

White House to be a heartbeat away for either Kamala or Usha

Trump VP Pick's
PIO Wife Used To
Be A Democrat

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Whoever wins the US presidency, one way or the other, there will be an Indian-American woman a heartbeat away from the White Ho-

**VANCE OF DEMOCRACY
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use at 1, Observatory Circle, home to the American vice-president. It will either be incumbent vice-president Kamala Harris if Biden wins, or Usha Chilukuri, Trump running mate JD Vance's spouse, who will move into what is formally called the Naval Observatory as the Second Lady.

It has been a chequered journey for the San Diego-born & raised Yale graduate. Once a



Donald Trump was formally nominated as the Republican presidential candidate on Monday. He had asked JD Vance's wife Usha how she liked political life when he was trying to zero in on a running mate

registered Democrat from the liberal enclave of California, she met Vance, who grew up in conservative Middle America, in law school, and has been a companion in their journey to the MAGA (Make America Great Again) Republican side of the political spectrum.

In his memoir 'Hillbilly Elegy', Vance credits Usha for his personal and professional growth, calling her a

brilliant partner who "instinctively understood the questions I didn't even know to ask and she always encouraged me to seek opportunities that I didn't know existed". Photos of the wedding showing them in Indian togs have now surfaced on social media much to the delight of Hindu activists in the US.

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Parents moved to US from India in 1980s

Usha's parents, Lakshmi and Radhakrishna Chilukuri, moved to the US in the 1980s. Radhakrishna, a mechanical engineer with a masters in aerodynamics, now teaches at San Diego Univ. Lakshmi is a molecular biology prof at the same univ. **P 18**

Jaishankar reaffirms India's continued support

for growth of Mauritius



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar calls on Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jugnauth in Port Louis on Tuesday. (PTI)

PORT LOUIS, July 16 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday reaffirmed India's consistent and continued support to Mauritius in its quest for progress as he held wide-ranging talks with the country's leadership to cement the bilateral ties which are critical for the future of the Indian Ocean region.

Jaishankar is here for a two-day visit for "productive engagements" with the leadership of Mauritius to take forward the special bilateral ties.

The visit to the Indian Ocean island nation marks one of the first bilateral engagements undertaken by Jaishankar following his re-appointment in the third term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Government.

Jaishankar said his visit to Mauritius - what he termed as 'this beautiful country' - underscores the strength and depth of the bilateral ties. "It is also an opportunity to underline India's unwavering commitment to its special and endur-

ing partnership with Mauritius," he said at an event attended by Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth.

During the meeting, Jaishankar and PM Jugnauth discussed "various aspects of bilateral ties, including the Development Partnership, Defence and Maritime Corporation, economic and trade ties, and people-to-people linkages," he said.

The External Affairs Minister concluded by affirming that India remains committed to strengthening the critical partnership with Mauritius that is "so important for the future of the Indian Ocean region."

The event saw the inauguration of 12 High Impact Community Development Projects that are funded by India, the exchange of MoUs on education, culture, the digitisation of Immigration Archives and the exchange of Project Plan Documents between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC).

Indian envoy to Nepal meets new Dy PM, FM

■ **By Shirish B Pradhan**

KATHMANDU, July 16 (PTI)

INDIAN Ambassador to Nepal Naveen Srivastava on Tuesday called on newly-appointed Deputy PM Prakash Man Singh and Foreign Minister Dr Arzu Rana and discussed matters related to bilateral interest and mutual concerns.

Srivastava met Singh, who is also the Minister for Urban Development, and Rana at their respective office a day they assumed charge as part of the Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli-led coalition Government of Communist Party of Nepal- Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) and Nepali Congress

sworn in on Monday. "During the meeting, Srivastava and Singh discussed matters relating to bilateral interest and mutual concerns," sources at the Ministry said.

Ambassador Srivastava on the occasion extended best wishes to Deputy Prime Minister Singh for a successful tenure, saying that India is ready to enhance mutual cooperation. "Deputy Prime Minister Singh and Ambassador Srivastava on the occasion discussed India's possible cooperation in controlling river pollution and solid waste management," Secretary at the Ministry Maniram Gelal told media after the meeting.

Tell Putin to end illegal war against Ukraine: US to India

MILWAUKEE, July 16 (PTI)

OBSERVING that India has a long-standing relationship with Russia, the US has said that it has encouraged New Delhi to "utilise" that relationship with Moscow and urge President Vladimir Putin to end the "illegal war" against Ukraine.

These remarks were made by State Department Spokesperson Mathew Miller at his daily news conference on Monday.

"India has a long-standing relationship with Russia. I think that's well-known. And we have encouraged India to utilise that relationship with Russia, that long-standing relationship and the unique position that they have, to urge President Putin to end his illegal war and to find a just peace, a lasting peace to this conflict; to tell Putin to respect the UN Charter, to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty," he said.

"That's what we'll continue

to impress upon the Government of India, which is an important partner of ours when it comes to their relationship with Russia," Miller said in response to a question.

Miller made similar remarks on July 9 soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi left Russia.

Modi was in Russia for two days from July 8-9 for the 22nd India-Russia annual summit that has been watched closely by the West amidst the raging Ukraine conflict.

Sept 26 UN issues provisional list of speakers

PM Modi to address high-level UNGA session

■ **By Yoshita Singh**

UNITED NATIONS, July 16 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi is likely to address the high-level UN General Assembly session here on September 26, according to a provisional list of speakers issued by the UN.

The high-level General Debate of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly will take place from September 24-30.

As per the provisional list of speakers for the General Debate issued by the UN on Monday, India's "Head of Government" is scheduled to address the high-level session in the afternoon of September 26.

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4 Army soldiers killed in action in Doda

JAMMU, July 16 (PTI)

FOUR Army personnel, including a captain, lost their lives in a fierce gunfight with heavily armed terrorists of Pakistan-based banned outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The fallen soldiers were identified as Captain Brijesh Thapa from Darjeeling, Naik Dokkari Rajesh from Andhra Pradesh, and Sepoys Bijendra and Ajay Kumar Singh from Rajasthan.

The encounter, which took place in the dense forests of Doda district late Monday evening, has sparked widespread condemnation and protests in Jammu and other regions.

The Kashmir Tigers, a JeM shadow group, has claimed responsibility for the attack

In New Delhi, the Opposition Congress attacked the Centre with Rahul Gandhi asserting that the Government should take full responsibility for the repeated security lapses and take strict action against the culprits.

Gandhi also said such horrific incidents one after the other are extremely



The mortal remains of four Army personnel who were killed in an encounter with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, in Doda, on Tuesday. (PTI)



From L to R- Captain Brijesh Thapa, Sepoy Bijendra, Sepoy Ajay Kumar Singh and NK (OFC) Dokkari Rajesh who were killed in the encounter between security forces and terrorists in Doda district on Tuesday. (PTI)

sad and worrying, and that Army soldiers and their families are bearing the brunt of "BJP's wrong policies". The latest incident marks the third major clash between security forces and ter-

rorists in Jammu region within the past three weeks, highlighting the escalating tensions in the area.

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IMF ups India's FY25 growth forecast to 7%

Rural Demand Seen Driving Pvt Consumption, Projections Are In Line With Govt Estimates

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: IMF on Tuesday revised the growth projection for India to 7% during the current financial year, compared to the earlier estimate of 6.8%, citing upward revisions to growth last year and improved prospects for private consumption, especially in rural areas. The assessment will provide comfort to analysts and policymakers as rural demand is seen to be weak, although there are initial signs of an uptick.

The World Economic Outlook report has retained the global growth projection at 3.2% for this year, but projected a faster pace of expansion in emerging markets and developing countries driven by India and China, which is projected to grow 5%, compared with 4.6% earlier.

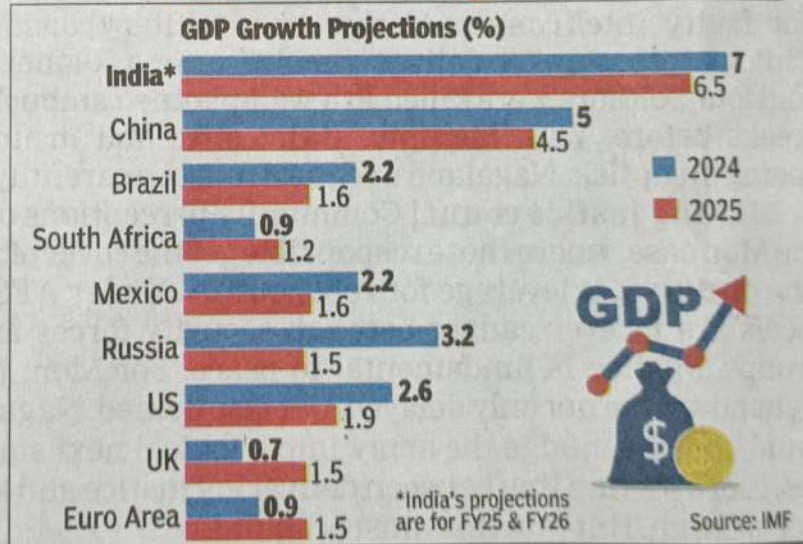
"Growth in India and China is revised upwards and accounts for almost half of global growth. Yet, prospects for the next five years remain weak, largely because of waning momentum in emerging Asia. By 2029, growth in China is projected to moderate to 3.3%, well below its current pace," it said. While the Indian economy is projected to grow slower than the 8.2% during the last financial year, it will remain the fastest-growing major economy, not just this fiscal year but even in FY26.

IMF's projections are in line with govt's estimates but lower than RBI's revised forecast of 7.2% for the current financial year. Govt may revise its projections when FM Nir-



HALWA CEREMONY: FM Nirmala Sitharaman with her deputy Pankaj Chaudhary and top officials at the Halwa ceremony on Tuesday. After the ceremony, several employees stay inside the press till the Budget is presented in Parliament

Retains Fastest Growing Major Eco Tag



mala Sitharaman presents her seventh straight Budget next week. Besides, the Economic Survey — which will be tabled in Parliament ahead of the Budget — will provide a forecast. In recent years, the finance ministry's estimates have been more conservative than RBI's.

IMF also warned that mo-

mentum in the fight against inflation is slowing, which could further delay an easing of interest rates and keep up strong dollar pressure on developing economies.

It also cautioned of near-term upside risks to inflation as services prices remain elevated amid wage growth in the labour-intensive sector.