok Sabha. Congress needs at least 25 members for the post of Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha. Now if the party gives tickets to three Congress members Venugopal, Deependra Hooda and Digvijay Singh wins the Lok Sabha elections, then this number in Rajya Sabha will automatically reduce. It will become 25. If even a single seat is lost, Congress will forfeit its status as the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha. Similar to its position in the Lok Sabha, Congress' standing in the Rajya Sabha will mirror this outcome. Since 2014, Congress has



maintained a stronghold with 55 seats in the Lok Sabha. Presently, the party holds 29 seats in the Rajya Sabha. However, with Dheeraj Sahu's tenure from Jharkhand set to conclude in May, this number will diminish to 28. The party's fate hangs precariously on the brink of a miracle. As per all the latest opinion polls, the BJP appears poised to secure another resounding victory and form the government with an overwhelming majority. Given this bleak outlook, Congress' challenges are only set to compound post-June 4. Foremost among these challenges is the task of preserving the governments in the remaining three states, crucial as they are for securing Rajya Sabha seats in 2026. However, under the prevailing circumstances,

even the existing Rajya Sabha members may find their positions compromised. Internally, Congress is grappling with a multitude of issues. The party finds itself embroiled in dilemmas over several key seats, notably Rae Bareilly and Amethi, which traditionally fall under the domain of the Gandhi family. Additionally, the high command is struggling with the contentious issue of ticket distribution. In states like Delhi, despite securing three seats, discontent festers within the party owing to the considerable effort required to maintain these positions. Similarly, in neighboring Haryana, internal strife exacerbates the high command's woes. Despite being competitive on only two seats in Haryana according to most polls, the situation appears grim

for Congress. Of these seats, Rohtak and possibly Hissar seem particularly challenging, with Congress candidates seemingly at a disadvantage against the BJP. The high command finds itself in a crisis, torn between conflicting factions. Recommendations from former Chief Minister Bhupendra Hooda clash with the preferences of the RSK group comprising Randeep Singh Surjewala, Kumari Selja, and Kiran Choudhary. Numerous meetings have been convened to address these conflicts, but resolution remains elusive. Central to this crisis is the question of whether to field Deependra Hooda from Rohtak. Deependra's bid for the ticket is fueled by the impending end of his Rajya Sabha tenure in two years. Presently, the situation in Rohtak appears favorable for him, despite his father Bhupendra Hooda's reluctance to contest. The uncertain political landscape post-Lok Sabha elections further complicates matters, with no guarantee of a Congress government's return in Haryana or Deependra's chances of securing a Rajya Sabha ticket in the future.

## Minor fire breaks out at North Block, no casualties

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

A minor fire broke out on Tuesday on the second floor of the North Block, located in the high-security Raisina Hills. The building houses the Ministries of Home Affairs and Personnel. The fire brigade received information at around 9:22 am. Seven fire tenders were rushed to the spot to douse the blaze. According to the sources, no casualties were reported, and the blaze was brought under control. "Some furniture has been burned. The exact cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained," the sources said. Further details are awaited. Fire safety regulations in India are primarily governed by the National Building Code (NBC), which provides guidelines for fire prevention and safety measures in buildings. Additionally, various state governments may have their own regulations and guidelines related to fire safety. National Building Code (NBC). The NBC provides comprehensive guidelines for fire prevention, fire protection, and life safety measures in buildings.

## Obtained all requisite sanction in NewsClick case: Police

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Tuesday informed the Patiala House Court of Delhi that it has obtained all the requisite sanction under section 45 of UAPA and under Section 196 CrPC for the prosecution of the accused in the NewsClick Case. Delhi Police Special Cell, through Special Public Prosecutor Akhand Pratap Singh, submitted that all the sanction orders have been obtained, in total, there are three different sanction orders which are being filed in the form of supplementary chargesheet under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Noted the submissions, the Additional Sessions Judge, Dr Hardeep Kaur, deferred the matter for April 30, 2024, on the point of cognizance of chargesheet filed in the case and said she will have to read the chargesheet to take cognizance. The chargesheet has been filed by Special Cell of Delhi Police recently in Patiala House Court and contained nearly 8,000 pages with annexes. Special Public Prosecutors Advocate Akhand Pratap



Singh and Suraj Rathi apprised the court that the chargesheet named Prabir Purkayastha and PPK NewsClick Studio Pvt Ltd as an accused. According to Delhi Police, a chargesheet has been filed against Newsportal NewsClick and its founder, Prabir Purkayastha, in a case registered under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, following allegations that News Portal received huge money for pro-China propaganda. In the matter, NewsClick HR Head Amit Chakraborty has been turned approver in the case. Prabir Purkayastha, founder and editor-in-chief of NewsClick, along with the head of its human resources department, Amit Chakraborty, were arrested in the case on October 3, 2023. Both were arrested under stringent provisions of the

UAPA under sections 13, 16, 17, 18, and 22 of the UAPA, along with IPC sections 153A and 120B. The Delhi Police FIR stated that foreign funds in crores have been infused illegally in India by Indian and foreign entities inimical to India in pursuance of a conspiracy to disrupt the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India, to cause disaffection against India and to threaten the unity, integrity, and security of India. The Delhi Police's Special Cell, in its FIR against news web portal NewsClick's founder and Editor-in-Chief Prabir Purkayastha, stated that People's Dispatch Portal, owned and maintained by M/S PPK NewsClick Studio Pvt. Ltd., has been used for intentionally peddling false narratives through paid news in lieu of crores of Rupees of illegally routed foreign funds as part of conspiracy.

## Civil Services: Jamia Millia come off with flying colours

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

As many as 31 students from the Residential Coaching Academy (RCA), Centre for Coaching and Career Planning, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), cleared the Civil Services Main Exam, 2023. A total of 71 students from RCA appeared in the interview, of whom 31 got selected. Out of the 31 selected candidates, some are expected to get IAS and IPS, and the remaining candidates are likely to get IRS, Audit and Account Service, IRTS and other allied services of Group-A as per their ranking and choices. Nausheen, who secured the All India 9th rank, is the best performer from the RCA this year, the institution said. The RCA is funded by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to provide free coaching and residential facilities



to students preparing for civil service exams. Established in 2010 by the UGC under the aegis of Centre for Coaching and Career Planning (CC&CP), JMI provides free coaching, and residential facilities to students of SC, ST, women, and minorities for civil services and other competitive examinations. Students are selected for comprehensive coaching on the basis of an all-India written test followed by individual interviews. "This is a matter of great happiness for us. As many as 11 are women and 20

men. Here at the institution, mentoring is done at a very good level." Prof Samina Bano, Officiating Director, Academic Counsellor, RCA, Jamia, said. Prerna Singh, a student of RCA, Jamia Millia Islamia, who scored rank 271 in the UPSC 2023 exam, expressed her happiness. "This was my fourth attempt. I am happy and grateful. There are stages that are disheartening, but in the end, it's all about why you decided to go for it in the first place. My friends and mother have motivated me a lot for each attempt I have given."

## Court seeks ED's response on Kejriwal's plea for doctor consultation

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court on Tuesday issued notice to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on a plea filed by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal seeking to consult his regular doctor via video conference. Kejriwal, in his plea to Special Judge Rakesh Syal, mentioned that his blood sugar levels are fluctuating and expressed his desire to seek advice from his usual physician. The judge ordered the ED to present its reply by April 18, the date when the court is expected to address the issue. The ED's counsel, in opposition to his plea, contended that essential facilities for such patients exist in jail and he can undergo examination there. "Why is the ED opposing if I (Kejriwal) am



taking care of my health?" questioned Kejriwal's counsel. The court, on Monday, extended Kejriwal's judicial custody in the money laundering case related to the alleged excise policy scam until April 23. He remains incarcerated in Tihar jail. The AAP leader has been accused by the ED of being involved in the "entire conspiracy of Delhi liquor scam, in drafting and implementation of the policy, for favoring and benefiting from the quid pro, receiving kickbacks and eventually using part of proceeds of crime generated out of the scheduled offence in the campaign for Goa Assembly elections."

## Two robbers nabbed after encounter in Greater Noida, jewellery recovered

TDG NETWORK  
GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR

During police checking on April 15, the service road near Chuharpur underpass in Greater Noida witnessed an encounter between the Beta-2 police team and robbers. Two miscreants, Guddu, a resident of Nangla Pankhian village in Shahjahanpur, and Babu, a resident of Jabar Park in Delhi, have been arrested. The police also recovered a bag full of stolen jewellery, two illegal pistols with four live and one spent cartridge of 0.315 bore, as well as items like auto, screwdrivers, pliers, etc. used in the incident from the possession of the miscreants. According to the police, the miscreants had fired on the police team with the intention of killing. The team retaliated and the miscreant Guddu got injured. The injured criminal has been sent to the hospital for treatment. Two other accused have fled

from the spot taking advantage of the darkness and a search is underway. Ashok Kumar, ADCP of Greater Noida, said, "Beta-2 police station has achieved great success... During the checking, the police team saw a suspicious tempo coming and tried to stop it but it didn't stop and they ran towards IFS colony... The people left the tempo and ran towards the forest and fired on the police team. The police team retaliated by firing on them. In this, one of the accused named Guddu suffered a bullet injury in his leg... The team caught another accused named Babu... A combing operation is underway to catch the other

two accused." Both the arrested robbers are vicious criminals who keep illegal weapons like pistols and commit the crime by breaking the lock, latch, gate, etc. of the house at night. Accused Guddu, along with his arrested co-accused Babu and other associates, had committed the theft incident on March 8 in the villa of the IFS Society, a closed house under the Police Station Beta-2 area. Legal action is being taken against the accused. Guddu is an active member of the Pankhiya gang and was formerly jailed in 2022 in the police station of Beta-2 area in a case of robbery with a Navy officer.

*Police also recovered a bag full of stolen jewellery, two illegal pistols with four live and one spent cartridge etc that are used in the incident from the possession of the miscreants.*

## Devotees throng to Jhandewalan Temple on 8th day of Navratri

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Marking the eighth day of Navratri, early morning 'aarti' was performed at the Jhandewalan Temple in Delhi on Tuesday. People were seen standing in the queue, waiting patiently for their chance to offer prayers. Mantras were chanted by priests and holy songs were played on the temple premises. Chaitra Navratri, or Vasant Navratri, is celebrated during the spring season in India and it is considered to be an important nine-day celebration for the Hindu community. On the eighth day of Navratri, Maa Mahagauri is worshipped. The goddess, depicted with four hands and carrying a trident and a drum, rides a bull. Goddess Mahagauri has a white and bright complexion like the moon, wears white clothes and rides a bull,



which is why she's known by the names Shwetambardhara and Vrisharudha, respectively. This year, the Navratri festival, spanning nine days, commenced on April 9 and is set to conclude on April 17. Throughout this period, people have been venerat-

ing Maa Durga and her nine manifestations, known as the Navadurgas. The nine-day festival, which is also known as Rama Navratri, ends on Rama Navami, Lord Ram's birthday. During Chaitra Navratri, people fast and worship

goddess Durga. They also perform Ghatasthapana, the invocation of goddess Shakti, which is a significant ritual followed during the period. Navratri also celebrates calmness and peacefulness in the form of Maha Gauri Mata.

## PIL against dissolving Maulana Azad Education Foundation dismissed

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) that had sought quashing of Ministry of Minority Affairs's decision to dissolve the Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF). The bench of Justice Manmohan and Justice Mini Pushkar stated that this Court finds no merit in the present petition and is not inclined to interfere in the considered decision taken by the respondents. Accordingly, the present petition is dismissed, along with the pending applications. The bench observed that it is seen that the decision to dissolve the MAEF is a well-considered decision, duly taken by the General Body of the MAEF in terms of the authority vested in it by way of the Bye Laws of the MAEF and as per the provisions of the Act, 1860. This Court is not impressed by the various submissions advanced on behalf of the pe-



tioners with respect to dissolution of MAEF not being in conformity with the Act, 1860 or with regard to transfer of its funds. The decision to dissolve the MAEF has been duly taken by the General Body of the MAEF and this Court finds no impropriety or irregularity in the process adopted by the said General Body in arriving at the said decision, according to the order. In any event, this Court, in public interest jurisdiction (unlike civil original jurisdiction) is not supposed to examine and give a finding with respect to each and every procedural or

statutory violation. In public interest jurisdiction, the Court has to look at the "big picture" and ensure that the cause of the minorities, in particular the minority girl students, as canvassed by the Petitioners, is not prejudiced. Consequently, this Court takes notice of the various welfare schemes being carried out by the respondent Ministry to cater to the specific interests of the educational and vocational needs of the minority communities, including girls belonging to the said communities. There-

fore, the contention of the petitioners that the schemes of the respondent Ministry do not have objects similar to that of the MAEF, cannot be accepted, the order stated. Even otherwise, the scope of judicial review of the policy decisions taken by the government is very limited. Once a policy has been formulated by the government and a decision has been taken thereto, it is not for this Court to interfere in the said policy, only on the ground that a better policy could have been evolved. The plea moved by Professor Syeda Saiyidain Hamed and others through Senior Advocate Anand Grover and Advocate Fuzail Ahmad Ayubi stated that during the pendency of the present petition, the respondent ministry placed on record the minutes of the meeting of the General Body of MAEF held on March 7, wherein a unanimous decision to dissolve the MAEF was taken.

## GLOBAL ECONOMY REMAINS RESILIENT DESPITE CHALLENGES

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Despite gloomy predictions, the global economy remains remarkably resilient, with steady growth and inflation slowing almost as quickly as it rose. The journey has been eventful, starting with supply-chain disruptions in the aftermath of the pandemic, an energy and food crisis triggered by Russia's war on Ukraine, a considerable surge in inflation, followed by a globally synchronized monetary policy tightening.

Global growth bottomed out at the end of 2022, at 2.3 percent, shortly after median headline inflation peaked at 9.4 percent. According to our latest World Economic Outlook projections, growth this year and next will hold steady at 3.2 percent, with median headline inflation declining from 2.8 percent at the end of 2024 to 2.4 percent at the end of 2025. Most indicators continue to point to a soft landing.

We also project less economic scarring from the crises of the past four years, although estimates vary across countries. The US economy has already surged past its pre-pandemic trend. But we now estimate that there will be more scarring for low-income developing countries, many of which are still struggling to turn the page from the pandemic and cost-of-living crises.

Resilient growth and rapid disinflation point toward favorable supply developments, including the fading of energy price shocks, and a striking rebound in labor supply supported by strong immigration in many advanced economies. Monetary policy actions have helped anchor inflation expectations even if its transmission may have been more muted, as fixed-rate mortgages became more prevalent.

Despite these welcome developments, numerous challenges remain, and decisive actions are needed.

**INFLATION RISKS REMAIN**

Bringing inflation back to target should remain the priority. While inflation trends are encouraging, we are not there yet. Somewhat worryingly, progress toward inflation targets has somewhat stalled since the beginning of the year. This could be a temporary setback, but there are reasons to remain vigilant. Most of the good news on inflation came from the decline in energy prices and in goods inflation. The latter has been helped by easing supply-chain frictions, as well as by the decline in Chinese export prices. But oil prices have been rising recently in part due to geopolitical tensions and services inflation remains stubbornly high. Further trade restrictions on Chinese exports could also push up goods inflation.

**ECONOMIC DIVERGENCES WIDEN**

The resilient global economy also masks stark divergence across countries.

The strong recent performance of the United States reflects robust productivity and employment growth, but also strong demand in an economy that remains overheated. This calls for a cautious and gradual approach to easing by the Federal Reserve. The fiscal stance, out of

line with long-term fiscal sustainability, is of particular concern. It raises short-term risks to the disinflation process, as well as longer-term fiscal and financial stability risks for the global economy. Something will have to give.

Growth in the euro area will rebound but from very low levels, as past shocks, and tight monetary policy weigh on activity. Continued high wage growth and persistent services inflation could delay the return of inflation to target. However, unlike in the United States, there is little evidence of overheating, and the European Central Bank will need to carefully calibrate the pivot toward monetary easing to avoid an inflation undershoot. While labor markets appear strong, that strength could prove illusory if European firms have been hoarding labor in anticipation of a pickup in activity that does not materialize.

China's economy remains affected by the downturn in its property sector. Credit booms and busts never resolve themselves quickly, and this one is no exception. Domestic demand will remain lackluster unless strong measures address the root cause. With depressed domestic demand, external surpluses could well rise. The risk is that this will further exacerbate trade tensions in an already fraught geopolitical environment.

Many other large emerging market economies are performing strongly, sometimes benefiting from a reconfiguration of global supply chains and rising trade tensions between China and the US. These countries' footprint on the global economy is increasing.

**POLICY PATH**

Going forward, policymakers should prioritize measures that help preserve or even enhance the resilience of the global economy.

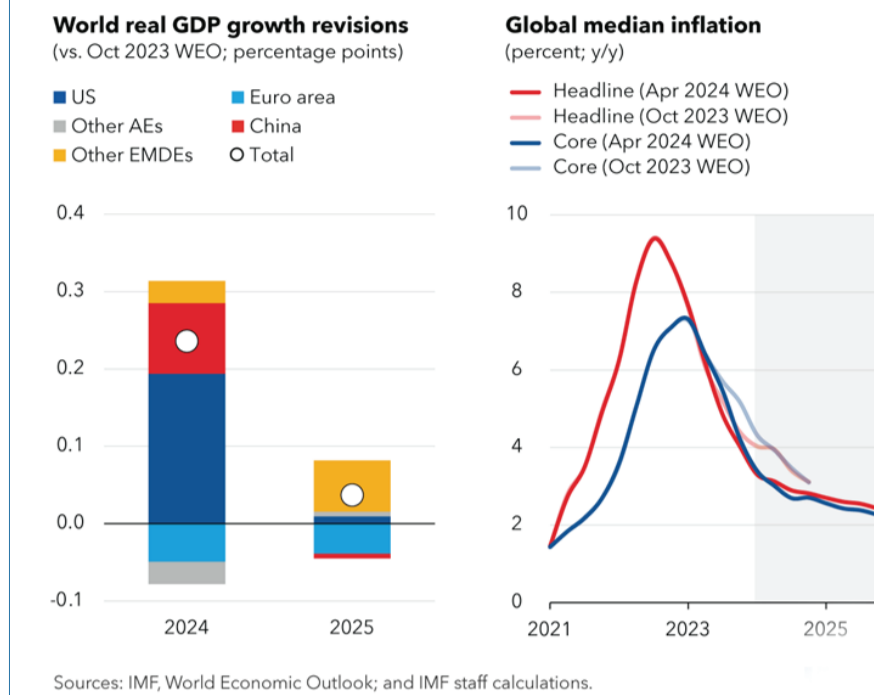
The first such priority is to rebuild fiscal buffers. Even as inflation recedes, real interest rates remain high and sovereign debt dynamics have become less favorable. Credible fiscal consolidations can help lower funding costs, improve fiscal headroom and financial stability. Unfortunately, fiscal plans so far are insufficient and could be derailed further given the record number of elections this year.

Fiscal consolidations are never easy but it is best not to wait until markets dictate their conditions. The right approach is to start now, gradually, and credibly. Once inflation is under control, credible multiyear consolidations will help pave the way for further monetary policy easing. The successful 1993 US fiscal consolidation and monetary accommodation episode comes to mind as an example to emulate.

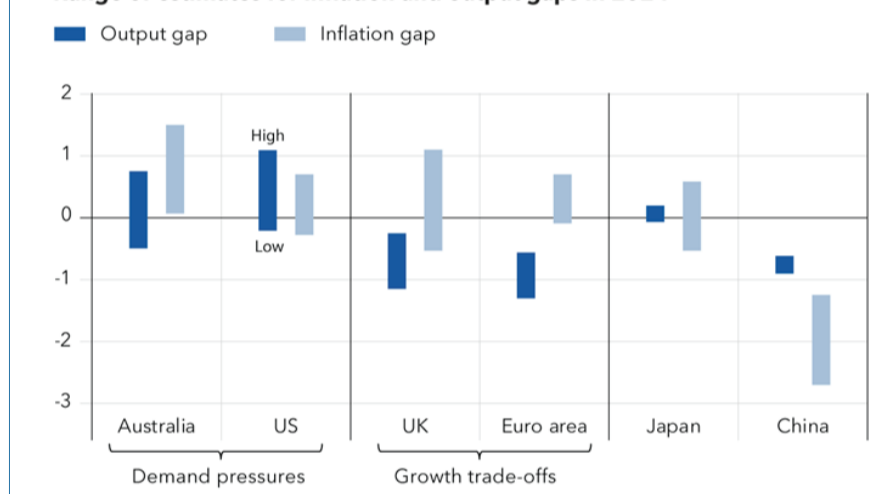
The second priority is to reverse the decline in medium term growth prospects. Some of that decline comes from increased misallocation of capital and labor within sectors and countries. Facilitating faster and more efficient resource allocation will boost growth. For low-income countries, structural reforms to promote domestic and foreign direct investment, and to strengthen domestic resource mobilization, will help lower borrowing

**Growth and inflation**

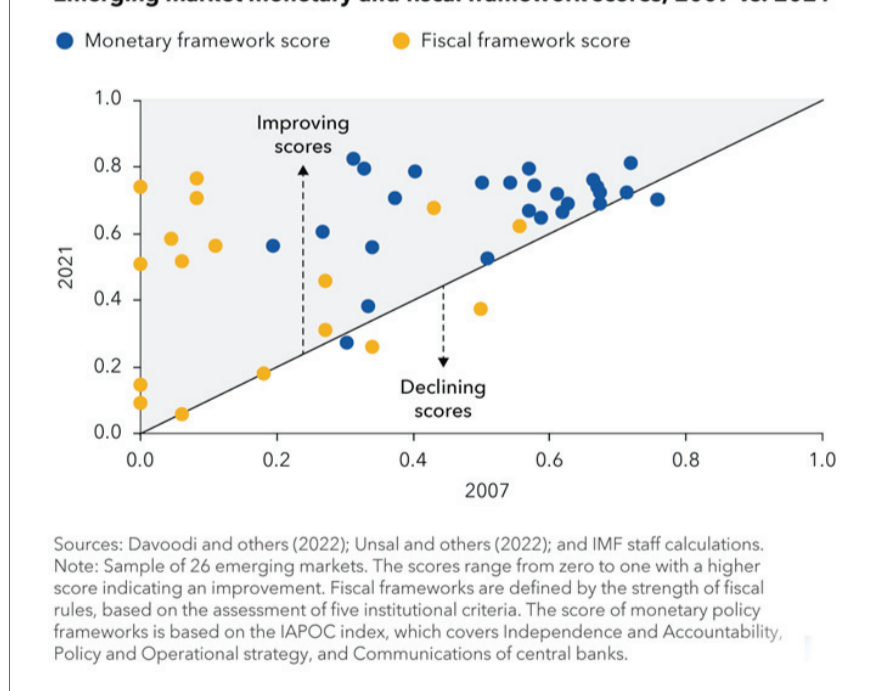
Forecasts for growth have been marked upwards, while inflation has been revised down and is continuing its downward trend.

**Monetary calibration**

Differences in the economy's cyclical positions – with output in some countries stronger than its potential and inflation above target – highlight the importance of tailored calibration.

**Range of estimates for inflation and output gaps in 2024****Improvements in policy frameworks**

Better monetary and fiscal policy frameworks since the global financial crisis have contributed to current economic resilience.

**Emerging market monetary and fiscal framework scores, 2007 vs. 2021**

costs and reduce funding needs. These countries also must improve the human capital of their large young populations, especially as the rest of the world is aging rapidly. Artificial intelligence also gives hope for boosting productivity.

It may do so, but the potential for serious disruptions in labor and financial markets is high. Harnessing the potential of AI for all will require that countries improve their digital infrastructure, invest in human capital, and coordinate on global rules of the road.

Medium-term growth prospects are also harmed by rising geoeconomic fragmentation and the surge in trade restrictive

and industrial policy measures. Trade linkages are already changing as a result, with potential losses in efficiency. The net effect could well be to make the global economy less, not more, resilient. But the broader damage is to global cooperation. It is still time to reverse course.

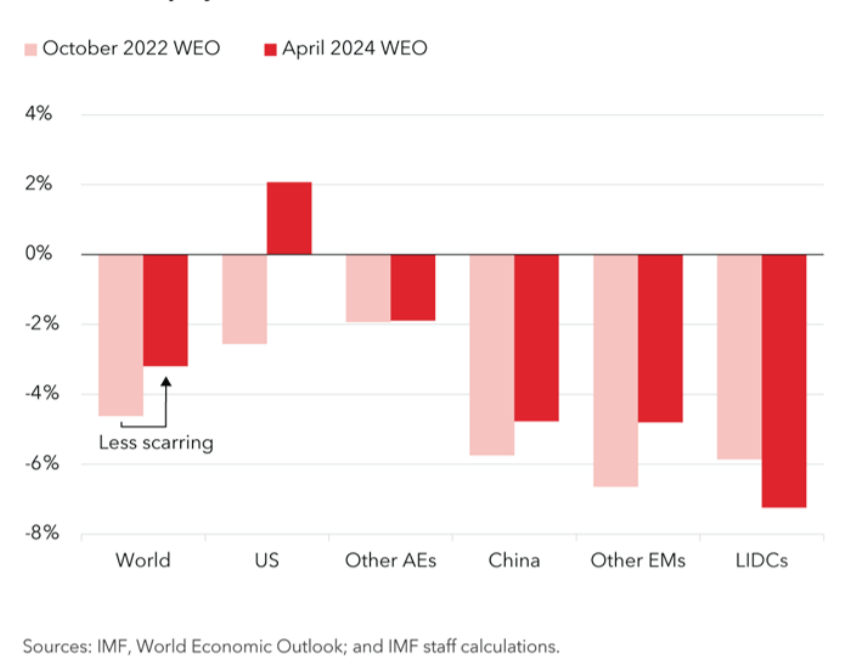
Third, a great achievement of the past few years has been the strengthening of monetary, fiscal and financial policy frameworks especially for emerging market economies. This has helped make the global financial system more resilient and avoid a permanent resurgence of inflation. Going forward, it is essential to preserve these improvements. That includes protecting the hard-

won independence of central banks.

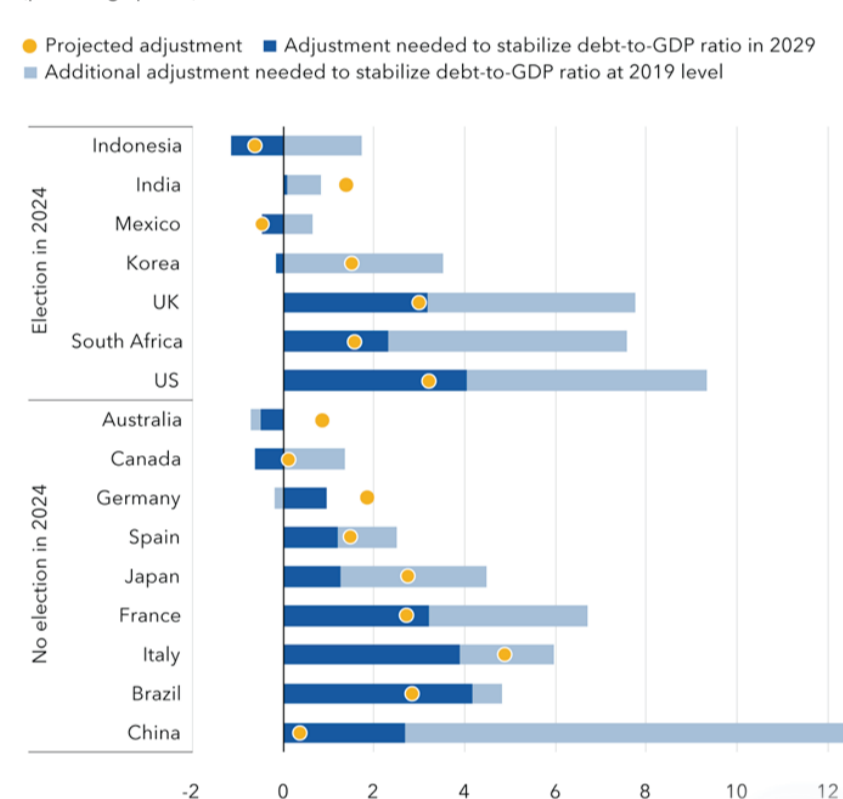
Lastly, the green transition requires major investments. Cutting emissions is compatible with growth and activity has become much less emission-intensive in recent decades. But emissions are still rising. Much more needs to be done and done quickly. Green investment has expanded at a healthy pace in advanced economies and China. The greatest effort must now be made by other emerging market and developing economies, which must massively increase their green investment growth and reduce their fossil fuel investment. This will require technology transfer by other advanced economies

**Scarring from the crisis**

Estimates of scarring are mostly revised down, with the exception of low-income countries, which continue to be severely affected.

**Difference in projected level of GDP at end-2024 vs. Jan 2020 WEO****Fiscal adjustment needs**

Many countries have large fiscal adjustment needs for debt sustainability and elections can add further pressure.

**Cumulative rise in primary-fiscal-balance-to-GDP ratio, 2023-2029****World Economic Outlook Growth Projections**

	PROJECTIONS		
(Real GDP, annual percent change)	2023	2024	2025
<b>World Output</b>	3.2	3.2	3.2
<b>Advanced Economies</b>	1.6	1.7	1.8
United States	2.5	2.7	1.9
Euro Area	0.4	0.8	1.5
Germany	-0.3	0.2	1.3
France	0.9	0.7	1.4
Italy	0.9	0.7	0.7
Spain	2.5	1.9	2.1
Japan	1.9	0.9	1.0
United Kingdom	0.1	0.5	1.5
Canada	1.1	1.2	2.3
<b>Other Advanced Economies</b>	1.8	2.0	2.4
<b>Emerging Market and Developing Economies</b>	4.3	4.2	4.2
Emerging and Developing Asia	5.6	5.2	4.9
China	5.2	4.6	4.1
India	7.8	6.8	6.5
Emerging and Developing Europe	3.2	3.1	2.8
Russia	3.6	3.2	1.8
Latin America and the Caribbean	2.3	2.0	2.5
Brazil	2.9	2.2	2.1
Mexico	3.2	2.4	1.4
Middle East and Central Asia	2.0	2.8	4.2
Saudi Arabia	-0.8	2.6	6.0
Sub-Saharan Africa	3.4	3.8	4.0
Nigeria	2.9	3.3	3.0
South Africa	0.6	0.9	1.2
<b>Memorandum</b>			
Emerging Market and Middle-Income Economies	4.4	4.1	4.1
Low-Income Developing Countries	4.0	4.7	5.2

Source: IMF, World Economic Outlook, April 2024

Note: For India, data and forecasts are presented on a fiscal year basis, with FY 2023/24 (starting in April 2023) shown in the 2023 column. India's growth projections are 6.9 percent in 2024 and 6.5 percent in 2025 based on calendar year.

and China, as well as substantial private and public financing. On these questions, as

well as on so many others, multilateral frameworks and cooperation remain essential for progress.

(This blog on IMF website is based on Chapter 1 of the April 2024 World Economic Outlook.)

## SALMAN KHAN'S RESIDENCE FIRING: COURT SENDS 2 ACCUSED IN POLICE CUSTODY TILL APR 25

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Two suspects linked to the shooting outside Salman Khan's residence in Bandra have been remanded to Mumbai Crime Branch custody until April 25 by Mumbai's Killa Court. Vicky Gupta and Sagar Pal, hailing from Bihar, were found to have ties to gangster Lawrence Bishnoi's syndicate during initial questioning.

Identified as Vicky Gupta (24) and Sagar Pal (21), both from Bihar, the accused were brought before the court following a medical examination.

Following their arrest, Kachchh DSP AR Zankant disclosed that preliminary interrogation revealed the suspects' affiliation with Lawrence Bishnoi's criminal network.

"Mumbai Police had been investigating the shooting incident outside Salman



Khan's residence. Upon learning that the two suspects had fled to Kuchchh, Mumbai Police informed Kachchh Police, leading to the apprehension of the suspects. Multiple teams were deployed for their capture. After arrest, the suspects were transferred to Mumbai Police custody. Initial questioning unveiled their links to Lawrence Bishnoi's gang," DSP Zankant stated.

It's noteworthy that since November 2022, Salman Khan's security has been heightened to Y-Plus due to threats from Lawrence Bishnoi and Goldy Brar. Khan

has also been granted permission to carry a personal firearm and has procured an armored vehicle for enhanced security.

Earlier, a press release issued by Bhuj police stated, "West Kachchh Police apprehended two members of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang responsible for firing outside Salman Khan's residence on April 14. The apprehended individuals, Vicky Gupta (24) and Sagar Pal (21) from Bihar, were handed over to the Mumbai Crime Branch for further investigation."

The shooting incident, which occurred on Sunday

morning, involved two unidentified assailants firing outside Galaxy Apartments, Khan's residence, before fleeing. The incident prompted swift action from law enforcement agencies. Preliminary investigation suggests the assailants arrived on a motorcycle, concealing their identities with helmets, indicating a pre-meditated attack.

They discharged four rounds during the incident, leaving behind a live cartridge at the scene.

Responding to the incident, Salman Khan's brother, actor Arbaaz Khan, expressed concern, stating that the "disturbing" incident has affected the family. "The recent incident of firing by two unidentified individuals on a motorcycle at Galaxy apartment, the residence of the Salim Khan family, is deeply disturbing. Our family has been shocked by this alarming incident.

## Ayodhya Ram Mandir to celebrate Ram Navami with great fervour

TDG NETWORK  
AYODHYA

Ahead of the last day of Chaitra Navratri and the occasion of Ram Navami, Ayodhya has geared up for the magnificent celebrations at the Ram Janambhoomi Temple. 56 types of Bhog Prasad will also be offered to Ram Lala.

Speaking to ANI, the chief priest of Ram Janambhoomi temple, Acharya Satyendra Das informed that all the arrangements for the festival are being managed by the trust and the occasion of Ram Navami will be celebrated with great enthusiasm. "...All arrangements are being made by the trust. The trust is also managing the decorations. Ram Navami will be celebrated with great enthusiasm."

The chief priest also hailed the celebrations as special as they are happening for the first time after the 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony.



On this occasion, Surya Abhishek of Lord Ram will also be held for five minutes at 12:16 pm. Ram Mandir Nirman Samiti chairman Nripendra Mishra said, "On Ram Navami, the sun rays will fall on Lord Ramala's forehead for about 5 minutes at 12:16 pm, for which important technical arrangements are being made. Scientists are working to display these moments with full grandeur." Rammavami, the birth festival of Lord Ram

Lala, will be celebrated at noon and various types of offerings will be made to the Lord. 56 types of Bhog Prasad have been given by the devotees today which will be offered to the Lord at noon on Wednesday.

Ahead of the celebrations, Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra, the trust constituted to look after the management of Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Mandir, has made special arrangements for the convenience of the devotees visiting during the festival.

On this occasion, Surya Abhishek of Lord Ram will also be held for five minutes at 12:16 pm. Ram Mandir Nirman Samiti chairman Nripendra Mishra said, "On Ram Navami, the sun rays will fall on Lord Ramala's forehead for about 5 minutes at 12:16 pm, for which important technical arrangements are being made. Scientists are working to display these moments with full grandeur." Rammavami, the birth festival of Lord Ram

Lala, will be celebrated at noon and various types of offerings will be made to the Lord. 56 types of Bhog Prasad have been given by the devotees today which will be offered to the Lord at noon on Wednesday.

## Need skills to go far beyond Earth's orbit: ISRO chief Somanath

TDG NETWORK  
BENGALURU

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief S Somanath said on Tuesday that the world space community needs to develop skills to go far beyond Earth's orbit, like the Earth-moon systems and solar planetary exploration.

"We also need to develop skills, especially when you are looking at future exploration, possibly not within the Earth's orbit, but also far beyond Earth's orbit, especially in the Earth-moon systems as well as in solar planetary exploration. I think all those areas are also becoming crowded. Especially domains like the moon are also becoming crowded. I believe that this group will be looking at that aspect as well in greater detail in the coming days..." Somanath said while speaking at the inaugural meet of the 42nd Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC).

The ISRO chief also issued a declaration saying that India aims to create debris free space missions by 2030.

"Debris free space missions by all Indian actors, govern-



we have a very clear laid out program in space exploration and space utilisation. Currently we have 54 spacecrafts in our orbit, plus there are non-functional objects. We have been taking very careful action wherever it is possible to dispose of or remove the space object from its active role once it is over and re-orbit and bring it to a safe location..."

The ISRO chief also proposed to ensure that the orbit around 400 kilometers are protected so that more space stations can come up to ensure sustained human presence in space.

"Our long-term space program definitely look at debris and its mitigation as one of the important topics. With the goal of building a space station in the coming days, we look at orbit where there are more space stations coming up at 400 km. I think this area should be protected for sustained human presence in space," Somanath said.

Somanath also stressed on having a relook into all space agreements to ensure less debris generation by all prayers in space.

## Hit-and-run horror: Biker's body transported 18 km on car roof in Andhra

TDG NETWORK  
ANANTHAPURAMU

A car driver in Ananthapuramu, Andhra Pradesh, collided with a biker and drove for 18 kilometres with the victim's body on the roof of the vehicle. The driver fled the scene and is still at large, but a murder case has been registered, and efforts are underway to apprehend the driver.

A fatal road accident occurred near Kothapalli in Atmakuru Mandal on Sunday night, resulting in the tragic death of a biker. The collision occurred when a car and a bike collided, causing Erriswamy to be thrown into the air and subsequently onto the car, where he succumbed to his injuries.

The driver of the car continued for approximately 18 kilometres without stopping, eventually coming to a halt at Hanimireddypalli before fleeing the scene. Authorities are currently piecing together the full sequence of events surround-



*The driver of the car continued for approximately 18 kilometres without stopping, eventually coming to a halt at Hanimireddypalli before fleeing the scene.*

ing the incident. Sub-Inspector Atmakuru Muneer Ahmed stated that upon receiving reports of the accident involving an Innova vehicle, law enforcement officers promptly responded and commenced an investigation. However, the body of the deceased biker was not initially located at the scene.

The driver, whose identity remains unknown at this time, abandoned the vehicle after sounding an alarm. Nonetheless, authorities have obtained relevant details, including the vehicle's registration number, and have activated the mobile phone found within the vehicle for further investigation. More details are awaited.

## Money laundering case: Hemant Soren files bail plea in Ranchi court

TDG NETWORK  
RAJGARH

Former Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren on Tuesday filed a bail petition before a special PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) court in Ranchi, claiming that his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) was politically motivated and part of a well-orchestrated conspiracy to pressure him into joining the BJP.

The special court scheduled April 23 as the next hearing date after the Enforcement Directorate requested time to respond.

The petitioner alleged, "The entirety of the petitioner's prosecution and arrest is politically motivated, driven by extraneous considerations and forms part of a meticulously planned conspiracy by the Central Government to coerce, intimidate, and disgrace prominent opposition figures like the petitioner, aiming to compel their alignment with the Bharatiya Janata Party or inclusion in the National Democratic Alliance."

The former Chief Minister was apprehended by the central investigating agency on January 31 in connection with a money laundering case associated with an alleged land scam immediately following his resignation as the Chief Minister.

He is presently incarcerated at the Birsa Munda Central Jail in Ranchi.



## Assam Rifles vehicle ambushed near Namdhang; one personnel injured

TDG NETWORK  
SHIVASAGAR

Assam Rifles vehicle ambushed near Namdhang; one personnel injured

At least one Assam Rifles personnel was injured after unidentified gunmen ambushed a vehicle of the security force at Namdhang area in Margherita bordering Arunachal Pradesh on

Tuesday, the officials said. According to the officials, the injured personnel have been airlifted for treatment.

"A vehicle-mounted patrol of three vehicles of Assam Rifles moving from Changlang towards Margherita was ambushed by unknown personnel near Namdhang at around 8:30 am on April 16," the officials said.

The officials further said that the troops retaliated and thwarted the ambush and in the process, one person sustained gunshot wounds.

"The individual has been evacuated to Military Hospital Jorhat and his condition is stable," they added.

Further details are awaited.



## Chhattisgarh Police announces Rs five lakh reward for sharing information on Naxals

TDG NETWORK  
KAWARDHA



Chhattisgarh police announced cash rewards for people for giving information about naxals and their activities.

Speaking to ANI, Kabirdham Superintendent of Police Abhishek Pallav said, "Those who will share the information regarding naxals will be rewarded with Rs 5 lakhs. The reward will be given by the government."

He further said, "If one naxal is arrested or killed, up to five people will be provided jobs on constable posts."

The district police officials have also visited homes in the district and shared information about giving a reward of Rs. 5 lakhs to those helping to arrest the Naxalites.

"This information has been circulated to 35,000 individuals in the last 3 days through pamphlets and WhatsApp. We are also forming civil defence groups in the villages to protect the villagers from the Naxalites," he added.

He said more than six police camps were opened in the last three months in the naxal-affected areas.

"Police camps have been opened at a range of 7-8 km in naxal-hit areas of the state. We are also running schools for small children in nine highly sensitive areas. We have arranged various sports activities for the youth. Naxalism will be eliminated from the Kawardha area in the next six months with the help of villagers," SP Abhishek Pallav said.

There have been instances where due to the heat, policemen posted at intersections to regulate traffic in the city fainted. Also, with the help of this cap, the effect of sunlight will be reduced significantly.

# ELECTION COMMISSION SHOULD BE BROAD-BASED, ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT

Old hands in Nirvachan Sadan favour induction of a retired Supreme Court judge in the EC

## OPINION

RASHEED KIDWAI



**E**ven as the first round of voting begins for 18th Lok Sabha, the politically surcharged atmosphere has every flavour of the season. The Central Election Commission has huge resources and powers to supervise polls but lacks spine and a will to act as impartial observer. Instead, it acts more like an observer, often reacting to the events and trying to do a balancing act instead the call of a spontaneous call of conscience seeped in propriety.

The Election Commission has a constitutional duty to act as a referee and all powers to exercise. But the three-member commission appears listless, careless, off-the-field third empire who occasionally wakes up from deep slumber or at the prodding of social and mainstream media to make its presence felt.

What is more glaring is the EC's method of punishment. During 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the election

commission had 'penalised' Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath for raising a bogey of "Bajrang Bali versus Hazrat Ali." Next, the election commission saw Adityanath's image beaming across tv news channels chanting Hanuman Chalisa during the supposed ban period. A somewhat triumphant Yogi had told CNN-News 18' then, "I was punished for taking Bajrang Bali's name. I chanted it for the period I was banned!"

Political leaders, mainly in the opposition ranks, accuse EC of being proactive against them, letting off the prime minister Narendra Modi, BJP and the NDA.

Toxic campaign is not alone where the election commission is seen as a hopeless, helpless, mute spectator. The government of the day has gone about conducting ED, CBI and income tax raids on many opposition leaders individuals considered sympathetic to them.

EC inaction is in sharp contrast to its assertiveness in 2014 when it had recommended postponing certain policy decisions of the government related to natural gas pricing and notifying ecologically sensitive areas in the Western Ghats. The EC had invoked the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).

It is pertinent to examine what is the Model Code of

Conduct? As I had tried explaining in a 2019 article for the Money Control, the MCC, mentioned in the article 324 of the Indian constitution, is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections, to ensure free and fair elections. The Constitutional provision gives the Election Commission the power to supervise elections and the MCC becomes operational from the date that the election schedule is announced till the date that results are announced.

The MCC was first introduced in the state assembly elections in Kerala in 1960 as a set of instructions to political parties regarding election meetings, speeches, slogans, etc. In the 1962 general elections to the Lok Sabha, the MCC was circulated to recognised parties, and state governments sought feedback from the parties.

The MCC was largely followed by all parties in the 1962 elections and continued to be followed in subsequent general elections. In 1979, the Election Commission added a section to regulate the 'party in power' and prevent it from gaining an unfair advantage at the time of elections. There are eight key provisions of the Model Code of Conduct dealing with general conduct, meetings, processions, polling day, polling booths, observers, party in power, and election manifestos. It includes issues like how one political party should criticise the other. The Criticism should be confined to their policies and programmes, past record and work. Activities such as: (a) using caste and communal



*EC inaction is in sharp contrast to its assertiveness in 2014 when it had recommended postponing certain policy decisions of the government related to natural gas pricing and notifying ecologically sensitive areas in the Western Ghats.*

feelings to secure votes, (b) criticising candidates on the basis of unverified reports, (c) bribing or intimidation of voters, and (d) organising demonstrations or picketing outside houses of persons to protest against their opinions, are prohibited. Even a cursory look at four phases of electioneering would show that none of these provisions were followed. There was no semblance of any MCC anywhere.. be it NDA partners of UPA allies or regional leaders.

It must be remembered and emphasized that Westminster model of parliamentary democracy has issues of propriety at premium. MCC therefore, is based on assumption that political parties and candi-

dates would accord importance to issue of propriety, ethics and morality. In the absence of these lofty principles, Westminster model is reduced to ashes. Britain, cradle of parliamentary democracy, has no written constitution, political defections are rare and conventions have greater say than rules and laws. The Indian experience is the reverse of it. MCC, without a stringent legal cover, is impractical and toothless.

Indian political parties, courts, media and other sections of society need to ponder over issues of electoral malpractices and revisit the entire issue of functioning of EC, applicability of MCC, electoral reforms and host of other issues. It is a cruel

Old hands in Nirvachan Sadan also favour induction of a retired Supreme Court judge in the Central Election Commission. There is a merit in it as ECI performs several important functions which are quasi-judicial in nature such as dealing with the crucial issue of the disqualifications of MPs and MLAs, petitions and interpretation of rules in the Representation of Peoples Act etc. the idea of ECI decisions getting overturned regularly is not healthy. Often, the ECI's opinions are binding on the President and Governors, therefore, there is a greater need for legally sound advice.

There is talk of Yogi Adityanath emerging as a strong second rung leaders with massive ground support. Of all the second rung leaders certainly both in terms of governance (being a two term CM) and a crowd-puller, Yogi has the potential to emerge as one of BJP's future leaders. It would be interesting to see the kind of play he gets post elections, keeping the post Modi scenario in mind.

## PERSPECTIVE GEN NEXT LEADERS

### BJP'S LEADERSHIP STAKES

Last week saw the launch of my book, The Contenders, Who will Rule India Tomorrow. The book looks at Gen Next leaders cutting across party lines (below the age of 55) and also takes a look at the leadership paradigms in the Modi era. For if there was no Modi dominating our political landscape, it would perhaps have been business as usual, specially for the Congress, with Rahul Gandhi much close to the Prime Minister's chair than he is currently. The one thing that Modi has done is to play the role of a disrupter. He has made dynasty a bad name, pitching the narrative of the kamdar versus the namdar. He has also brought in a decisive strong leadership that leads from the front, instead of leadership by proxy as we saw in the Sonia Gandhi-Manmohan Singh era.

But there is also one danger in such a central one man dominated leadership model. And that is the lack of a strong second rung. While both Advani and Vajpayee had groomed a second rung in the BJP (of which Modi himself is the beneficiary) this model is missing in the Modi-Amit Shah era. No one stands out in the BJPs second rung the way Modi, Arun Jaitely, Pramod Mahajan and Sushma Swaraj had emerged. They were not just powerless number twos, but powerful influencers who had a say in the political discourse of the party and to whom both Advani and Vajpayee looked to for help and even at times used as a sounding board. Short of Amit Shah perhaps, I cannot think of any second rung leader whom the PM would be using as a sounding board.

Yes, the PM and the BJP have tried to strengthen the second rung leadership by making a whole lot of cabinet ministers contest the Lok Sabha. This is to ensure that the governance rung of Modi's next government has a strong people's connect. But even if a majority of them win their seats, they will still not be given enough heft to contradict the Prime Minister in a cabinet meeting, the way the earlier second rung used to do in the Vajpayee government. And though given portfolios of importance it would be interesting to see which of these names gets accommodated in the Big 4 ministries - finance, external affairs, defence and home. Or will these remain with the current incumbents? For two the sitting ministers are not contesting the Lok Sabha but remain Modi favourites.

All in all, these elections are going to be interesting, not just for the immediate result but also for the impact they have on the BJPs future leadership model.

PRIYA SAHGAL

## Innovations in homoeopathic practice: Shaping the future of India's healthcare

## OPINION

DR SUBHASH KAUSHIK



Throughout the years, I have taken pride in acknowledging the significant strides made in homoeopathic research and practice, positioning it as the second most utilised system of medicine globally. However, there remains ample opportunity for further validation of the concepts and practices successfully employed by homoeopathic clinicians.

Despite encountering frequent skepticism, the trust instilled in homoeopathy by the public, along with unwavering support and dedicated efforts from stakeholders, has spurred the homoeopathic community to persist in its journey towards

becoming an evidence-based system of medicine. The establishment of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) in 1978 marked a pivotal moment, with its autonomy aimed at formulating research aims and patterns in line with scientific principles while also spearheading scientific research in both fundamental and applied aspects of homoeopathy.

Subsequent collaborations with national and international Institutes of Excellence have facilitated invaluable exchanges of information, contributing significantly to the advancement of homoeopathy. The international collaborations include countries like Israel, Brazil, USA, Argentina, Armenia, UK, Mexico, Canada, Australia, Russia, and Germany. The Council's multifaceted activities now encompass a broad spectrum, including clinical research, drug proving, clinical verification, surveying, collection, and cultivation of medicinal plants, drug standardisation, funda-

mental research, as well as public health programmes of national importance and health melas.

Efforts to disseminate research findings through various channels, such as research publications, monographs, seminars, workshops, and social media platforms, ensure that information reaches both professionals and the public. Overall, I am confident that our endeavours are in alignment with the organisation's objectives, representing an ongoing evolution within the system.

Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH), serving as the primary research organisation, has been instrumental in driving research-based activities since its inception. CCRH has been actively involved in creating awareness and conducting numerous field trials and preventive studies aimed at combating diseases such as dengue, chikungunya, Japanese encephalitis, and malaria. In the last 10 years, the council has initiated 41 research studies on various epidemic diseases that have shown promising results. During the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Ayush collaborated with the Council to issue advisories for homoeopathic prophylactic medicine. The nationwide distribution of



this medicine by the Council marked one of the largest drives undertaken during the pandemic. Following this, there was a notable surge in clinical research, with the Council collaborating with various allopathic hospitals and actively conducting 26 studies on COVID-19 and post-COVID treatment and prophylaxis.

Indeed, apprehensions often arise due to the distinctive and unique concepts underlying homoeopathy, necessitating a broader understanding beyond mere materialistic doses. Homoeopathic treatment involves administering minimal dosages of diluted medicines selected based on a patient's disease stage, individual sensitivities, and physical and mental constitution. While homoeopaths were once limited to illustrat-

ing the success of homoeopathic treatment through clinical cases alone, today, a substantial body of research evidence validates the core concepts of homoeopathy and elucidates the healing potential of highly diluted homoeopathic medicines. Researchers have employed advanced scientific methods, including transmission electron microscopy, electron diffraction, and chemical analysis by inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectroscopy, among others, to demonstrate the presence of nanostructures in homoeopathic medicines. Additionally, gene expression analysis, proteomic, and metabolic studies have provided insights into the involvement of homoeopathic medicines in various physiological pathways.

The efficacy of homoeopa-

thy has been substantiated by robust double-blinded clinical trials targeting specific diseases, both as standalone therapy and as complementary to conventional treatment. Moreover, the positive impact of homoeopathic remedies has been validated through successful applications in ailing animals and plants, dispelling the misconception that homoeopathic remedies merely trigger a placebo effect.

Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) has been tirelessly working to bridge the gap between homoeopathic practices and modern scientific validation methods. A comprehensive compilation of evidence supporting homoeopathy at clinical, biological, molecular, and even nanomolecular levels is available in the Council's publication,

the Scientific Framework of Homoeopathy, accessible on its website.

Homoeopathic medicines undergo rigorous quality control measures at various stages to ensure their efficacy and safety. In India, these medicines are regulated under the exclusive provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and Rules. Manufacturers adhering to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and pharmacopeial standards receive certification and recommendations. A pharmacovigilance initiative is also in place for Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, and Homoeopathic (ASU&H) drugs to collect, collate, and analyse data, establishing scientific evidence for their clinical safety.

While ultra-diluted homoeopathic medicines are generally considered safe, instances of adverse reactions have been reported when these medicines are used without proper guidance from a qualified homoeopathic practitioner. Hence, it is strongly advised to seek homoeopathic treatment from registered practitioners and obtain medicines from GMP-certified manufacturers.

India's rich heritage of traditional medicine and its widespread acceptance present an opportunity for the country to lead by example in integrative healthcare.

With healthcare systems worldwide facing diverse challenges, India's approach of integrating homoeopathy with mainstream medicine can alleviate issues related to accessibility and affordability. By offering validated treatment options, including alternative medicine, to patients, India can better address the healthcare needs of its population, especially in a scenario where a large segment struggles to afford quality medical care. In the face of the unique health challenges of the 21st century, homoeopathy, along with other alternative medical systems, emerges as a promising solution. I firmly believe that the future holds promising breakthroughs in homoeopathic research, solidifying its role as a pivotal component of the Indian healthcare system.

On the occasion of World Homoeopathy Day, the 269th birthday of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homoeopathy, on April 10, 2024, I encourage all healthcare professionals to embrace a spirit of open inquiry. By exploring the potential applications of homoeopathy within a collaborative framework, we can strive to improve the overall well-being of humanity.

Dr Subhash Kaushik, Director General, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH), Ministry of Ayush,



## ALL ABOUT RAILWAYS

Since 1853 to present, India has witnessed a miraculous change in the railway sector. On Tuesday, Indian Railways marks 171st anniversary of historic maiden journey from Boribunder to Thane.

### TDG NETWORK

The history of railways in India is a testament to their crucial role in shaping the country's economic, social, and cultural landscape. From its humble beginnings in colonial times to its status as one of the largest railway networks in the world, the Indian Railways continues to be a lifeline for millions of people every day. Today, we will provide you some insights on the glorious history of railways.

**Introduction of Railways:** The first railway in India was built under the British colonial rule in the mid-19th century. It was inaugurated on April 16, 1853, covering a stretch of 34 kilometers between Bombay (Mumbai) and Thane. This marked the beginning of the Indian Railways.

The history of Indian Railways goes back to 1832 when the modern plan was proposed. The innovative plan completely transformed the history of transportation of India. Though no action was taken for over a decade, in 1844 Lord Hardinge, the Governor General of India, allowed private entrepreneurs to launch the railway system.

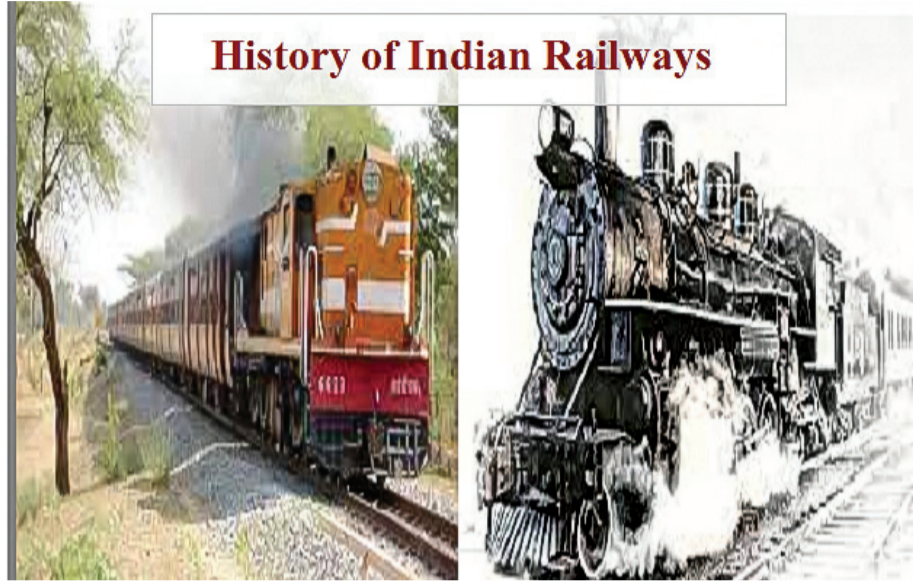
In 1845, the Indian Railway Association was formed, which was later incorporated into the Great India Peninsula Railway (GIPR). Among the 10 directors, there were only two Indians - Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy and Nana Shankarsheth. The first train that came on track on 22 December, 1851 was used for carrying construction material in Roorkee. It was the first steam locomotive named Thomason with 4'8.5" gauge engine, which was dedicated for transporting earthworks for the construction of the Solani canal near Roorkee. Though it had a very short life, it was still considered a pioneer that replaced horse cart with team locomotion. It was the beginning of the new era in the history of modern transportation.

Simultaneously, the East Indian Railway (EIR) was established in 1845 to introduce railways to eastern and northern India. On 16 April, 1853 the first passenger train service was started between Bombay (Mumbai) and Thane. It was a 14-carriage-long train drawn by three locomotives called Sultan, Sahib and Sindh. The train took about 45 minutes to cover 34 kms (21 miles). Since then, the Indian Railways has never looked back.

From 1857, Robert Maitland Brereton, a British engineer, was given the responsibility of expanding railway network and service. In 1800, the railway service, which was working through the major port cities of Bombay, Madras (Chennai) and Calcutta (Kolkata), mainly covered about 14,500 kms.

Following the success of the Bombay-Thane line, the British colonial government rapidly expanded the railway network across the country. The railways played a crucial role in facilitating trade, commerce, and the movement of goods and people across vast distances, thereby aiding British economic interests.

**Post-Independence:** After India gained independence in 1947, the Indian Railways underwent significant changes. It became a crucial tool for nation-building, con-



History of Indian Railways

necting distant regions and fostering economic development. The government invested heavily in modernizing and expanding the network.

Railway network of India was in a dilapidated state after India got independence in 1947. Newly created Pakistan got almost 40 per cent of the railway lines. For connecting important cities of India, new lines were constructed and existing lines were rerouted through India. 42 separate railway systems were combined with the Indian Railways, out of which 32 lines were owned by the former princely states.

The first locomotive manufacturing unit at Chittaranjan was commissioned in 1950. In December 1950, the Central Advisory Committee for Railways approved the plan for re-organising Indian Railways into six regional zones with the Southern (14 April 1951), Central (5 November 1951), and Western (5 November 1951) zones being the first to be created. On 14 April 1952, the Northern Railway, the Eastern Railway and the North Eastern Railway were created. In 1952, fans and lights were mandated for all compartments in passenger trains and sleeping accommodations were introduced in coaches. The first diesel locomotive used in India was fabricated by North British Locomotive Company in 1954. On 1 August 1955 the South-Eastern Railway was split from the Eastern Railway, and, the following year, divisional systems of administration were set up for the various regional zones. The first rail coaches were manufactured in India from 1956 when the Integral Coach Factory was established at Madras. In 1956, the first air-conditioned train plied between Howrah and New Delhi. In 1958, the North-Eastern Railway split to form a new Northeast Frontier Railway.

In 1957, Indian Railways adopted 25 kV AC traction with the first trial runs operating with the WAM-1 locomotives in 1959 and commercial services beginning in August 1960. In 1969, the Government of India announced the introduction of a new express train capable of reaching speeds of up to 120 km/h (75 mph) in

the railway budget and the first Rajdhani Express was flagged off from New Delhi to Howrah in March 1969. In 1974, Indian Railways endured a 20-day strike. In 1979, the Main Line Electrification Project was re-constituted into the Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE). In 1980, the WAP-1 electric locomotives reached a speed of 130 km/h (81 mph).

In 1951, the Indian Railways was formed as one nationalised unit and it became one of the largest networks all over the world.

### History and Growth of Indian Railways



The steam locomotives were phased out completely in 1985. 'The Nilgiri Mountain Railway' and the 'Darjeeling Himalayan Railway' were only spared as no other traction mode was found to be suited these lines.

Computerisation of reservation of railway tickets was first introduced in Delhi in 1986, and by 1995 the whole system got computerised. In 1998, Konkan Railways started operating. It covered the most difficult terrain of the Western Ghats

Modernization and Technological Advancements: In the latter half of the 20th century and into the 21st century, there have been significant strides in modernizing the Indian Railways. This includes the introduction of electrification, computerized reservation systems, high-speed trains, and the adoption of modern signaling and communication technologies.

A typical red-colored ICF coach used by the Indian Railways till the late 1990s. The first metro rail was introduced in Calcutta on 24 October 1984 with the line between Esplanade and Bhowanipore. In 1986, computerized ticketing and reservations were intro-

duced by Indian Railways. In 1988, the first Shatabdi Express was introduced between New Delhi and Jhansi. Two years later, the first self-printing ticket machine (SPTM) was introduced in Delhi. In 1993, air-conditioned three-tier and sleeper were introduced. In 1995, Chennai MRTS became the first operational elevated railway line in India. In 1995, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, a joint venture between Government of India and Government of Delhi was established. Centralized computer reserva-

tion system was deployed in Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai in September 1996, coupon validating machines (CVMs) were introduced at Mumbai CSMT in 1998 and the nationwide concierge system began operation on 18 April 1999. In 1999, the South East Central Railway zone was established and on 6 July 2002, the East Coast, South Western, South East Central, North Central, and West Central zones were created.

The Indian Railways website went online in February 2000. Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) was incorporated in 1999 and online ticketing was introduced on 3 August 2002 through IRCTC. The first line of the Delhi Metro was inaugurated on 24 December 2002. In 2012, Western Railway switched completely to AC traction with Central Railway following it in 2016. On 1 February 2014, Mumbai Monorail became the first operational monorail system in India. In 2015, the first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) powered trains were rolled out. On 5 April 2016, Gatimaan Express, then India's fastest train with a maximum speed of 160 km/h (99 mph), made its first run from

laid and existing ones being upgraded. By the early 20th century, the network had spread across much of the Indian subcontinent.

**Milestones and Achievements:** Indian Railways has achieved several milestones over the years. This includes the introduction of luxury trains like the Palace on Wheels and the Maharajas' Express, as well as the completion of ambitious projects such as the Konkan Railway and the Delhi Metro.

**Challenges and Opportunities:** Despite its successes, Indian Railways faces numerous challenges such as congestion, safety concerns, and the need for further modernization. Efforts are ongoing to address these challenges while also exploring opportunities for expansion and improvement.

**HI-SPEED TRAINS**  
India has been gradually modernizing its railway system, introducing new trains with advanced technology and amenities. Here are some examples of modern trains in India  
**Vande Bharat Express:** Vande Bharat Express is India's first semi-high-speed fully air-conditioned train, introduced in February 2019. It operates between Delhi and Varanasi, offering a comfortable and efficient travel experience with features like onboard Wi-Fi, GPS-based passenger information systems, and automatic doors.  
**Tejas Express:** Tejas Express is a series of modern, high-speed trains introduced by Indian Railways. These trains offer state-of-the-art amenities such as LCD screens, onboard entertainment systems,

New Delhi to Agra.

The central government approved the merger of the Rail and General budgets from 2017. On 31 March 2017, Indian Railways announced a target of electrifying the entire rail network would be electrified by 2023. In March 2020, Indian Railways announced a nationwide shutdown of passenger service to combat the COVID-19 pandemic in India with the freight operations continuing to transport essential goods. The railways resumed passenger services in a phased manner in May 2020. Introduced in 2019, Vande Bharat Express operating on a train-set built by ICF, is the fastest train in India

Starting in the 2010s, various infrastructure modernization projects have been undertaken including high-speed rail, redevelopment of 400 stations, doubling tracks to reduce congestion, refurbishing of coaches, Global Positioning System (GPS)-enabled tracking of trains and modernization of locomotives.

Over the decades, the Indian Railways continued to grow, with new lines being

*The history of Indian Railways goes back to 1832 when the modern plan was proposed. The innovative plan completely transformed the history of transportation of India. Though no action was taken for over a decade, in 1844 Lord Hardinge, the Governor General of India, allowed private entrepreneurs to launch the railway system.*



modular bio-toilets, and automatic doors. Tejas Express operates on various routes, including Mumbai-Goa, Chennai-Madurai, and Lucknow-Delhi.

**Gatimaan Express:** Gatimaan Express is India's fastest train, operating between Delhi and Agra. It boasts a maximum speed of 160 km/h and offers a luxurious travel experience with onboard catering, comfortable seating, and modern facilities.

**Maharajas' Express:** Maharajas' Express is a luxury tourist train operated by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). It offers opulent amenities, gourmet dining, and lavish accommodations while traveling to various destinations across India, including Agra, Jaipur, and Varanasi.

**Humsafar Express:** Humsafar Express is a fully air-conditioned train with modern amenities designed for long-distance travel. It



features comfortable berths, LED lights, mobile charging points, and enhanced safety features. Humsafar Express operates on various routes



connecting major cities across India.

**Duronto Express:** Duronto Express is a series of non-stop point-to-point trains introduced for faster travel between major cities. These trains offer comfortable seating, onboard catering, and

trains feature double-decker coaches to accommodate more passengers while utilizing limited track space. These trains offer modern amenities and comfortable seating arrangements for both upper and lower decks.

**Antyodaya Express:** Antyodaya Express is a fully unreserved train designed to cater to the needs of common passengers, especially in densely populated regions. It offers comfortable seating, mobile charging points, and enhanced safety features to ensure a pleasant travel experience for all passengers.

These modern trains reflect India's efforts to enhance passenger comfort, safety, and efficiency in railway transportation while catering to the diverse needs of travelers across the country.

### INTERESTING FACTS

**Here are some interesting facts about the Indian Railways**

**Largest Railway Network:** Indian Railways is one of the largest railway networks in the world, covering over 68,000 kilometers of track and serving around 8,000 stations across the country.

**Busiest Railway Station:** With over a million passengers passing through it daily, Howrah Junction in Kolkata holds the record for being one of the busiest railway stations in the world.

**Longest Railway Platform:** Gorakhpur Junction in Uttar Pradesh boasts the longest railway platform in the world, stretching over 1,366 meters.

**Mountain Railways:** India is home to several picturesque mountain railways, including the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, the Nilgiri Mountain Railway, and the Kalka-Shimla Railway, all of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

**Luxury Trains:** Indian Railways operates several luxury trains, offering travelers a royal experience on board. Examples include the Palace on Wheels, Maharajas' Express, and Deccan Odyssey, which are known for their opulent amenities and royal treatment.

**Electric Locomotives:** India's electric

locomotive, WAG-12, is one of the most powerful in the world, capable of hauling freight trains with ease.

**Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC):** IRCTC, a subsidiary of Indian Railways, is one of the largest e-commerce websites in India, handling online ticket bookings, catering, and tourism services.

**Historical Significance:** The first passenger train in India ran from Bombay (Mumbai) to Thane on April 16, 1853, covering a distance of 34 kilometers. This marked the beginning of the Indian Railways.

**High-Speed Rail:** India is working on introducing high-speed rail corridors, with the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) project, commonly known as the Bullet Train project, being one of the most ambitious endeavors in this regard.

**Human Resource:** Indian Railways is one of the largest employers in the world, providing jobs to millions of people directly and indirectly, ranging from train drivers and station staff to maintenance crews and administrative personnel. These facts showcase the scale, diversity, and significance of the Indian Railways in the country's transportation infrastructure and cultural heritage.







## VOLCANIC SPECTACLE



A drone captures volcanic eruption at Sundhnukagigar in Svartsengi, Iceland's southwest.

Agencies

## US military stays in Middle East amid Israel-Iran debate

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON, DC (US)

Additional United States military assets that were moved into the Middle East before Iran's attack on Israel will remain in place, CNN reported, citing Pentagon spokesperson Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder.

"As (Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin) has said, both publicly and privately, we don't want to see escalation, but we obviously will take necessary measures to protect our forces in the region and as was demonstrated over the weekend, we'll take necessary measures to defend Israel," Ryder said.

Ryder's comments come as Israel debates possible retaliation to Iran's attack.

Earlier, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) chief of staff

Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi vowed answer to the Iranian attack and said that Iran's attack on Israel "will be met with a response."

"Iran wanted to harm the strategic capabilities of the State of Israel, this is something that did not happen in the past," Halevi said while addressing troops at Nevatim airbase, which was hit in the strike.

"We were prepared in the 'Iron Shield' operation, this preparation brought Iran to also meet air superiority, which you expressed (manifested) very well," he said, CNN reported.

Halevi said that Israel had intelligence of Iran's strike since last Monday, adding that Israel is "very strong and knows how to deal with it on its own."

Meanwhile, amid fears

of Israel response, US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin spoke with the acting Deputy Prime Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Fahad Youssef Al-Sabah and discussed the unprecedented attack by Iran on Israel, adding that US does not seek escalation, an official statement said.

"Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III spoke with Kuwaiti Acting Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, His Excellency Sheikh Fahad Youssef Al-Sabah today to discuss the unprecedented attacks launched from Iranian territory and by Iran's proxies in the region into Israel, and U.S. and coalition efforts to defend Israel," Pentagon Press Secretary Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder said in a statement.

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke with his Chinese counterpart for the first time since November 2022, during which they discussed bilateral ties and underlined the importance of maintaining open lines of military-to-military communication, amidst Beijing's aggressive manoeuvres in the Indo-Pacific.

It is also the first time the Defence Secretary has spoken at length with his Chinese counterpart since November 2022, when he met with the then-PRC (People's Republic of China) Minister of National Defence, General Wei Fenghe, at the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus in Cambodia.

## US Defence Secretary Austin talks security with Chinese counterpart

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke with his Chinese counterpart for the first time since November 2022, during which they discussed bilateral ties and underlined the importance of maintaining open lines of military-to-military communication, amidst Beijing's aggressive manoeuvres in the Indo-Pacific.

It is also the first time the Defence Secretary has spoken at length with his Chinese counterpart since November 2022, when he met with the then-PRC (People's Republic of China) Minister of National Defence, General Wei Fenghe, at the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus in Cambodia.

## CONGRESSMAN FLAYS INACTION ON HINDU TEMPLE ATTACKS

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON, DC (US)

Indian-American Congressman Shri Thanedar interacted with members of the Hindu community on Monday and spoke about the issue of rising attacks on Hindu temples across America and the fear among the community, saying that "local law enforcement hasn't taken enough action" to investigate the recent attacks.

This comes as he introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives condemning Hinduphobia, anti-Hindu bigotry, hate, and intolerance on April 10. The resolution has been referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

"We've seen a lot of attacks happening on Hindu temples across the United States and we've seen a lot more in

more recent times. And it's time for us to seek support. There's a fear. Many Hindu communities are under fear. And what we've seen is that local law enforcement hasn't taken enough action. We have not seen any suspects, any arrests, or any resolution to these issues," he said while citing it as a reason for introducing the resolution in US Congress.

"That (attack incident) has created a lot of fear among the Indian American community, among the Hindu community, and a lot of misinformation has been spread. And so the purpose of this resolution is to bring that to the attention of Congress and to the Biden administration," he added.

Congressman Thanedar also said that he expects bipartisan support in Congress as it reflects American values, adding that he will continue

to fight against racism. "Well, I expect bipartisan support because American values—freedom, equality, and racial justice—are all American values. And I expect my congressional colleagues from across the aisle to co-sponsor this resolution and be part of it," he said. "I'll continue to stand and fight for justice, just like I fight for justice for my community in Detroit, Michigan, and fighting against racism, fighting against systemic racism that my community in Detroit has experienced for decades," he added.

Another Indian-American, Vijay Sadhawal, who was present at the event, expressed his concern over the 'bias of the American media' towards American Hindus and said that the resolution is just the starting point to raising the voice of the Hindu community.

## India world's largest democracy, important strategic partner, says US

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON, DC (US)

The US Department of State spokesperson, Matthew Miller, was put on the spot to address recent publications alleging democratic backsliding in India and the US navigating the relationship with the country. Matthew Miller, while responding to a question, reaffirmed America's relations with India and said that the latter country is an important strategic partner of the US.

"So India is the world's largest democracy, it is an important strategic partner of the United States, and I expect that to remain true," Miller said in a daily press briefing on Monday.

Department spokesperson Matthew Miller addressed concerns about inconsistency in commenting on arrests of Indian & Pakistani leaders.

## Indian-origin principal wins UK legal challenge over school prayer ban

AGENCIES  
LONDON

An Indian-origin school principal, often referred to as "Britain's strictest headmistress", on Tuesday welcomed a UK High Court ruling that upheld her ban on prayer rituals after a Muslim pupil sought to legally challenge it as discriminatory.

Katherine Birbalsingh, of Indo-Guyanese heritage, had told the court that Michaela School – a "secular" secondary school for boys and girls in Wembley, north London – did not allow religious prayers in keeping with its ethos of promoting an "inclusive environment".

While half of the pupils at the school are Muslims, it also has large numbers of Sikh, Hindu and Christian pupils.

"As the Governing Body



is aware, the School does not provide a prayer room for use by pupils, for various reasons. These reasons include that a prayer room would foster division amongst pupils, contrary to the School's ethos, lack of available space and available staff to supervise pupils and that pupils would miss important School activities, including during the lunch break if they were to spend time in a prayer room," Birbalsingh told the

court. "Unacceptable segregation or division, contrary to the whole ethos of the school, was taking place as a result of permitting prayer. An intimidating atmosphere was developing. Our strict disciplinary policies, on which the ethos and great success of (the) School is based, were at risk of being undermined," she said.

Justice Thomas Linden, in an 80-page judgment following a hearing in January,

ruled in the school's favour. "In my judgment, the starting point is that the School was right to take the view that the issue was whether to permit and facilitate ritual prayer indoors: in effect, to reverse its longstanding policy of not providing a prayer room," it reads.

"She (the unnamed pupil) knew that the School is secular, and her own evidence is that her mother wished her to go there because it was known to be strict... Her evidence has focussed on her preferences and what she supposes the position would be elsewhere," it notes.

In a statement following the ruling, Birbalsingh said it was a "victory for all schools" and of the "robust yet respectful secularism" principles on which the school she founded in 2014 is run.

## Working towards ambitious deal with India, says UK as FTA talks resume

AGENCIES  
LONDON

The UK government on Tuesday said that it continues to work towards striking an "ambitious" trade deal with India as a negotiating team from Delhi resumed talks with their British counterparts in London this week.

The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) reiterated its stance of only signing a free trade agreement (FTA) that was in the best interests of the British people and economy. Last month, DBT officials had indicated that formal trade negotiations were being paused for the course of India's phased general election, though some talks were expected to carry on until the poll results are declared on June 4.



On Tuesday, UK officials said discussions resume in London this week to "continue talks under Round 14" of the negotiations, which opened in January.

"The UK and India continue to work towards an ambitious trade deal that work for both countries," a DBT spokesperson said.

"While we do not comment on the details of negotiations, we are clear that we will only sign a deal that is fair, balanced, and ultimately in the best interests of the British people and the economy," the spokesperson said.

It was signed off after the Indian elections and before Prime Minister Rishi Sunak confirms the date for the UK general election, expected in the second half of the year.

The India-UK FTA negotiations, which opened in January 2022, are aimed at significantly enhancing bilateral trade – currently worth around GBP 38.1 billion a year as per official statistics from earlier this year.

Last month, UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade Kemi Badenoch said "the bigger the country, the more complex the trade agreement".

"And also, the more different the economy is, the harder it is to negotiate... India is still very protectionist, where we are very, very liberalised," she said.

## UK lawmakers will vote on smoking phase-out bill

AGENCIES  
LONDON

British lawmakers will on Tuesday debate and vote on the government's plans to introduce a landmark smoking ban that aims to stop young people from ever smoking.

The bill, a key policy announced by Conservative Prime Minister Rishi Sunak last year, will make it illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone born after January 1, 2009. It has the support of the opposition Labour Party and is expected to pass. But Sunak faces rebellion from more libertarian-minded members of his party, who

criticized the proposals as "unconservative."

Authorities say that if passed, the bill will create modern Britain's "first smoke-free generation."

Under the Tobacco and Vapes Bill, children turning 15 this year or younger will never be legally sold tobacco. The legal age of sale that people in England can buy cigarettes will be raised by one year, every year until it is eventually illegal for the whole population.

The bill also includes measures to crack down on youth vaping, such as banning the sale of cheap disposable vapes and limiting their

## UK PM RISHI SUNAK FACES RESISTANCE OVER HIS SMOKING BAN PLANS

LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak faces very vocal resistance against his plans to effectively ban smoking for anyone aged 15 and younger as a new bill comes up for a vote in the House of Commons on Tuesday. The British Indian leader proposed the Tobacco and Vapes Bill last year and declared his vision for creating a smokefree generation by making it an offence to sell tobacco products to anyone born after January 1, 2009, which covers children aged 15. Once it clears its parliamentary journey, the new legislation will introduce some of the world's strictest anti-smoking laws in the country. I propose that in future we raise the smoking age by one year, every year. That means a 14-year-old today will never legally be sold a cigarette and that they and their generation can grow up smoke-free. We know this works, Sunak had declared at the Conservative Party conference in October last year.

flavors to prevent children from becoming addicted to

nicotine. It is currently illegal for

anyone to sell cigarettes or tobacco products and vapes to people under 18 years old throughout the UK.

Opponents, such as the smokers' rights lobbying group FOREST, said the move will "treat future generations of adults like kids." Last week former Prime Minister Boris Johnson called the plans "absolutely nuts."

"I think that an outright ban risks being counterproductive, I think it actually risks making smoking cooler, it certainly risks creating a black market," Conservative lawmaker Simon Clarke told the BBC.

## India opened up its market for US: Biden

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON

After resolving half a dozen WTO disputes last year, India opened up its market for several US products which have benefitted American farmers, a top Biden administration official told lawmakers on Tuesday. The steps taken by India have given more market access for turkey, duck, blueberries, and cranberries benefiting farmers from several American states, US Trade Representative Katherine Tai told members of the House Committee on Ways and Means on President Biden's 2024 Trade Policy Agenda.

"Last June, India and the United States terminated six WTO disputes, and India agreed to remove retaliatory tariffs on several US products," Tai said.

"This means improved access for chickpeas, len-

tils, almonds, walnuts, and apples benefiting farmers across the country, including in Michigan, Oregon, and Washington," she said.

"Additionally, in September, India and the United States resolved our final outstanding WTO dispute, and India agreed to reduce tariffs on several US products. This means more market access for turkey, duck, blueberries, and cranberries benefiting farmers in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin," Tai told lawmakers.

Meanwhile, Biden's administration will also help 50 countries identify and respond to infectious diseases, with the goal of preventing pandemics like the COVID-19 outbreak that suddenly halted normal life around the globe in 2020.

US government officials will offer support in the countries, most of them lo-

cated in Africa and Asia, to develop better testing, surveillance, communication and preparedness for such outbreaks in those countries.

The strategy will help prevent, detect and effectively respond to biological threats wherever they emerge, Biden said in a statement Tuesday.

The Global Health Security Strategy, the president said, aims to protect people worldwide and "will make the United States stronger, safer, and healthier than ever before at this critical moment."

The announcement about the strategy comes as countries have struggled to meet a worldwide accord on responses to future pandemics. Four years after the coronavirus pandemic, the prospects of a pandemic treaty signed by all 194 of the World Health Organisation's members are flailing.

## UK criminalises creation of 'deepfake' images without consent

AGENCIES  
LONDON

Despicable people who create sexually explicit "deepfakes" will face prosecution under a new law going through its parliamentary journey, the British government said on Tuesday.

Deepfake refers to images and videos made to look hyper-realistic, with the victim usually unaware and unable to give their consent. Under the new offence, those who create such images without consent face a criminal record and an unlimited fine.

"The creation of deepfake sexual images is despicable and completely unacceptable irrespective of whether the image is shared," said Laura Farris, UK Minister for Victims and Safeguarding.

## Denmark's old stock exchange engulfed in massive fire, no injuries reported so far

AGENCIES  
COPENHAGEN (DENMARK)

A massive fire ripped through the old stock exchange of Denmark on Tuesday morning, with plumes of smoke billowing through the historic building of the Scandinavian country.

The Borsen building, has notably been at the heart of Danish business since the 17th century.

Moments before the building collapsed and crashed onto the street below, commuters and bystanders, stunned, watched as the rag-

ing fire was spotted swirling around the building's iconic 56-meter spire, according to CNN.

There have been no casualties recorded as of yet, and Copenhagen police have advised people to stay away from the area.

According to a police spokesperson, people were inside the building when the fire broke out, but they were all evacuated timely.

Situated within a short stroll from Christiansborg Palace, the old stock exchange was established in 1625.

It was constructed in the Dutch Renaissance style, at the request of King Christian IV.

Following the horrific fire incident, Denmark's minister of culture, Jakob Engel Schmidt claimed that 400 years of cultural legacy has been damaged.

"How touching it is to see how the employees at Borsen, good people from the emergency services and passers-by work together to rescue art treasures and iconic images from the burning building," he wrote in a post on X.

## GUN SUPERVISOR FOR 'RUST' GETS 18 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR FATAL SHOOTING BY ALEC BALDWIN ON SET



TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

A movie weapons supervisor was sentenced to 18 months in prison in the fatal shooting of a cinematographer by Alec Baldwin on the set of the Western film Rust, at a sentencing hearing Monday in a New Mexico state court.

Movie armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed was convicted in March by a jury on a charge of involuntary manslaughter in the death of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins and has been held for more than a month at a county jail on the outskirts of Santa Fe.

Baldwin, the lead actor and co-producer for Rust, was pointing a gun at Hutchins when the revolver went off, killing Hutchins and wounding director Joel Souza.

Baldwin has pleaded not guilty to a charge of involuntary manslaughter in the shooting death of Halyna Hutchins. He is scheduled for trial in July at a courthouse in Santa Fe.

The sentence against Gutierrez-Reed was delivered by New Mexico Judge Mary Marlowe Summer who is overseeing proceedings

against Baldwin.

Prosecutors blamed Gutierrez-Reed for unwittingly bringing live ammunition onto the set of Rust where it was expressly prohibited and for failing to follow basic gun safety protocols. After a two-week trial, the jury deliberated for about three hours in reaching its verdict.

Gutierrez-Reed teared up Monday as Hutchins' agent, Craig Mizrahi, spoke about the cinematographer's creativity and described her as a rising star in Hollywood. He said it was a chain of events that led to Hutchins' death and that had the armorer been doing her job, that chain would have been broken.

Friends and family, including Souza, told the court they were seeking justice for what had happened to the cinematographer. They said she was a bright beam of light, describing her as courageous, tenacious and compassionate.

Los Angeles-based attorney Gloria Allred read a statement by Hutchins' mother, Olga Solovey, who said her life had been split in two and that time didn't heal, rather it only prolonged her pain and suffering.

## 'WICKED' FAME JONATHAN BAILEY IN TALKS TO LEAD NEW 'JURASSIC WORLD' MOVIE



TDG NETWORK  
WASHINGTON

The 'Wicked' star Jonathan Bailey is in talks to join Universal's new Jurassic World movie, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Scarlett Johansson has already been cast in the film, which will be directed by Gareth Edwards and written by Jurassic Park's David Koepf.

Johansson played Black Widow in several Marvel Studios films, including the Avengers films, but unlike some of her superhero co-stars, she has found it easy to break into other projects. She has received two Oscar nominations: for Marriage Story and Jojo Rabbit.

Amblin Entertainment is working with Universal on the film, which continues the universe established by author Michael Crichton and was first translated on the big screen by Steven Spielberg in 1993's Jurassic Park. 'The Lost World' (1997) was directed by Spielberg, while Joe Johnston took over for Jurassic Park III (2001).

Colin Trevorrow rebooted the franchise with Jurassic World in 2015, starring Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard and taking place in a dino-

*The 'Wicked' star Jonathan Bailey is in talks to join Universal's new Jurassic World movie, according to The Hollywood Reporter.*

saur park that was now accessible to the public. Pratt and Howard appeared in two additional films, Dominion (2022), which reunited stars from Jurassic Park (Sam Neill, Laura Dern, and Jeff Goldblum) and Jurassic World. The fresh approach is intended to feature new characters.

Bailey plays prince Fiyero in 'Wicked' and appeared at CinemaCon last week during Universal's presentation. The actor is also known for the Showtime limited series Fellow Travelers, which earned him a Critics Choice Award. He is repped by CAA, Anonymous Content and Hansen Jacobson, as per The Hollywood Reporter.

### PICTURE PERFECT

Mahesh Manjrekar during the trailer launch of the upcoming Marathi movie 'Juna Furniture'. (ANI)



## AMITABH BACHCHAN SET TO RETURN WITH SEASON 16 OF 'KAUN BANEGA CROREPATI'

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan is all set to don the host's hat again for the sixteenth season of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati'.

Taking to the official Instagram handle, Sony Entertainment Television, shared the exciting news with the 'KBC' fans.

The promo started with the emotional speech of Big B that he gave while wrapping up the last season. However, as it ends a voice can be heard, saying, "Har aarambh ka ant taye hai magar apnon ke pyar mein jo anand hai.. to har ant ke baad shubharambh nishchit hai.."

"Big B later said, "Gunja jo aapke pyar ka shankhnaad, to aana padega fir" (If the sound of your love echoes, I will have



to come again.)

The makers also announced that registration for KBC 16 will start from April 26. The caption reads, "Aisa mila pyar ki laut raha hai fir ek baar, #KaunBanegaCrorepati.. shuru ho rahe hai #KBCRegistrations 26 April raat 9 baje. @amitabhbachchan #KBConSonyTV #KBC16 #kbcisback"

After the post, fans shared their excitement. One of them wrote, "thanks for bringing new season of

KBC". Another mentioned, "Yesss.....waiting for Mr. Bachchan sir".

While wrapping up the 15th season, Big B said, "Devi aur sajjano, ab hum jaa rahe aur kal se yeh manch ab nahi sajega. Apno se yeh keh pana ki kal se hum yahan nahi aa payenge, na kehne ki himmat hoti aur na kehne ka mann hota hai (Ladies and gentleman, now it's time to go as the stage won't be the same. It's difficult to let everyone know that we won't

*Megastar Amitabh Bachchan is all set to don the host's hat again for the sixteenth season of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati'.*

be returning here from tomorrow." The 'Agnipath' star started hosting the quiz show in 2000, and since then he has been a constant part of the show except for one season. In 2006, Shah Rukh Khan replaced Big B as a host for the third season of the show.

## Akshay Kumar is set to make his Telugu film debut

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Yes, the Khiladi of Bollywood is now all set to make his debut in Tollywood in actor Vishnu Manchu's large-scale Telugu flick. The official social media page of the film posted the news with pics of Akshay Kumar meeting Vishnu Manchu's father, acting legend Mohan Babu. The film will also feature Prabhas, Mohanlal and Nayanthara, among others.

Based on a true story, this movie is about the journey of Kannappa, an ardent devotee of Lord Shiva. Akshay Kumar is said to be playing the role of Lord Shiva in this film. Confirming the debut, Vishnu Manchu also wrote, "The Kannappa jour-



ney just got more thrilling as we welcome the Superstar Mr. Akshay Kumar to the Telugu Film Industry. Thrilled to announce his debut in Telugu cinema with Kannappa. Get ready for an unforgettable adventure! (heart emoji)" "We're thrilled to have

Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar onboard for #Kannappa, Vishnu Manchu's magnum opus. With Akshay Kumar joining us, our production promises to reach unprecedented heights of grandeur and excitement. Stay tuned for an unforgettable cinematic experience!" said

the official film page on X (formerly Twitter). Kannappa is directed by Mukesh Kumar Singh and produced by Manchu's banners AVA Entertainment and 24 Frames Factory. It will be released in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Hindi and English.

## EKTA KAPOOR REMOVES HER NAME FROM 'LSD2': HERE'S WHY

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

While the makers have set a perfect tone for its arrival with the raw and real trailer that was unapologetic in its approach and fiery in its narrative, the anticipation around the film is indeed rising at a fever pitch. The audience is eagerly awaiting to witness clutter-breaking content with the release of Love Sex Aur Dhokha 2. Now, in an exciting update, the makers, Balaji Telefilms, and producer Shobha Kapoor have removed their names from the film.

For the first time, the names of the makers of Love Sex Aur Dhokha 2, Ba-



laji Telefilms, and producer Shobha Kapoor, won't be attached to the film. This is indeed a shocking re-

veal as the film is just 4 days from its release, and the makers and the producer have withdrawn

*The audience is eagerly awaiting to witness clutter-breaking content with the release of Love Sex Aur Dhokha 2.*

their names from the film. Looking at the explicitly raw and real content of the film, which is relevant to today's youth and reality, this decision of the makers seems to be apt.

### BRAIN PICKING

“Stress and looks are directly connected as far as I am concerned. If you are happy, you look good”



—MAHESH BABU  
(Indian actor)

## AAMIR KHAN LODGES FIR OVER ALLEGED DEEPPAKE POLITICAL AD

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Actor Aamir Khan is the latest among a host of celebrities who have fallen victim to deepfake videos.

Amid the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, a video of the actor purportedly promoting a political party recently went viral, evoking reactions from the audience.

On Tuesday, Aamir's official spokesperson issued a statement, calling the particular clip "fake." The spokesperson also stated that the actor has filed an FIR with the Mumbai Police regarding the same.

"We want to clarify that Mr. Aamir Khan has never endorsed any political party throughout his 35-year career. He has dedicated his efforts to raising public awareness through Election Commission public awareness campaigns for many past elections. We are alarmed by the recent viral video alleging that Aamir Khan is promoting a particular political party. He would like to clarify that this is a fake video and totally untrue. He has reported the matter to various authorities related to this issue, including filing an FIR with the Cyber Crime Cell of the Mumbai Police. Mr. Khan would like to urge all Indians to come out and vote and be an active part of our electoral process," the spokesperson said.



Meanwhile, on the work front, as a producer, Aamir is coming up with 'Lahore 1947', which stars Sunny Deol in the lead role. It is directed by Rajkumar Santoshi. Preity Zinta, Shabana Azmi, Karan Deol and Ali Fazal are also part of the film. Sunny and Aamir have never worked together before. But the duo have had very iconic box-office clashes as competitors in the past, where both have eventually emerged victorious.

The first iconic clash at the ticket window was witnessed in 1990 when Aamir Khan's Dil and Sunny Deol's Ghayal were released on the same day. Then, in 1996, it was 'Raja Hindustani' vs 'Ghatak' followed by the most epic Box Office clash of Indian cinema in 2001 when 'Lagaan' was released on the same day as 'Gadar'.

Now, for the very first time, the duo has come together and joined hands on a project. 'Lahore, 1947' also marks the reunion of Aamir Khan and Santoshi after their iconic cult classic, 'Andaz Apna Apna'.

## KAPIL SHARMA PAYS VISIT TO VAISHNO DEVI TEMPLE IN KATRA



TDG NETWORK  
KATRA

Comedian-actor Kapil Sharma visited the Vaishno Devi Temple in Katra earlier today to seek blessings during the holy days of 'Navratri'.

In the video, he can be seen entering the temple wearing a red-printed kurta with cream-coloured pajamas.

Check out the video. Meanwhile, on the work front, Kapil is currently seen in the comedy show, 'The Great Indian Kapil Show' which also stars Krushna Abhishek, Rajiv Thakur, Kiku Sharda and Archana Puran Singh.

The Great Indian Kapil Show's official logline reads, "India's most loved comedian finds a home on Netflix and brings along his crazy but loyal cast of characters! The Great Indian Kapil Show is a variety

chat show set in the bustling confines of an airport and features prominent celebrity guests every week." The series will expand to global audiences, infusing Kapil Sharma's signature wit with classic Indian humour, as per the show's press release.

After a major fallout, Kapil Sharma and Sunil Grover have reunited once again for a comedy extravaganza. He was also seen in the movie 'Crew', starring Kareena Kapoor, Tabu and Kriti Sanon in lead roles.

'Crew', a story of three women, touted as a laugh-riot, is set against the backdrop of the struggling airline industry. However, their destinies lead to some unwarranted situations, and they get caught in a web of lies. The heist comedy also stars Diljit Dosanjh, Saswata Chatterjee, Rajesh Sharma and Kulbhushan Kharbanda.

# Celebrating vegetarianism royal style

ANSHU KHANNA

Royalty and nobility across the globe are known to have spent half their life inside jungles or in the battlefield, waging wars. Hence, their cuisine has largely focused on what they could hunt for in the jungles, or fish off the river, or even catch in the air... Game cuisine, fowls and sea and river food being integral to their cuisine.

When Food for Thought, who were further invited by Ahmadabad Municipal Corporation to host a very large vegetarian food festival, contacted me to curate an all vegetarian, royal pavilion for them, my dilemma was genuine. How could a royal thali be all about pulses and leaves? Nevertheless, me and my forum, Kitchen of the Kings that research on, celebrates and helps conserve and present royal cuisine took up the challenge, inviting five distinct

royal and noble kitchens to rustle up a perfect menu for a silver service dinner that would do the vegetarian story full justice.

The lineup though amazing, was also daunting. First up were Begum Zeba and Nawab Salauddin of Balasinore, who are known for their Afghan lineage. They themselves worked in creating vegetarian avatar the Balasinore cuisine which was ably tweaked by the begum and the nawab. A blend of recipes from the royal households of Balasinore, Palanpur, Radhanpur and Junagadh, the Balasinore Shahi Dastarkhwan was full of flavours and not extremely rich! They put together a Vegetarian selection of their classics including Hariyali ki Nazakat, Aman Ka Korma, Subz ke Shaami Kebab, Til ke Tukde, Motiya Kheer, Zarda e Jamiat inviting foodies to 'nosh farmaiye'!

The bahu of Chhota Udaipur, Padmini Singh entered



the kitchen herself recreating the very tasteful pulse and rice rich recipes of her region. Her Sainjane (Morning) - kadi patta sabzi and her khajur gur desert being a real winner. We also invited the Rajmata of Gondal Kumud Kumari ji who added a rich



dimension to the pavilion with her thali that presented a carefully curated selection of dishes from her best seller book: Recipes of a Maharani. A culinary genius, she took personal interest in the dinner. A gun salute state known for its car collection, its teapot museum and its rich array of collectibles, Gondal lovingly nurtured by royalty family is affluent not just in wealth but also its culture.

I personally reached out to

Gauri Ingle from Kolhapur who belongs to the culinary family of Ingle and, though, the Marathas were known to be hard core non vegetarians she rustled up a stunning menu including her pickles, amti, bhakarwadi, Amti chi Vadi, Batata Longi and Sol Kadhi belting out the unique flavours of Kolhapur. The Ingle family are linked to the Chhatrapati family of Kolhapur through the wedding of Kamlabai Saheb, the daughter

of Sardar Manyajirao Ingle who married H.H. Shrimant Rajashri Shahaji III Chhatrapati Maharaj, the Raja of Kolhapur. After this marital alliance, the Ingle family of Shendur in the former Kagal Jagir, moved to the erstwhile Kolhapur princely state. Holding the title of Maankari (an esteemed Noblemen) in the Kolhapur princely state Durbar, the Ingles continued to serve the rulers in various capacities.

The scions of the Ingle family, Raturaj Dhairya-sheelrao & Gauri Ingle founded Ekant, one of Kolhapur's most revered culinary and hospitality enterprise with a vision to share the regal lifestyle of their forefathers with their guests. Bring them closer to the legacy of the Maratha rulers who were known for their indulgent art, majestic palaces, refined cuisine and resounding culture.

Last but not the least were

Yuvraaj Amarjyoti and Yuvrani Meenal Kumari of Dhenkanal. Dhenkanal owes its name to a Savara chief named "Dhenka", who ruled the land. Dhenkanal Palace, built in the 1830s, on the slopes of the Paniohala hill is the only fort cum palace in Odisha. Residence of the Raja of Dhenkanal and his family, the palace is situated in a craft-rich region of Odisha that boasts of over 15 thriving regional crafts. Culinary tradition of Odisha is unique and features vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes, rice preparations and sweets. Royal family of Dhenkanal incorporated not only the traditional Odia dishes but also the flavours and recipes from other states to which the daughters-in-law of the family belong. Their mushroom crisply fried in rice batter, their tomato khajur chutney and their broad beans turning out finger licking good.

## EXCITING CULINARY DELIGHTS ACROSS DELHI-NCR

TDG NETWORK

**New Menu at CAFÉ DELHI HEIGHTS-** Café Delhi Heights is a place that truly celebrates Saggi Dilli spirit. Just like the city, the café offers big-hearted portions of deliciously cooked dishes. With the New outlet every month, also with changed look of most of the outlets, Café Delhi Heights has launched the New Menu that has many specials for the foodies. Mr Vikrant Batra, Founder of Cafe Delhi Heights say We at CDH offers an array of fabulously innovative and classic preparations that will leave each of the five senses tingling with joy! Chef Ashish Singh at Café Delhi Heights is known to strike his chord with foodies since the brand inception, and the new menu also promises to put best on front. The New menu has specials like healthy Italian Chicken Salad, Miso Avocado & Tofu Bowl. One can opt from the choices of between the buns grub like Avocado Olives & Toms, Falafel Avo & Chipotle Salad Wrap, Pesto Chicken & Rocket Wrap in choicest of breads like Panini / Whole wheat / Multigrain / Baguette. Amongst the Mexican dishes one can opt for Fajitas Vegetables / Chicken, Burritos Vegetables / Chicken, Enchiladas Vegetables / Chicken. The concept of Meal bowls excites foodies as it is perfect portion balanced with flavours and varieties. One can choose the gravies like Spicy Thai Basil Sliced Chicken / Fish, Singaporean Chilli Cottage Cheese / Tofu, Spinach, Baby Corn & Mushroom With Hot Basil Sauce, Stir Fried Exotic Vegetable, Stir Fried Lamb With Chilli



**VOLCANO PIZZAS & TEX MEX JOURNEY AT HONEY & DOUGH -**

Honey & Dough, a place famous as bakery and café is taking serious turn when it comes to the food. We bet you the food none less than any best restaurant of the capital. Recent addition in the menus are Volcano Pizzas. Yes, one may savour the izzas eruption of slices to be dipped in the cheese bowl created in the center to savour it. Along with the introduction of Volcano Pizzas, Honey & Dough takes you on a flavourful journey, bringing the Mexican spirit to your table.



Bean, Slice Fish Chilli Oyster, Lemon Tabasco Sauce Prawn / Fish Served with the Choice of Sticky Rice / Red Rice. You have reason to rejoice further as Health conscious can opt between Protein bowl and poke bowl too. Red velvet lava and fruit truffle are sweet delights.

At Café Delhi Heights Multiple outlets

Meal for two- Rs 1500 plus taxes

For reservations please contact- 8800691812

Instagram page- @cafedelhibeights

**SPRING SUMMER NEW MENU FLAVOURS AT VIETNAM-**

As the summer sun begins to cast its warm glow, Vietnam is thrilled to unveil its new summer menu - "Summer in my Heart". Embracing the vibrant spirit of the season, the menu features a delectable array of salads, summer rolls, banh mi, and hand-crafted cocktails

and mocktails that promise to delight the senses and transport diners on a culinary journey like no other. Renowned for its commitment to authenticity and creativity, Vietnam has curated a menu that celebrates

the bounty of summer produce while infusing traditional Vietnamese flavors with a modern twist. From refreshing salads bursting with crisp, seasonal vegetables to delicate summer rolls filled with succulent meats and vibrant herbs, each dish is a celebration of freshness and flavor. Elevating the beloved street food to new heights, our Banh Mi sandwiches offer a symphony of flavors and textures that are sure to captivate guests' palates. Featuring tender proteins, crisp vegetables, and homemade spreads, our Banh Mi sandwiches promise an unforgettable dining experience.

Complementing these culinary delights is Vietnam's exclusive selection of handcrafted cocktails and mocktails, expertly crafted by our talented mixologists using homemade cordials, fresh herbs, and premium spirits. From refreshing fruit-infused mocktails to innovative cocktail creations inspired by the flavors of Vietnam, each sip is a journey of discovery and delight. Vietnam's Summer Menu is now available for diners to experience and savor. Join us at Vietnam and discover the flavors of summer like never before.

At Vietnam Outlets in Cyber hub, Worldmark Gurgaon, Vietnam DLF Saket New Menu at L'Opéra, L'Opéra, the authentic French Boulangerie, Pâtisserie and Salon de Thé is

delighted to announce its forthcoming summer menu which will include a full range of new salads - suitable for the season - delicious light meals for all tastes and obviously a new range of summer coolers to sip on during the long, hot summer days and evenings. All this new menu, of course, complemented with L'Opéra's delicious, seasonal mango collection which is presented in new garb. Other than this savouries section also has some additions like Alfredo Pasta in Fettuccine- Creamy fettuccine pasta tossed in a rich Alfredo sauce, sprinkled with Parmesan cheese, Herbed Risotto with Pesto Prawns- Creamy herbed risotto served with succulent pesto-coated prawns, a harmony of flavours and textures, Panzanella Salad- A vibrant tangy salad with seasonal vegetables, fresh basil, Parmesan cheese and crunchy bread croutons and more

Available at L'Opéra Multiple outlets at Green Park, Defence colony, Bikaner House, Civil lines, MG road etc, 8800097255

Price- Rs 1200 plus taxes for meal of two.

Outlets: Shivajik, Malviya Nagar| Ambience Mall, Vasant Kunj| Two Horizon, Gurugram| Cyber Park, Gurugram| City Centre Mall, Dwarka| Hargobind Enclave, East Delhi| Pitampura| Janakpuri| Mall of India, Noida| Pacific Mall, Tagore Garden.

Phone Number: 9911993123, 8527966844

Website: www.honeyanddough.in

## CAKES AND TRENDS: THE EXPLOSIVE RISE OF INSTAGRAM WORTHY CAKES!

JAHNAVI

In recent years, we have witnessed a fascinating evolution in the world of baking, particularly in terms of cake design. What was once a simple dessert reserved for grand occasions has now become a canvas for creativity and innovation.

From the popularity of themed confections to the rise of interactive delights like pull-me-up cakes, it's clear that the cake culture is experiencing a renaissance of sorts. We spoke to Mr. Himanshu Chawla, founder and CEO of cake



and gifting delivery chain Bakingo, to know more and decode and dissect the cake trends for our readers. Read on!

**Cake Trends: A Mirror of Societal Shifts**

Nowadays, people want their cakes to tell a story, to surprise and captivate their guests in ways unimaginable. It's all about making a statement and pushing the boundaries of what's possible with buttercream and fondant. Because of this dynamic scenario, cake trends are like fashion—they change with the sea-



son, influenced by celebrities, social media, and the creative spirit of bakers everywhere. When a megastar like Taylor Swift celebrates with a unique birthday treat or an actress like Urvashi Rautela flaunts a multi-tiered & gold-covered delicacy, it sets the stage for what's hot in the world of cake design. Suddenly, everyone wants a taste of that star-studded glamour, and the world gets buzzing with requests for celebrity-inspired creations.

But is that the only driving force behind these trends? There is so much more at play. The rise of trendy cakes reflects a broader cultural transition towards experiential consumption. Today's consumers crave more than just



a product; they seek experiences that resonate on a deeper level. Whether it's the thrill of watching flames dance atop a burning cake or the joy of uncovering a hidden message within layers of frosting, they want not just good taste but excitement. Beyond their visual appeal, these trends tap into our innate desire for experiences that are both memorable and shareable.

**The Power of Virality: The Social Media Effect**

In a world where Instagram dominates our daily lives, these cakes offer a moment of escapism and a way to mimic our



favourite stars. From mirror glazes that reflect like glass to intricate floral designs that look almost too pretty to eat, it's all about that perfect shot for the 'gram, where every angle is a masterpiece. Just think about it: when was the last time you went to a party and didn't take a photo of the cake? But it's not just about flashy designs and novelty gimmicks. At the heart of these trends is a desire for authenticity and personalization. Whether it's a photo cake with an edible image or a fusion cake, people want their baked delights to be as unique as they are.

So, as consumers become increasingly discerning in their tastes, bakers have stepped up to meet these demands. With their finger on the pulse of the latest trends, they've introduced a range of innovative creations that have captured the imaginations of cake enthusiasts everywhere. Bakingo, one of the leading bakeries in India, is the perfect example of that. We have always been ahead of the curve with our offerings, crafting cakes that not only tantalize the taste buds but also stay up-to-date with the latest trends. We are committed to making your celebrations unforgettable & joyful, surpassing your expectations in the process. And embracing the latest trends in our collection is one of the many ways we ensure that!



## DEVIL'S PLAN FOR DESTRUCTION

BHAVANI SUNDARAM

The chief devil gathers every possible evil entity within range of his magnetic voice and asks, 'How can we interfere in the world between ours and the Light we despise? What can we do to further deceive human beings, keeping them in the dark, unaware of the Light that seeks to release them from our influence? I want something so evil, so sinister, that no one will discern what happened. Who has a good idea?'

Instantly, the flames of all the little imps gathered in the smoldering dark diminish; they fear their leader, who will punish them for failing. A day later, as planned, they return with a few ideas, though nothing spectacular. Then, out of nowhere, a tiny imp hops on the chief devil's shoulder and whispers something in his ear.

In a flash, flames erupt from every pore of the chief devil as he shouts, 'Ah! I have the plan in hand!' He looks around at his lieutenants, each assigned to certain in-

dividuals on Earth, and gleefully instructs them, 'Go up there and slowly spread among the sleeping masses the idea of "tolerance." Do whatever it takes to succeed. Convince them that this idea is their own, and that they should start teaching that learning to tolerate each other is the same as loving one another. Oh yes! This is my best deception yet! It's a real killer!'

Whether we are tolerating the ineptitude of others in understanding our religion or the mistakes of our loved ones in not meeting our expectations, we must cultivate amazing calmness and awareness within ourselves.

The tolerance we must exhibit towards rash drivers and the way our children handle their lives should not be tainted by our subtle egos. We should simply tolerate, thinking 'I'm right, yet out of love or righteousness, I'm tolerating the other.'

Let's learn how to love. If we still feel we are merely tolerating others, perhaps we have succumbed to our satanic mind."

## BIG DATA ANALYTICS: DRIVING INSIGHTS & DECISION-MAKING IN BUSINESS SCHOOLS

ANIL SOMANI

In today's modern business setting, Data analytics has become essential as industries are increasingly influenced by artificial intelligence (AI) and digital technologies. From finance to healthcare, all industries depend on data-driven insights to guide strategic decisions and gain a competitive edge. As the digital revolution continues to reshape the way we work and interact, the demand for professionals skilled in big data analytics is increasing. India's data analytics industry has witnessed remarkable growth in recent years, supported by the country's growing internet user base. According to projections, by 2025, India will have over 900 million internet users, double the number from 2015. This growth of digital data presents a wealth of opportunities for businesses to leverage big data analytics across various sectors, including education. Big Data analytics in education refers to the collection, processing, and interpretation of large datasets within educational ecosystems, which range from student demographics to academic performance records and more.

Mr. Anil Somani, the Chairman of FOSTIIMA Business School in Delhi, offers valuable insights into this endeavor by expressing the following, "In this hyper-connected world, big data analytics holds the key to unlocking numerous insights that can transform the way we approach education. Business schools play an important role in preparing the next generation of leaders who can utilize the revolutionary possibilities of the industry while improving operational efficiency. By incorporating data analytics into the curriculum, institutions are equipping students with the necessary skills to analyze vast datasets and derive actionable insights. From predictive modeling to data visualization, students are gaining hands-on experience with cutting-edge analytical tools and techniques that will help them in diverse career opportunities in the data-driven landscape."

Insights from Mr. Somani on how data analytics empowers business schools to connect education with industry for future success:

### GIVING THE EXPOSURE TO REAL WORLD

One of the most significant advantages of integrating big

data analytics into management programs is its ability to bridge the gap between academic theory and real-world industry applications. By collaborating with businesses and industry experts, business schools can ensure that their curriculum remains relevant and up-to-date with the latest trends and technologies. This real-world exposure allows students to gain practical experience and insights that are invaluable in today's competitive job market. Additionally, it promotes innovation and creativity within organizations. By encouraging a data-driven mindset, businesses can uncover new opportunities and solutions that may have otherwise gone unnoticed.

### PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS IN A DATA-DRIVEN WORLD

The benefits of incorporating Big Data Analytics into business school curricula extend far beyond the classroom. It fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration skills, which are essential in today's dynamic business environment. Students learn how to ask the right questions, challenge assumptions, and derive meaningful conclusions from data, that empower them to become data-driven decision-makers. Graduates equipped with these skills are in high demand across industries, as organizations are increasingly depending on data-driven insights to

gain a competitive advantage. Whether it is in marketing, finance, operations, or human resources, professionals with expertise in big data analytics are well-positioned to drive innovation and business growth.

### THE FUTURE OF DATA ANALYTICS IN THE WORKPLACE

Data analytics in education is rapidly expanding, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 15.3%. This exponential growth ladder sets the sector to achieve a spectacular valuation of USD 57.14 billion by 2030. Beyond traditional job roles, the expansion of data-driven technology is resulting in new professional opportunities, such as data visualization specialists, machine learning engineers, and predictive modelers. As businesses increasingly adopt data-driven decision-making, the demand for people

who can translate complex data into valuable information will continue to rise.

Integrating big data analytics into MBA and PGDM programs has the potential to transform learning experiences and prepare students for success in the digital age. Educational institutions must capitalize on this opportunity by using data-driven insights to define the future of learning and empower the next generation of leaders and innovators. By investing in education and training programs that educate students with the required skills in big data analytics, business schools can ensure that talent is always available to meet the industry's changing expectations.

The incorporation of big data analytics into MBA and PGDM programs improves academic learning while also providing students with practical skills and insights needed to grow in today's data-driven corporate world. By embracing this transformative change, educational institutions can help to shape the future of business education and prepare students to be effective leaders and innovators in a quickly changing digital world.



AR. ANIL BADAN

The hospitality industry is elevating its standards to meet the needs of the discerning traveller, by diving into the world of boutique hotels. Departing away from the traditional cookie-cutter accommodations, boutique hotels are known for personalised services, immersive experiences and an authentic stay. These hotels often include various criteria in rooms, that allow for an intimate guest experience. From unique design and ambience to personalised rooms and concierge services, boutique hotels are embracing various design trends that redefine the world of hospitality to new heights of elegance. In this article, Ar. Anil Badan, Founder and Principal Architect at Studio B Architects explore design trends in hospitality that are making their way into boutique hotels and meeting the evolving needs

of the travellers. Including Authenticity and Local Culture

Unlike conventional hotel chains, boutique hotels include the local culture in their designs to create a unique identity in their hotel. From architecture and interiors to cuisines and amenities, every space in a boutique hotel is crafted to reflect the local culture of the region. Be it a historic building with locally sourced artworks in interiors or regional cuisine served in the hotel restaurant, guests are immersed in an authentic and immersive experience that celebrates the destination's rich history and traditions.

Curating Unique and Personalised Experiences

Boutique hotels prioritise personalised services for the guests, creating a sense of warmth that sets them apart from traditional hotels. This emphasis on intimacy is reflected in the design of the hotel spaces, which are often characterised by cosy lounges, intimate dining areas, and thoughtfully appointed guest rooms. Boutique hotels eschew the grandiose lobbies and sprawling hallways in favour of more unique and inviting spaces that encour-



age socialising and relaxation. From cosy fireplaces and comfortable seating areas to private courtyards and rooftop terraces, every corner of a boutique hotel is designed to make guests feel



at home and welcome into a warm and inviting environment.

Embracing Sustainable and Eco-Friendly Practices

Sustainability has always been an ongoing trend, and

boutique hotels are at the forefront of embracing this! From sourcing local and organic ingredients for their restaurants to incorporating energy-efficient design features and local materials into their buildings, boutique hotels are committed to reducing their environmental impact and preserving the natural beauty of their surroundings. Many boutique hotels also partner with local conservation organisations and community initiatives to support environmental stewardship, offering a glimpse of sustainability to the travellers. By embrac-

ing sustainable practices, boutique hotels reduce their carbon footprint, inspire guests to travel more responsibly, and make a positive impact on the planet. The rise of boutique hotels represents a shift in the luxury hospitality industry towards more authentic, intimate, and personalised experiences. With the demand for authentic and experiential travel, boutique hotels are leading the way in shaping the future of luxury hospitality, offering guests unforgettable stays that etch an enduring signature and inspire a sense of wonder and discovery!

## Furnishing for flexibility: Adapting your home environment to changing needs & lifestyles



SIMRAN KOHLI

In today's world, our homes need to be as dynamic as our lifestyles. The rise of remote work, multi-generational living, and a focus on sustainability are transforming how we view and use our living spaces. Adaptable and flexible homes, equipped with smart technologies and innovative storage solutions, are becoming essential to meet these diverse needs. By making our spaces more versatile, we can ensure our homes remain comfortable, functional, and in harmony with our evolving life scenarios. This shift towards adaptable living not only enhances our daily lives but also prepares our homes for future changes, ensuring they can grow and change as we do.

### THE EVOLUTION OF LIVING SPACES

Our living spaces are no longer static environments but dynamic settings that reflect the fluid nature of our lives. Technological advancements, changing

family structures, and a heightened awareness of environmental sustainability are reshaping our expectations of home. The move towards remote work, for instance, necessitates dedicated and comfortable workspaces within our homes. Similarly, the trend of multi-generational living calls for spaces that offer both privacy and areas for communal activities. These shifts underscore the importance of designing homes that can adapt to various needs over time.

### DESIGNING FOR FLEXIBILITY AND ADAPTABILITY

The core of adaptable home design lies in versatility. This can be seamlessly achieved through multi-functional furniture, such as sofa beds or extendable tables, which allow for the quick transformation of living areas to suit different purposes. For instance, integrating work stations with table lamps and pots alongside such furniture enhances the functionality of a space, making it equally

suited for work and leisure. Movable walls and partitions offer a more structural solution, allowing for the easy reconfiguration of spaces according to immediate needs or personal preferences.

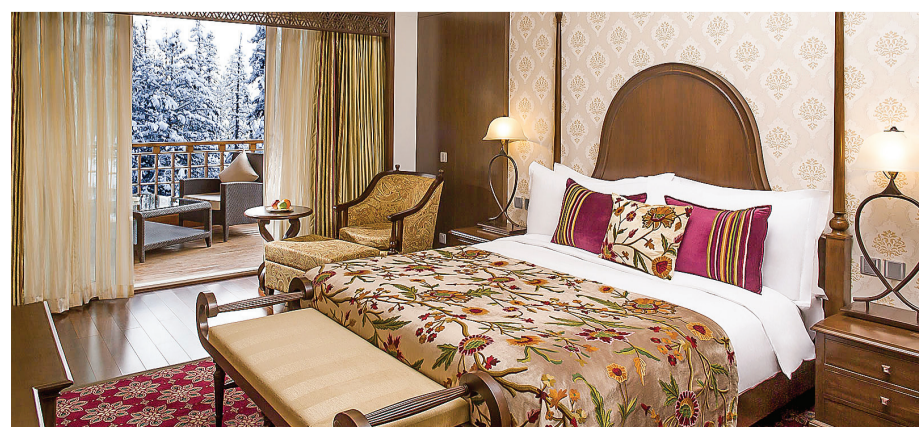
### ENHANCING HOME ADAPTABILITY THROUGH TECHNOLOGY AND STORAGE

Leveraging smart technologies and innovative storage solutions is essential in creating adaptable living spaces that meet our evolving needs. Smart home technologies, such as adjustable lighting systems and home automation, enhance space flexibility by allowing the ambiance and environmental controls to be tailored for different activities and times of day, contributing to comfort and energy efficiency. Innovative storage solutions, including office and travel organizers, play a crucial role in this adaptability. Hidden storage and customizable shelving, integrated into furniture and design elements, prevent clutter

and ensure spaces remain adaptable, functional, and aesthetically pleasing. Together, these strategies enable a seamless adaptation of our homes to a multitude of functions, promoting a harmonious and sustainable living environment.

As our lives continue to evolve, the flexibility of our living environments becomes increasingly essential. By embracing principles of adaptable design, integrating smart technologies, and implementing innovative storage solutions, we can create homes that are not just places of refuge but spaces that evolve alongside our changing needs and aspirations. This approach to home design not only enhances the functionality and sustainability of our living spaces but also ensures that our homes remain aligned with our lifestyles, now and in the future.

The author is the Founder of Dusaan, which is a leading online marketplace that aims to revolutionize the home decor space and transform the home shopping experience.



## NARINE BLAZES HIS WAY TO 49-BALL TON, POWERS KKR TO 223/6 AGAINST RR

TDG NETWORK  
KOLKATA

Star bowling allrounder Sunil Narine's blazing 109-run knock powered Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to 223/6 against the Rajasthan Royals (RR) in their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 match at the iconic Eden Gardens on Tuesday.

With his ton, Narine became the first cricketer to slam a century and take 100 wickets in the IPL. The Caribbean's blitzkrieg knock helped KKR give a massive 224-run target to Rajasthan.

After winning the toss, the Hyderabad-based franchise sent KKR to bat first at Eden Gardens. However, Sanju Samson's decision did not go in their favour, as they failed to take early wickets in the first inning.

Philip Salt (10 runs from 13 balls) and Sunil Narine (109 runs from 56 balls) opened for Kolkata and made a part-



nership of 21 runs. Salt failed to shine in the game and could smash only one four.

However, the English wicketkeeper-batsman's knock came to an end in the fourth over after Avesh Khan dismissed him.

After the first dismissal, Angkrish Raghuvanshi (30 runs from 18 balls) built up a solid 25-run partnership with Narine, which helped KKR add some crucial runs to the scoreboard.

In the 11th, RR's Kuldeep

crease to replace the KKR skipper. Russell slammed 2 fours at a strike rate of 130.

Meanwhile, Narine's stupendous knock came to an end in the 18th over after Trent Boult picked up the Caribbean's wicket. The 35-year-old hit 13 fours and 6 sixes at a strike rate of 194.64. He also became the first KKR player to hit a century at the Eden Gardens in front of their home crowd.

After the dismissal of Narine, Rinku Singh (20 runs from 9 balls) and Venkatesh Iyer (8 runs from 6 balls) took charge and added crucial runs at the end of the first inning.

However, Venkatesh was dismissed by Kuldeep in the last over of the first inning. He could slam just one four.

**Brief score:** Kolkata Knight Riders 223/6 (Sunil Narine 109, Angkrish Raghuvanshi 30, Rinku Singh 20\*; Avesh Khan 2/35) vs Rajasthan Royals.

## IPL: T20 records tumble during RCB-SRH run fest

TDG NETWORK  
BENGALURU

Records tumbled as boundaries rained at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium during the Royal Challengers Bengaluru's clash with SunRisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

The exuberant crowd saw a run fest, which produced a total of 81 boundaries and 549 runs in 40 overs. This was the highest aggregate score struck in a T20 match.

Before runs flowed effortlessly from the bat of batters on Monday, the highest aggregate came in a match that took place in the ongoing season, when SRH stood victorious against the five-time champion Mumbai Indians.

During the match, both teams combined to put up an aggregate score of 523



runs at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad.

While chasing the record-breaking total of 288, RCB came close but suffered a 25-run loss.

RCB ended the game with a score of 262/7 and became the first team to score 250 runs while chasing a target in the history of the IPL.

late 81 boundaries, which included 46 fours and 35 sixes.

As the ball sailed into the stands at regular intervals throughout the game, this match has now set the joint-highest record for most sixes in a T20 match with 38 maximums. SRH's clash against MI also saw the ball smacked into the stands 38 times.

Coming to the match, after putting SRH to bat, Travis Head (102) and Heinrich Klaasen's (67) blitz powered the visitors to 287/3.

In reply, Kohli (42) and du Plessis (62) provided the ideal start but wickets falling consistently impeded their chase. Dinesh Karthik starred with the bat yet again with a sensational knock of 83. Yet it wasn't enough to take his team across the finish line.

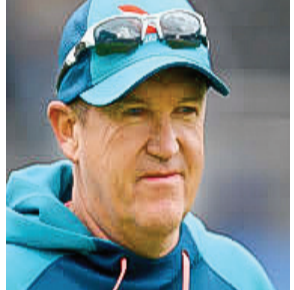
## We will come back stronger: RCB's Andy Flower

TDG NETWORK  
BENGALURU

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) produced a spirited fight with the bat while chasing a mammoth target of 288 runs in their previous Indian Premier League (IPL) contest at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, and head coach Andy Flower said they will take positives out of the match and they will come back stronger in the upcoming game.

RCB began the innings on a positive note with captain Faf du Plessis and Virat Kohli making an 80-run stand for the first wicket before Dinesh Karthik produced an astonishing innings late in the game to win the hearts of RCB fans.

"I am really proud of the way we fought with the bat out there in the middle.



We lost the game but I was really proud of the way we fought," said Andy Flower in a video on RCB website.

The head coach also recognized that the team will take a lot of confidence from the match after a strong performance with the bat and every game is a knockout game for the team now in order to qualify for the playoffs of the Indian Premier League.

"It was a really tough night in the field of course as they finished so powerfully that it probably took the wind out of our souls.

## Cummins, Brunt named as Wisden Leading Cricketers in the World

TDG NETWORK  
LONDON

Australian skipper Pat Cummins and England all-rounder Nat Sciver-Brunt have been named as the Wisden Leading Cricketers in the World in the 2024 edition of Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, published on Tuesday.

As per ESPN, the Australian pace spearhead and skipper in Tests and ODI formats, led his side to the front as they overcame a tough challenge from India to win their maiden ICC World Test Championship in June and later their sixth ICC Cricket World Cup title in Ahmedabad in November. He also played a crucial role in his side defending the Ashes urn away from home, drawing the series 2-2 in England.

Cummins is the first Aussie since Michael Clarke (2012) to secure the top honour and he has succeeded Ben Stokes, the Eng-



lish skipper who won the honour three times in 2020, 2021 and 2023. In 11 Tests last year, he took 42 wickets and scored 254 crucial runs at an average of 15.87. Across 24 international games, he took 59 wickets and made 422 runs at an average of 21.10. Within these 422 runs were many small, but impactful batting contributions throughout the Ashes and Cricket World Cup.

Sciver Brunt has been recognised as the top women's cricketer because of her role in the women's Ashes.

After that, she scored a record-breaking 66-ball ton against Sri Lanka, the fastest by an England women's player in ODI history. Her all-round appeal was recognised by the Indian T20 franchise Mumbai Indians (MI), who paid 3,20,000 pounds to get her services in 2023.

She was also a part of MI team, which won the inaugural Women's Premier League (WPL) in India. With 332 runs in 10 games, including three fifties and 10 wickets, she played a crucial role in the Blue and Gold franchise's win.

Three Australian players have been named among the five Wisden Cricketers of the Year, including Mitchell Starc, Usman Khawaja and Ashleigh Gardner.

England stars Harry Brook and Mark Wood also made it to the list. All these players delivered standout performances across the men's and women's Ashes in particular.

## Bihar Cricket Association forms Women's Cricket Development Committee

TDG NETWORK  
PATNA

The Bihar Cricket Association (BCA) has taken a significant step towards fostering the growth of women's cricket in the state by establishing a Women's Cricket Development Committee. The Committee's primary aim is to encourage and support the participation of young women cricketers in the sport.

Women's Premier League (WPL) has been a big hit in the country. BCA wants to help women's cricket grow in Bihar and remains committed to nurturing women's cricket talent in Bihar.

"The promotion and development of cricket among women in the state have been given special attention by the BCCI.

To further this objective, a Women's Cricket Development Committee has been formed, which is actively working to engage young women in cricket," BCA presi-

dent Rakesh Tiwari said in a statement.

The BCA president also informed that the cricket governing body is working toward providing better infrastructure and employment opportunities to players of the State. "The Bihar Cricket Association is committed to the development of cricket in Bihar, working towards better infrastructure, employment opportunities, salaries, and more. The results of these efforts will be visible very soon," said Mr. Rakesh Tiwari. Meanwhile, BCA's Randir Verma U-19 Tournament 2023-24 is currently underway. A men's Senior Inter-District One Day League 2023-24 is also being played in Bihar.

The purpose of the tournaments is to nurture raw talent in the state. "Every year, the Bihar Cricket Association organizes domestic cricket tournaments for its young players across various levels and age groups.

## India aim for historic tally of 15 medals in World Para Athletics

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Indian para athletics team was recently selected after the final trials in Bengaluru in end March. A team of thirty athletes achieved the minimum qualification standard set by the ministry of sports. A mix of established stars were joined by some inspiring newcomers who performed creditably at the final trials in Bengaluru.

Leading the charge will be India's sensational javelin



thrower Sumit Antil who will be looking to best his own world record in the F category. The other reigning world record holder Sundar

Singh gurjar was below his best due to an injury but the bright spot in his category was ajeet singh and who finished one two in the event pushing Sundar Singh Gurjar to third place. All three are likely to perform a clean sweep in their category at kobe.

High jumpers Praveen Kumar and Nishad continued with their fine form and look set to add to their existing set of medals at kobe. Varun Bhati, an Olympic medal-

ist from 2016, also showed good form in his return from injury. Also continuing in good form was Paralympic silver medal discus thrower Yogesh kathuniya.

He will be aiming for a gold at the Kobe World Championship.

In the women's events simran continued to improve on her existing performance by winning both the 100 and 200 m sprint events. Simran had won 2 silver medals at the Asian Games.

## ISL: Mohun Bagan Super Giant overwhelm Mumbai City FC to lift League Shield

TDG NETWORK  
KOLKATA

Mohun Bagan Super Giant became the Indian Super League (ISL) Champions and clinched the coveted title by defeating Mumbai City FC by 2-1 at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Kriangan in Kolkata.

The Mariners on Monday took the title back from the Islanders courtesy of a goal each by Liston Colaco and Jason Cummings in this championship-winning clash in the City of Joy. A late 89th-minute strike by Lallianzuala Chhangte meant that the game went right down the wire, with eight minutes of added time in the second half adding excitement to this dramatic finish of the league stages.

However, the home side held their lead despite playing with 10 men after the sending off of Brendan Hamill in the 91st minute of the game.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant jumped to 48 points from 22 matches as a consequence of this result, thus edging past the now second-placed Mumbai City FC (47) by a solitary point. Antonio Lopez Habas can thus add another feather



to his illustrious cap in the ISL, after taking charge of the club at the mid-season point after they had succumbed to three straight defeats in the league in December.

Liston opened the floodgates with his thunderous, trademark effort from the left side of the box in the 28th minute of the match. He had been a teasing presence for the Mariners in that final third in the opening half hour of the game. Eight minutes before the goal, he had missed nodding home a cross by Anirudh Thapa by a whisker. The latter received the ball outside the box on the right flank and sneaked in a smart delivery for Liston on the far post. The attacker

headed the ball, but it failed to hit the target. His efforts bore fruit thanks to a timely assist by Dimitrios Petratos, whose pass was received, held on, and hammered onto the top right corner effortlessly by the winger.

Mumbai City FC emerged as the more dominant of the two sides in the second half though, holding the possession for a reasonable period and knocking on the doors of the Mohun Bagan Super Giant backline. That simultaneously resulted in vacant spaces opening up in their own defensive unit, which was adequately pounced upon by Petratos and Jason Cummings as the match entered its final 20-odd minutes.

The attacking duo em-

barked on a lethal counter-attacking move before Petratos supplied the ball to Cummings on the right flank. The striker could have opted to play a one-two, but he instead trusted his scoring instincts to take on Mumbai City FC goalkeeper Phurba Lachenpa from a slightly challenging angle, before netting the ball to double the lead of the Mariners.

Mumbai City FC were naturally desperate to somehow crawl their way back into the proceedings, and they ended up overcrowding the Mohun Bagan Super Giant box. Chhangte reaped the rich benefits of the same by picking up a short delivery given to him by Apuia near the right post and slotting it into the net in the 89th minute. That infused positivity amongst the visitors, as even a draw would have been sufficient for them to finish atop the league table. Hamill's sending off came as further good news, but some smart tactical play by the Mariners towards the end ensured that they didn't succumb to any more slip-ups and became the ISL 2023-24 League Winners.

## 'Can't accept this kind of behaviour': Chelsea coach Pochettino on players' clash over penalty

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Chelsea head coach Mauricio Pochettino sent a strict warning to Nicolas Jackson and Noni Madueke after the duo clashed with Cole Palmer over a penalty during the Premier League clash against Everton.

Chelsea stood victorious with a 6-0 win over Everton at Stamford Bridge, London on Tuesday. During the game, Jackson, Madueke and Palmer got into a heated dispute over Chelsea's penalty. The incident occurred



when Jackson and Madueke rushed to get the ball from Malo Gusto to take the penalty. After the heated exchange

between the two players, Thiago Silva intervened to try to settle the situation. However, Silva's efforts went in vain as Madueke remained adamant about taking the spot kick. Chelsea skipper Conor Gallagher tried to defuse the situation by asking the forward to hand the ball to Palmer. However, Madueke refused, which led to Gallagher forcibly taking away the ball and handing it to Palmer.

"I can't accept this kind of behaviour. I told them it's the last time I want to see

this kind of behaviour. It is impossible to have this type of behaviour after this performance. If we want to be a great team, we need to change and think in a collective way.

They're all involved in this situation. Next time they're all out.

This is not a joke. The penalty taker is Palmer. It's Palmer who needs to decide if he wants to give the ball to a teammate. It's important to fix. They realise now," Pochettino said as quoted from Goal.com.