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Sheikh Hasina flees Dhaka, lands at Hindon in Ghaziabad | Army announces formation of an interim government

BANGLADESH SLIPS INTO DEEP CRISIS



AGENCIES
DHAKA/NEW DELHI

The situation worsened quicker than anticipated in Bangladesh on Monday as the country slipped into utter chaos. With the protestors swarming the capital city of Dhaka, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was forced to resign. A few hours later she in a C-130J military transport aircraft of the Bangladesh Air Force landed in Hindon airbase in Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh as part of her plan to go to London, according to multiple diplomatic sources.

It is learnt that Hasina has been moved to a safe location and it is unlikely that she would leave India on Monday night.

The sources said Hasina's plan was to leave for London. However, certain issues have come up because of which there is some uncertainty in her original plan.

Hasina is likely to meet her daughter Saima Wazed, who is based in Delhi. Wazed is working as the World Health Organisation's regional director for South-East Asia.

India decided to provide

a safe passage through the Indian airspace to Hasina's aircraft following a request from Dhaka, sources said.

The aircraft movement was monitored by the Indian Air Force and security agencies from its entry into Indian airspace to the Hindon air base in Ghaziabad.

It is, however, not clear if the Bangladeshi Prime Minister will stay in Delhi or move to another location. Reports in media outlets of

Many people entered the PM's residence.

People were seen decamping with various items from public buildings.

Bangladesh have speculated that Sheikh Hasina may proceed to London.

According to sources, Indian Air Force fighter aircraft were airborne soon after the Bangladeshi C-130 aircraft entered Indian airspace and kept an eye on it for some time. The Indian Air Force and Indian Army were prepared to meet any contingency, the sources said.

There is no official reaction from India on the unfolding developments in Bangladesh.

After Sheikh Hasina fled Dhaka, Bangladesh Army Chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman said Hasina has resigned and an interim government is taking over the responsibilities. In a televised address, he said: "I'm taking all responsibility (of the country). Please cooperate."

The Army chief said he had met political leaders and told them the Army would take over responsibility for law and order.

The students' protests in Bangladesh started last month against a controversial job quota scheme. The protests now have turned into an anti-government agitation.

The controversial quota system provided for 30 per cent reservations in civil services jobs for the families of veterans who fought the 1971 liberation war.

CELEBRATIONS, PROTESTS ACROSS BANGLADESH

Meanwhile, leading Bangladeshi daily newspaper

Doval meets Hasina, Jaishankar briefs PM



BSF personnel keep vigil at the India-Bangladesh Border check post after Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina quit. ANI

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the political situation in Bangladesh, sources said on Monday.

In the wake of the emerging situation, Air India, on Monday, cancelled the scheduled operation of flights to and from Dhaka with immediate effect and stated that they are continuously monitoring the situation. P4

Hasina will not return to politics, says son

AGENCIES
DHAKA

Sajeeb Wazed Joy, son of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said his mother would not make a political comeback as she is "deeply disappointed" by the uprising against

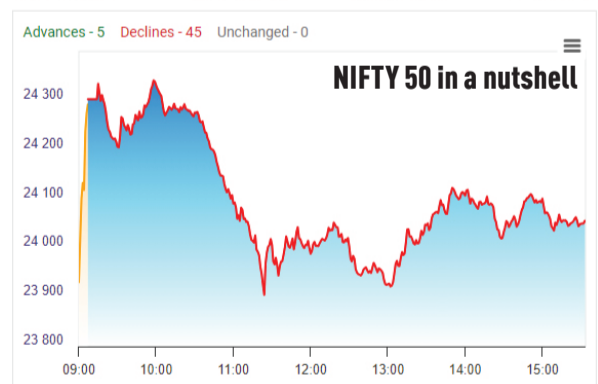
her leadership despite her efforts for the betterment of Bangladesh, Dhaka Tribune reported.

Joy, who served as an official adviser to the former prime minister until Monday, said in an interview with a British public service P4

Stocks battered across Asia; Sensex sheds over 2,200 pts

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

24,055.60
-662.10 (-2.68%)
Open 24,302.85
High 24,350.05
Low 23,893.70



Tracking global trends, the stock markets plunged on Monday, with the benchmark index Sensex declining 2,222.55 points to close at 78,759.40 points. The broader index Nifty-50 fell by 662.10 points, ending the day at 24,055.60.

Among the Nifty companies, only five advanced while 45 declined, underscoring the market's bearish sentiment.

Stock market investors lost a whopping Rs 15.32 lakh crore on Monday following a crash in Indian equities triggered by a sharp plunge in Japanese and other global markets.

Following the sharp decline in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms dropped by Rs 15,32,796.1 crore to Rs 4,41,84,150.03 crore (USD 5.27 trillion).

In broad-based selling, all sectoral indices came under intense pressure and ended the day in the red. Varun Aggarwal, founder and managing director of Profit Idea, said: "Sector-wise, all indices ended in the red, with Nifty Realty leading the decline, falling 5 per cent. Nifty Metal, Media, and Auto indices dropped between 3-4 per cent. The

MARKET MAYHEM

Inverter loss due to Monday's plunge pegged at

Rs 15.32 lakh cr

After Monday's erosion, BSE's M-Cap stood at

Rs 4,41,84,150 cr

Monday blues: Nikkei 225 sheds 12%

AGENCIES
TOKYO

Japan's Nikkei 225 stock index plunged more than 12% on Monday as investors worried the US economy may be in worse shape than had been expected.

The Nikkei index fell 4,451.28 points to 31,458.42. Earlier on Fri-

day, it dropped 5.8%. In two days of losses, the index has shed over 18, its worst two-day decline.

At its lowest, the Nikkei plunged as much as 13.4 per cent on Monday. Its biggest single-day rout was a drop of 3,836 points, or 14.9%, on the day dubbed "Black Monday" in October 1987.

P4

HC denies bail to Kejriwal

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday dismissed Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's plea challenging his arrest by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) case concerning the excise policy matter.

The Delhi High Court stated that it cannot be said that the arrest of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal was without justifiable reason.

Regarding the bail application, the court has disposed of it, granting Kejriwal the option to approach the trial court for further relief.



Earlier today, Arvind Kejriwal's legal team mentioned the matter before the bench of Justices Neena Bansal Krishna, urging the court to expedite the decision on his petitions.

The same bench had reserved its order on Arvind Kejriwal's regular bail plea in the CBI case related to

the excise policy on July 29, 2024. Additionally, on July 17, 2024, the court reserved its order on Kejriwal's plea challenging his arrest by the CBI in the same case.

During the hearing, the Central Bureau of Investigation opposed the bail plea, referring to Kejriwal as the "sutradhar" of the case. During the arguments, CBI's Special counsel DP Singh informed the Delhi High Court that as their investigation progressed, they discovered more evidence implicating Arvind Kejriwal. The chargesheet had been filed naming six individuals, in-

A flurry of meetings lined up for Uddhav's 3-day Delhi visit

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Former Maharashtra chief minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray will start on Tuesday his three-day visit to Delhi.

This will be Thackeray's first visit to Delhi after the formation of the 18th Lok Sabha. He will meet former Congress president Sonia Gandhi and party president Mallikarjun Kharge. He will be visit Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sumita Kejriwal.

He is expected to hold meetings with leaders of I.N.D.I.A bloc partners TMC, AAP and SP. Hi visit comes ahead of the



assembly elections in Maharashtra.

BJP and the undivided Shiv Sena were in an alliance. Their partnership broke down after the assembly elections due to disputes over the Chief Minister's position. Thackeray then formed a government with the Congress and NCP, despite their ideologies being P4

SC terms coaching centres 'death chambers'

Takes suo motu cognisance on issues related to safety norms

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

In the wake of the recent deaths of three UPSC students in Delhi's Old Rajinder Nagar, the Supreme Court on Monday took suo motu cognisance on the issue related to safety norms in the coaching centres.

A bench of justices, Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan, ob-

served that such institutes have become "death chambers" as the top court was hearing the petition filed by the Coaching Federation of India. The court dismissed the appeal filed by the Coaching Federation of India against the Delhi High Court order.

The court took note of the recent incident in the Old Rajinder Nagar in Delhi and orally said, "These places (coaching centres) have become death chambers. You are taking away the lives of young ones coming from

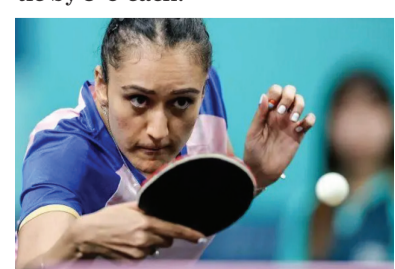
PARIS OLYMPICS

India in last eight in women's table tennis

TDG NETWORK
PARIS

Team India defeated Romania to reach the quarterfinal of the women's table tennis team competition for the first time ever in Olympics.

India defeated Romania by 3-2 in a thriller. India first gained a 2-0 advantage as Sreeja Akula-Archana Kamath and Manika Batra secured the first two matches of the tie by 3-0 each.



Lakshya misses out on Bronze as he loses to 7th-seeded Malaysian

TDG NETWORK
PARIS

India shuttler Lakshya Sen's remarkable campaign concluded on a disappointing note after he narrowly missed out on the bronze medal in the men's singles event at the ongoing Paris Olympics on Monday.

Lakshya Sen, just like many other India athletes, stood on the cusp of making history at the Paris Olympics. He was in contention for becoming the first Indian shuttler to win a medal in the men's singles event at the Olympics.

However, he came close but ended up too far from etching his name in the history books following his 21-13, 16-21, 11-21 loss against Malaysia's Zii Jia Lee and finished fourth in the event. DETAILS P16

9 KANWARIYAS ELECTROCUTED TO DEATH, SEVERAL OTHERS INJURED

TDG NETWORK
HAJIPUR (BIHAR)

As many as nine Kanwariyas died and several others were injured when their vehicle came in contact with a high-voltage overhead wire in Bihar's Hajipur.

According to the police, eight devotees died on the spot one Kanwariyas died during treatment in the hospital.

Om Prakash, Sub-divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Hajipur said that the height of their vehicle was very high and it touched a high-tension wire.

"The Kanwariyas were going on a DJ-mounted trolley. The DJ-mounted trolley was very high and there was a wire in which it got entangled. DJ trolley came



in contact with 11000 high tension wire due to which some devotees died, while some others were injured and are undergoing treatment," Sadar SDPO Hajipur Omprakash told reporters. The victims, from Sultanpur village, were en route to Pahelaja Ghat in Saran to perform a ritual at Sonpur Baba Haiharnath.

Further investigation is underway.

Earlier on July 29, two Kanwariyas died and around five others sustained injuries after a container hit the tractor-trolley in which they were travelling in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district.

The accident occurred near Deori village on National Highway 44 under the ju-

isdiction of the Civil Lines police station in the district.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Arvind Thakur told ANI, "An accident occurred near Deori village on National Highway 44 under Civil Lines police station limits where a container (truck) hit a tractor trolley in which Kanwariyas were travelling. Some Kanwariyas

were in the trolley and some of them were moving on foot. After the collision, the tractor-trolley got overturned in which two Kanwariyas died and around five sustained injuries."

Sawan month is considered the month of Lord Shiva. The devotees who worshipped the Lord Shiva this month received tonnes of blessings. During the Sawan month, a day of Shivratri is also celebrated and the importance of Sawan Shivratri is the same and equal to that of the yearly Shivratri.

Kanwariyas are Shiva devotees who visit places like Haridwar, Gaumukh and Gangotri in Uttarakhand, and Sultanganj in Bihar to fetch the holy water of River Ganga and then worship God with that water.

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar announces Rs 4 lakh ex gratia for kin of deceased Kanwariyas

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday expressed grief over the death of nine Kanwariyas in Hajipur and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh to the family of each victim.

On the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, nine Kanwariyas died and several others were injured when their vehicle came in contact with a high-voltage overhead wire in Bihar's Hajipur.

"It is sad that 9 devotees travelling on a DJ trolley died due to electric shock near Sultanpur village of Industrial Police Station area of Vaishali district. I pray to God to give strength to the family members of the deceased to bear the pain in this hour of grief. North Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited will give an ex-gratia grant of Rs 4 lakh each to the families of the deceased," Nitish Kumar posted on X.



According to the police, eight devotees died on the spot and one Kanwariyas died during treatment in the hospital.

Om Prakash, Sub-divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Hajipur said that the height of their vehicle was very high and it touched a high-tension wire.

"The Kanwariyas were going on a DJ-mounted trolley. The DJ-mounted trolley

was very high and there was a wire in which it got entangled and came in contact with 11000 high tension wire due to which some devotees died, while some others were injured and are undergoing treatment," Sadar SDPO Hajipur Omprakash told reporters.

The victims, from Sultanpur village, were en route to Pahelaja Ghat in Saran to perform a ritual at Sonpur Baba Haiharnath.

Haryana: BJP kicks off 'Jan Samwad' campaign for assembly elections

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Haryana BJP has initiated a "Jan Samwad" campaigning programme in the State for the upcoming assembly polls.

Speaking to ANI, Union Minister and BJP leader Kishan Pal Gujjar on Monday said, "Senior state leaders in 90 seat constituencies will go to three constituencies each, which means one leader will be given three constituencies and the program will go on till Haryana election till the end of this month."

Leaders and in-charges of Haryana have been given the responsibility to hold public dialogue with the people and give information about the public interest schemes of the government.

The public dialogue program started on Sunday and will continue till the Haryana elections. There will be door to door events



and separate programs will be organized for the women and youth.

The government will make all the answers to the questions related to the beneficiaries available to the public domain. An introduction booklet will also be prepared which will be distributed among the people.

Farmers, women and youth are going to be the focus of the party during the "Jan Samwad" program.

As per information from officials, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah are likely to participate at the end of the program.

BJP President JP Nadra is also most likely to visit the state after 15 days to boost the morale of the cadres. Small meetings, door-to-door campaigns and big rallies will be held.

Additionally, the BJP is also set to launching the 'Jan Ashirwad' yatra across the assembly constituencies in the state.

The comprehensive outreach program will feature prominent figures, including Union Ministers, national leaders, and state-level politicians, who will visit and engage with residents in each constituency.

BJP politicising Ayodhya rape incident: Akhilesh

TDG NETWORK
LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav on Monday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of politicising the Ayodhya rape incident.

"BJP wants to start conspiracy before the elections. Their aim from the very first day has been to defame the socialists. Their mentality, especially towards Muslims is undemocratic and unconstitutional, Yadav told reporters here today.

Further speaking with reference to the case of gangrape of a 12 year old girl in Ayodhya, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister defended his previous remarks and asked what is wrong in seeking a DNA test of the accused.

Yadav had previously stated that the Uttar Pradesh government had amended the law in 2023 and mandated DNA tests for any provision for punishment of more than seven years.

"This is their (UP govern-



ment's) amended law of 2023 which mandated that a DNA test should be done if there is any provision for punishment of more than seven years for someone, then what is wrong with this demand and their family members are also saying and the police knows the truth...No matter how much they do, the public has no hope from them..." Yadav said.

Apart from the Ayodhya gangrape incident Yadav further cited two more instances where he said that the BJP had acted to defame the Samajwadi Party.

Taking pot shot at Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath, the SP chief said,

and Muslims? The name of the Yadav that was taken, it is being heard that he was not there in the camera footage. He had gone to have tea and the police found a Yadav, so he was sent to jail. I want to tell you that such people who are violating the law and are working as workers of the BJP, whenever the (SP) government comes, action will be taken against such officers also. And the third example is of Ayodhya," the SP chief said.

Akhilesh Yadav was speaking to reporters today at the Janeshwar Mishra Park at Gomti Nagar in Lucknow to pay tribute to the late Samajwadi Party leader Janeshwar Mishra on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

Meanwhile, SP MP from Faizabad (Ayodhya), Awadhesh Prasad, said, "This incident is extremely shameful. Samajwadi Party stands with the victim. Whoever is accused should get the harshest punishment, the accused should be hanged. The

party has formed a high-level committee and has asked it to submit its report as soon as possible, action will be taken based on the report."

Prasad further demanded from the government provide security to the rape victim and her family. Samajwadi Party demands that the government should provide security to the victim and her family and give them at least Rs 20 lakh," Prasad said.

Earlier on Sunday, Akhilesh Yadav urged the court to ensure the Ayodhya rape victim's safety considering the sensitivity and seriousness of the matter.

In a post on X, Akhilesh said, "The government should ensure the best medical care for the rape victim. The government is responsible for protecting the girl's life. I humbly request the Honorable Court to take suo motu cognizance of the situation and ensure the victim's safety under its supervision, considering the sensitivity and seriousness of the matter.

Cong president Kharge targets BJP on 5th anniversary of Article 370 abrogation

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Criticising the Centre on the 5th anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday said the BJP neither respects "Kashmiriyat nor upholds 'Jamhuriyat' (democracy)."

In a post on X, Kharge said, "BJP's policy on Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh neither respects 'Kashmiriyat' nor upholds 'Jamhuriyat'! The Modi Govt had claimed that this move would help to fully integrate Jammu and Kashmir, boost the economic development of the region, and prevent terrorism and separatism."

The Congress chief claimed



that the "reality is starkly different" and said, "Since 2019, there have been 683 fatal terror attacks, resulting in the martyrdom of 258 security personnel and the loss of 170 civilian lives. Notably, 25 terror attacks have occurred in the Jammu region since PM Modi's third oath, claiming the lives of 15 soldiers and injuring 27."

He claimed that "targeted killings of Kashmiri Pandits have become a norm" in the

past few years. Kharge further said during Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra, the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh conveyed to Rahul Gandhi that they "yearn for normalcy."

"A staggering 65 per cent of government department posts in Jammu & Kashmir remain vacant since 2019. The unemployment rate in Jammu and Kashmir stands at 10 per cent, with an alarming 18.3 per cent youth unemployment rate. Despite the introduction of the New Industrial Policy in 2021, a mere 3 per cent of investments have materialized on the ground. 40 per cent of projects under the PM's Development Package, 2015, remain pending. Jammu and Kashmir's net state domestic product (NSDP) growth rate has declined from 13.28 per

cent (April 2015- March 2019) to 8.73 per cent post-2019," he mentioned in his post.

The Congress chief further demanded that elections in J-K be held according to the Supreme Court's set deadline.

"So that people can elect their representatives, secure Constitutional rights, and put a full stop to this mechanism of being 'ruled by bureaucracy'. The Indian National Congress stands firmly with the people of these regions, which are an integral part of India," he added.

In August 2019, the Centre revoked Article 370, which gave special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the region into two Union Territories- Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Devotees take holy dip in Saryu River in Ayodhya on third Monday of Shravan

TDG NETWORK
AYODHYA

On the third Monday of the sacred month of Shravan, devotees flocked to the Saryu river and Nageshwar Nath Temple in Ayodhya.

Early morning, devotees arrived at the banks of the Saryu River to bathe in the holy river and to start their day in complete devotion to the lord Shiva. After bathing in the river, devotees headed for Nageshwar Nath Temple situated at the banks of the river to worship the lord Shiva. Omprakash Panda, the president of the Panda Society, told ANI that bathing in holy rivers in India



and performing charitable acts hold special significance Shravan Monday.

He further added that due to people's beliefs, millions of devotees gather in Ramnagar,

ri, take a tip in th Saryu river, and perform worship in the temples. Shravan month is considered sacred in the Hindu religion as many Hindus visit temples to worship lord Shiva.

This sacred month, typically falling between July and August, is a period of worship, fasting and pilgrimage dedicated to the Lord Shiva. Shravan holds a special place in Hindu mythology as the month when Lord Shiva is believed to have consumed the poison that emerged from the churning of the ocean (Samudra Manthan), saving the universe from its toxic effects.

Uttarakhand: 94 stranded people, 8 NDRF personnel rescued from Kedarnath Valley

TDG NETWORK
KEDARNATH

A total of eight National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) personnel and 94 people, including both children and patients, were rescued on Monday morning from the Kedarnath valley.

The rescue operations that were hindered due to poor weather conditions in the valley resumed today.

The MI-17 and Chinook helicopters of the Indian Air Force dropped off the airlifted passengers at Chardham helipad and Gauchar airstrips respectively.

The Ministry of Defence in a post on X posted "IAF continues rescue operations in Kedarnath. Mi17 and ALH helicopters are operating from Guptakashi while Chinook is operating from

Gauchar helipad conducting multiple sorties to pick up stranded people from Kedarnath Valley."

Meanwhile, the Uttarakhand government has also set up a medical camp in Gauchar to provide aid to those who are being rescued. Additionally, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami took to X and thanked the local people for providing help to the administration. The post read, "This is the culture of 'Atithi Devo Bhava' of Devbhoomi. The administration is getting full support from the local people in the ongoing rescue operation in the Kedarnath area. Village head Shri Mulyam Singh Tindori, President of Sonprayag Vyapar Mandal Shri Ankit Gairola, Shri Dharmesh Nautiyal (Shersi), Shri Dirghayu Goswami (Gaurikund),

former heads of villages, all villagers, horse-mule operators, officers and members of BKTC, Tirtha Purohit Samaj, employees of GMVN are also actively involved in rescue operations along with the local administration. It is because of the tireless efforts of all of you that the major damage caused by excessive rain could be prevented. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. Jai Hind, Jai Uttarakhand."

Earlier today, dog squads under the leadership of District Disaster Management Officer (DDMO) Nandan Singh Rajawar started search operations from Rambara to the Bhimbali area in Rudraprayag. Additionally, 133 people were safely airlifted till 9 am on Monday with the help of the MI 17 and Chinook helicopters and other small helicopters.

1,500 damru vadaks create world record with performance in Ujjain on third 'Savan Somvar'

TDG NETWORK
UJJAIN

The third Monday of the holy Sawan month added a new feather in the cap of Mahakal ki Nagri, Ujjain. A total of 1,500 Damru players created a world record by giving a captivating rhythmic performance at Shaktipath located on the premises of Mahakaleshwar Temple, Mahalok Lok on Monday, stated an official release.

"The city resonated with the sound of Damru, which is considered the favourite musical instrument of Lord Shiva. 1500 people played



Damru here at a time and broke the previous record of Federation of Indian Association New York of 488 people played Damru. Guinness World Records adjudicator Rishi Nath presented the certificate of creating the world record for Damru playing," the release read.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav extended greetings and

congratulated Ujjain for creating the world record.

Taking to his social media handle 'X', CM Yadav wrote, "With the sound of 1500 damrus, Avantika Nagari (Ujjain city) created a world record. A wish to make the city of Baba Mahakal resound with the sound of damrus has come true today. Today, on the third Monday of the holy month of Sawan, Ujjain registered its name in the "Guinness Book of World Records" by playing damrus on the tune of Bhasma Aarti. Now, it has become very difficult to put this wonderful and supernatural feeling into words."

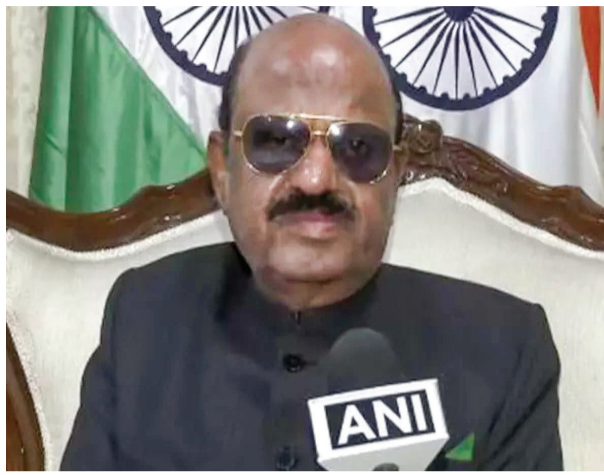
'LOT OF LOOPHOLES IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF WEST BENGAL'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose slammed the TMC government on Sunday, saying that there are a lot of loopholes in the financial management of West Bengal and accused of diverting funds.

Speaking to ANI, "It is the Governor's duty to oversee that the functioning of the government is within the constitution of India...I find that there are a lot of loopholes in the financial management of West Bengal. This is an opinion which stems directly from the analysis given by competent authorities like the Reserve Bank of India and the Comptroller and Auditor General..."

"I am sorry to say that there is a financial melt-



down in West Bengal... Funds are diverted, funds which are meant for the amelioration of poverty are used for other purposes. There is an avoidable luxury in the government...I have asked for a white paper because I found a financial breakdown in the state...I want to see the factual position as far as the financial condition of a bankrupt

state is...Constitutionally, the Governor is competent and it is the responsibility of the Governor to ask for information from the Chief Minister on any aspect of administration. It is mandatory for the CM to provide such information to the Governor...I will wait for it..." he added.

Last month, West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose

described budget 2024-25 as a pro-people and said it presents a golden opportunity for the Bengal government to utilise the funds allocated by the Centre effectively without diverting them for unauthorised purposes. "This Union Budget has come up as a big boon for West Bengal. This is a pro-people budget...As far as Bengal is concerned, it is a youth-friendly budget...this budget is a golden opportunity...Bengal should utilise the funds given by the government of India through this budget effectively without diverting it for unauthorised purposes," Governor Bose had said. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented her record seventh consecutive Union Budget 2024-25 today (on July 23) during the Budget Session of Parliament.

'Owaisi should show us where Waqf word is mentioned in Constitution'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Advocate Ashwini Upadhyay on Monday slammed AMIM Chief Assaudin Owaisi and said that Owaisi should show us where the Waqf Board is mentioned in the Constitution adding that the existence of Waqf Board is against the Indian Constitution.

He said, "Assaudin Owaisi is a Barrister, he should show us where the word Waqf is mentioned in the constitution."

He said "Waqf word is nowhere mentioned in the constitution, despite this Waqf board has been formed. This is against the right to equality and the right to justice this is against the unity of the country. If the court says the cases about lands will commence at one place, then how a separate Waqf tribunal for Muslims".

"The land dispute of every



religion is solved in district court but how come the Waqf cases were decided outside the court" added advocate Ashwini Upadhyay.

"The Waqf board has 10 lakh acres of land, which is more than the area of the world's 50 countries. This is against one law in one country. Waqf board was introduced by Jawaharlal Nehru and further, the Congress prime ministers strengthened them. Waqf board has

claimed a village of Tamil Nadu, a 1500-year-old temple as their and many properties of Delhi as theirs" he added. He asked why Muslims have a separate board, and why there is no Hindu board and Jain board, Buddha board, Sikh board, Jewish board, or Parsi board. There should be no law based on religion, the law should be equal before all. Baba Saheb Ambedkar and all makers of the constitution have said there should

be no laws, programmes, tribunals and policies based on religion".

"I welcome the decision of the government to amend the waqf board. The decision is arbitrary" he added.

Earlier on Sunday AMIM Chief Assaudin Owaisi said that it shows that the Modi government wants to snatch away the autonomy of the board and intends to interfere in it. Addressing a conference, Owaisi said, "Firstly, when Parliament is in session, the central government is acting against parliamentary supremacy and privileges and informing the media and not informing Parliament. I can say that whatever has been written in the media about this proposed amendment shows that the Modi government wants to take away the autonomy of the Waqf Board and it wants to interfere. This itself is against the freedom of religion."

Mizoram govt issues alert in view of heavy rainfall in state up to Aug 12

TDG NETWORK
AIZAWL

The Mizoram government has requested all its citizens to be alert to ensure their safety due to the possibility of heavy rainfall in the state up to August 12, officials said.

As per the forecast issued by the National Forecasting Centre, Indian Meteorological Department, Ministry of Earth Sciences vide their All India Weather Summary And Forecast Bulletin dated August 3, the deep depression over southwest Bihar and adjoining northwest Jharkhand moved west-northwestwards continuing east towards north-east



regions; it is very likely that Mizoram will experience heavy rainfall (>= 7 cm) accompanied with a thunderstorm, lightning during

August 4-9, while there is a possibility of heavy to very heavy rainfall up to August 12.

In a public notice issued

by the Disaster Management & Rehabilitation Department of Mizoram on August 4, the government said that such being the case, all the citizens of Mizoram are requested to be alert for their safety as far as possible so as to avoid disasters due to heavy rainfall in the State.

"The public is further requested to contact and inform the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC), Mizoram - 112/1070 (Toll Free) and the concerned District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC)/ D.C. Office immediately, which is functional 24x7 to respond to any kind of disaster," read the public notice.

Wayanad landslides: District administration conducts mass burial of unidentified victims

TDG NETWORK
WAYANAD

A week after the massive landslides, Wayanad district administration on Monday organized a mass burial ceremony in which the body parts of unidentified victims killed in the disaster were buried in the Puthumala region of the district.

A prayer of all religions was also conducted before the burial ceremony.

The event started at around 3 pm.

Speaking with ANI, on missing bodies and body parts of the landslide victims, Kerala Minister K N Balagopal said, "We cannot give an exact number of missing body parts... There



is a mass burial going on for unidentified bodies."

Puthumala is a village close to Chooralmala. In 2019, Puthumala also witnessed a landslide.

Meanwhile, the rescue and relief operations in landslide-hit areas of Kerala's Wayanad entered the seventh consecutive day on Monday.

district including 1983 families, 2501 males, 2677 females, 1581 children, and 20 pregnant women.

The government has set up 16 camps in Meppadi and other gram panchayats, this includes 9 shelters and 7 rescue camps.

A total of 2514 people have been shifted to these shelters as per the latest data. This included 723 families, 943 males, 972 females, 599 children, and six pregnant women.

Additionally, there are rescue camps at SDMLP school, D-Paul public school at Kalpetta, RCLP school at Chundel, GHS school near Rippon, WMO college at Mutil, Rippon new building, and Arappatta.

Overall monsoon for peninsular India including Kerala to be weak: IMD

TDG NETWORK
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

India Meteorological Department (IMD) scientist Neetha K Gopal said that the overall monsoon for peninsular India, including Kerala, is going to be weak in the next 3-4 days.

Speaking to ANI, the IMD scientist said, "The overall monsoon for peninsular India, including Kerala, is going to be weak for the coming 3-4 days due to the monsoon trough, which generally regulates the rainfall activity over the entire Indian subcontinent."

She further said that there will be excess rainfall over the states neighbouring the Himalayan region, but rainfall will reduce over the peninsular region. "So Kerala will have only very light to moderate rainfall, or maybe even less than that,"

Kerala has been experiencing incessant rainfall since the beginning of July.

she added. The IMD has predicted scattered to fairly widespread light to moderate rainfall over Kerala and Mahe, Lakshadweep, Karnataka, and isolated to scattered rainfall over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, and Yanam, Telangana and Rayalaseema during the next five days.

It has also forecast heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Coastal Karnataka today and tomorrow.

Kerala has been experiencing incessant rainfall since the beginning of July.

'Karnataka has become ATM for Congress, Gandhi family'

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

Karnataka BJP president BY Vijayendra targeted the Congress and the Gandhi family on Monday and accused them of failing to deliver the poll promises in the state.

Speaking to ANI during the 'Mysuru Chalo' padayatra jointly organised by the BJP and JD-U, Vijayendra hit out at Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and alleged that he "ignored" many corruption cases.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Janata Dal-Secular (JDS) opposition alliance in Karnataka kicked off its 10-day 'Mysuru Chalo' padayatra on August 3 from Kengeri in Bengaluru to Mysore over alleged MUDA and Valmiki Corporation scams. It reached Channarayana today.

'Kerala govt should make plan for eco-sensitive zone': Bhupender Yadav

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

As the search and rescue operations are still underway in landslide-hit Wayanad, Union Minister Bhupender Yadav said on Monday that there have been illegal human habitation and illegal mining activity going on under the protection of the local government, adding that the state government should make a plan for the eco-sensitive zone.

"It is an illegal protection for illegal human habitation by the local politicians. Even in the name of tourism, they are not making proper zones.

They allowed the encroachment of this area. It is a highly sensitive area. We have already constituted a committee headed by former Director General of Forests Sanjay Kumar.

They also made the correspondence with the Kerala government. We feel it is the state government's fault. There has been illegal human habitation and illegal mining activity in the protection of the local government," Yadav said. He further said that the Kerala government should make a plan for the eco-sensitive zone.

"The state government should make a plan for the eco-sensitive zone. The state government should also submit its report of the Committee headed by former Director General of Forests Sanjay Kumar," he added. Bhupender Yadav said that illegal habitation and mining should not be conducted in the eco-sensitive zone.

"We suffered the loss due to illegal habitation and mining. We have made a committee for the eco-sensitive zone. For a long time, the state gov-

ernment has been avoiding the committee, which they should not do," he said. The rescue and relief operations in landslide-hit areas of Kerala's Wayanad entered its seventh consecutive day on Monday. As per the State Health Ministry, the death toll stands at 308 as of August 2.

The massive landslides hit Chooralmala and Mundakai in Wayanad on July 30, wreaking mass devastation and causing the loss of lives and property. He further spoke on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign and said that it has been two months of the campaign. "I want to congratulate all the organisations and common man that, in the last two months, over 26 crore people on the portal have made entries under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign.

WHO SAID WHAT

IN PARLIAMENT

"When Congress was in power in different states, farmers were killed. In 1986 when the Congress was in power in Bihar, 23 were killed in firing. In 1988, on the death anniversary of Indira Gandhi in Delhi, 2 farmers were killed. In 1988, they fired on farmers in Meerut and 5 farmers were killed. In August 1995, six farmers in Haryana were killed in police shooting."

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN
Union Agriculture Minister



"The situation in Bangladesh is sensitive. It's an evolving situation. I do hope that the Government would make a statement on the situation in Bangladesh tomorrow to both Houses of Parliament."
MANISH TEWARI
Congress MP

'Very diligent decisions to be taken in Wayanad rehabilitation': Suresh Gopi

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Suresh Gopi said that "very diligent decisions" have to be taken in rehabilitation processes in Wayanad where massive landslides claimed over 300 lives.

Speaking to ANI in Delhi on Monday, MoS Suresh Gopi said that what more to be done is still under the assessment of the district administration.

"They are sending me a report. I have taken a ground

reality check, I went to the place it cracked first and then the quantum of the debris," Suresh Gopi said.

"All the concerned data should come from the district administration and that must be endorsed by the state govt also. Once it reaches me, I'll take it to the Prime Minister. Very diligent, intelligent decisions to be arrived at in rehabilitation processes," the MoS said.

Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav criticised the state government for "allowing



encroachment" in the area where landslides occurred and wreaked widespread devastation on July 30.

Bhupendra Yadav alleged that there have been illegal

human habitation and illegal mining activity going on under the protection of the local government.

"Even in the name of tourism, they are not making

proper zones. They allowed the encroachment of this area.

It is a highly sensitive area. We have already constituted a committee headed by former Director General of Forests Sanjay Kumar.

They also made the correspondence with the Kerala government. We feel it is the state government's fault. There has been illegal human habitation and illegal mining activity in the protection of the local government," Yadav said.

The rescue and relief op-

erations in landslide-hit areas of Wayanad entered the seventh consecutive day on Monday with the death toll at 308. As per the state government data, 220 bodies have been recovered so far and 180 people are still missing. Speaking on the ongoing rescue operations, South Wayanad DFO, Ajit K Raman said that yesterday, 18 persons who had come from Nilambur got stranded in the Parappambara area and were located by the forest department team later.

"Our forest party con-

ducted a search from the Kandambara side to the Parappambara side. The forest department people contacted them and they were safe. But we could not conduct any search operations last night. So this morning, along with the help of the NDRF we conducted a search and we could locate them and they are very safe. We could give them food and provisions and the dead body which they had identified yesterday that could be airlifted also," Ajit K Raman said.

Late on Sunday night, the district administration carried out the mass burial of the mortal remains of the unidentified people killed in the landslides. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had earlier directed the district administration to carry out the formalities with interfaith prayers. Upon the Kerala Government's request, the Indian Air Force, on August 3, airlifted one ZAWER and four RE-ECO radars from Siachen and Delhi for the search operations.

BENGAL ON ALERT, CM APPEALS FOR CALM Flash floods block Manali-Leh highway

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

The long-drawn unrest in neighbouring Bangladesh and the resignation and flight of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, along with her younger sister Sheikh Rehana, sparked a flurry of activities in West Bengal. While the Army has been put on high alert, the Border Security Force put in place additional measures to make the Indo-Bangla border impregnable. Meanwhile, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who had faced severe criticism for commenting on Bangladesh from her party's Martyr's Day rally, chose to be diplomatic about the happenings in the neighbouring country. On July 21, at her party's rally, she had said that if someone from Bangladesh wanted to come to this country after losing everything, then assistance would be given to

him/her.

Banerjee's statement had drawn strong protest from the Government of Bangladesh and was also criticised across India. This time, however, Mamata has given a cautious response without sparking any controversy. Today, the Chief Minister appealed to people of the State to remain calm and refrain from making "provocative comments". She also pointed out that the entire issue pertains to the Centre and asserted that the State Government would abide by the decisions taken by the Government of India in this matter.

"We don't know the details. We are all worried. In this situation, I would request everyone in Bengal to remain calm. No act should trigger any tension. Do not say anything provocative. The matter is under the Government of India. We will abide by whatever decision the Indian Government gives. It is a matter of

two Governments and we will follow the instructions given by the Government of India," Banerjee said. The CM asked leaders of both her party and the BJP to maintain peace. "I will also ask BJP and our leaders to keep calm. Let the Government of India consider the matter," she said. State Government sources said that the District Magistrates and the intelligence units of the border districts had been put on high alert since the State shared a 2212 km-long border with Ban-

gladesh. Sources said that intelligence inputs had warned of possible incursion of people as well as terrorists from across the border. The Indo-Bangladesh border is 4096 km long and the States of West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram share its boundaries, which are often porous. Sources said barring a skeletal presence in the barracks, the maximum number of BSF troops had been ordered to be deployed on the borders with immediate effect. Keeping in mind the sensitivity of the region, the newly appointed Director-General of Border Security Force (BSF) Daljit Singh Chaudhary visited North 24 Parganas district and Sunderbans area of West Bengal, and reviewed the operational preparedness and strategic deployment of BSF in these important border areas.

Bangladeshi tourists take out victory rally in Kolkata

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

The Sudder Street area in Kolkata, once a hub of Western foreigners mostly comprising backpackers and students on their gap year, is now Little Bangladesh. The hotels are now filled with visitors from Bangladesh who come to Kolkata for medical tourism or shopping. On Monday afternoon, as



the news of Sheikh Hasina's resignation and flight from Bangladesh spread, Bangladeshi tourists in Kolkata took out a victory procession to celebrate the end of the Sheikh Hasina Government.

Shouting slogans demanding the punishment of the former Prime Minister, the Bangladeshi tourists said that the students who were killed by the Hasina Government should be given State honours.

HC denies bail to Kejriwal

CONTINUED FROM P1

cluding Kejriwal, but five of them have not been arrested.

The CBI informed the Delhi High Court that they had completed their investigation and filed a chargesheet within a month. They claimed that Arvind Kejriwal was the central figure or "sutraddhar" in the excise policy scam.

The CBI counsel stated that Arvind Kejriwal, as the head of the cabinet, signed the excise policy, circulated it to his colleagues, and received their signatures

within a single day. This occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The CBI counsel further submitted that C. Aravind, an IAS officer under Manish Sisodia, testified that Vijay Nair brought a copy of the excise policy to be entered into the computer, and Arvind Kejriwal was present at that time.

This, according to the CBI, indicates Kejriwal's direct involvement in the matter. CBI counsel DP Singh stated that the investigation agency has traced Rs 44 crores of money related to the case,

which was sent to Goa. Arvind Kejriwal instructed his candidates not to worry about the funds and to focus on contesting the elections, said Advocate DP Singh.

CBI counsel DP Singh argued that while direct evidence might be lacking, witness testimonies, including three witnesses and 164 statements made in court, clearly indicate Kejriwal's involvement.

Singh asserted that such evidence emerged only after Kejriwal's arrest, as Punjab officers would not have come forward otherwise.

'Death chambers'

CONTINUED FROM P1

different parts of the country."

The court said that recent unfortunate incidents taking the lives of some of the young aspirants who joined coaching centres for their career pursuits are eye-openers for all. The court further suggested that such institutes shall operate through online classes until they fully comply with the fire and safety norms under the Master Plan of Delhi, 2021, read with Unified Building Bye-Laws of Delhi, 2016.

The top court also recommended that norms shall include proper ventilation, safety passages, air and light.

The top court asked the Centre through the Ministry of Urban Affairs and the Delhi Government, to show cause as to what safety

norms have been prescribed so far and, if so, what is the effective mechanism introduced for their compliance. The court issued a notice to the Central government and the Delhi government on the safety norms related to running coaching institutes.

In the meantime, the court rejected the Coaching Federation of India plea challenging the directions of the Delhi High Court over failure to comply with the safety norms in Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar. The court also slapped Rs 1 lakh cost on the petitioner and directed it to deposit with the Supreme Court Bar Association and Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association.

Three students drowned in the basement housing a coaching centre in Delhi's Old Rajinder Nagar that flooded following heavy rains in the national capital last week.

A flurry of meetings lined up

CONTINUED FROM P1

quite different from those of Shiv Sena.

Two years ago, Eknath Shinde-led faction broke away from Shiv Sena, leading to formation of the Eknath Shinde government with BJP's support.

The Lok Sabha elections significantly changed Maharashtra's political situation. The BJP-led alliance suffered a major setback, while the Congress alliance

gained strength. Congress increased its representation by winning 14 seats, Sharad Pawar's party secured 8 seats, and UBT Thackeray's faction won 9 seats.

During his visit to Delhi, Thackeray aims to assert his importance and potentially persuade Congress leaders to accommodate his party's demands for seats. Thackeray is seeking 125 to 130 seats for his party, while Congress is preparing to contest over 140 seats.

Although Congress has formed a committee to handle seat sharing, Thackeray remains firm, believing that contesting fewer than 100 seats could be detrimental. He is believed to have instructed his leaders to be ready to contest all 288 seats, according to sources.

Additionally, the Samajwadi Party, another member of the IN.D.I.A bloc is requesting 10 to 12 seats, and the Aam Aadmi Party plans to run separately.



BSF DG Daljit Singh Chaudhary during his visit to Indo-Bangladesh border in North 24 Parganas district and Sunderbans area of West Bengal, on Monday, ANI

senior BSF official said. Daljit Singh Chaudhary was accompanied by Ravi Gandhi, Additional Director-General, BSF Eastern Command and Maninder Pratap Singh, Inspector-General, BSF South Bengal. "The purpose of this visit is to review the operational preparedness and strategic deployment of BSF in these important border areas," the official said. Chaudhary took over the additional charge of DG BSF on August 3 and his first official visit was to the Indo-Bangladesh border in West Bengal. BSF sources said the visit commenced with a detailed briefing of the Eastern Command by Ravi Gandhi, ADG Eastern Command BSF, at the South Bengal Frontier Headquarters. The briefing covered the strategic scenario and operations of the battalions of Eastern Command, wherein the Director General was apprised of the role of BSF in maintaining national security along the sensitive international border.

After the briefing, Chaudhary along with Gandhi and other officers proceeded to Dhamakhali where the Commandant of the 118th Battalion briefed DG BSF on the battalion's water border responsibilities along Bangladesh en route to the Floating BOP deployed at T-junction, highlighting the unique challenges of the rainforest and water-rich terrain and the effective measures implemented to tackle border crimes including smuggling and illegal crossings.

In view of the changed situation in Bangladesh, BSF has issued alerts along the Indo-Bangladesh border and the number of troops deployed along the border has also been increased," a

senior BSF official said.

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Two incidents of flash floods at separate places in Lahaul and Spiti district in Himachal Pradesh were reported on Monday. The Manali-Leh National Highway 3 has been blocked near Zing zingbar following the flash flood incident today, police said. The sudden surge of water, triggered by heavy rain, caused substantial damage to the road, leading to the accumulation of debris and rocks. "All traffic is halted at Darcha and Sarchu police check posts until the road is cleared," the Lahaul Spiti Police said in an advisory for travellers about traffic being stopped.

According to the police, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), has been swiftly mobilised to address the situation and teams are currently on the site working to clear

Flash floods block Manali-Leh highway



The Indian Army personnel evacuate stranded people through a makeshift bridge as search and rescue operation continues in the cloudburst hit Samej Khadd village of Rampur area, in Shimla on Sunday, ANI

AGENCIES
LAHAUL SPITI (HIMACHAL PRADESH)

Two incidents of flash floods at separate places in Lahaul and Spiti district in Himachal Pradesh were reported on Monday. The Manali-Leh National Highway 3 has been blocked near Zing zingbar following the flash flood incident today, police said.

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According to the police, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), has been swiftly mobilised to address the situation and teams are currently on the site working to clear

the debris. "Travellers are advised to avoid the area until the highway is fully reopened. Local authorities are monitoring the situation closely and will provide updates on the progress of the clearance operation," police said.

Another incident occurred at Dandhal Nullah on Sansari Killar Thirotdandi (SKTT) road in the Udaipur sub-division, resulting in a complete blockage of the road due to heavy debris.

The SHO Udaipur with his team reached the spot and ensured the precautionary measures, police said.

No loss of life or property was reported and the restoration work was immediately started.

Earlier on Friday, Himachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri conducted an on-site assessment of the damage caused by flash flood to the Kurpan

Khad Water Supply Scheme at Baagi Pul in the Kullu district.

He revealed that the Rs 315 crore Kurpan Khad project, currently under construction, suffered extensive damage due to the flash flood and directed the department to take immediate and necessary measures to restore the project.

He expressed concern over the significant loss of approximately Rs 10 crore incurred by the Jal Shakti Vibhag in Baagi Pul due to the disaster. Agnihotri also commended the tireless efforts of the department's officials and employees working diligently to restore the water supply schemes.

The Himachal Pradesh Deputy chief minister also visited the Matiyana region in Shimla district to assess the damage to the water supply schemes and related infrastructure.

Bangladesh slips into deep crisis

CONTINUED FROM P1

Prothom Alo said that Army Chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman will soon hold direct talks with student-teacher representatives in the country. It cited a circular issued by the Directorate of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Monday evening.

Celebrations and protests were reported from across Dhaka and Bangladesh after Sheikh Hasina tendered her resignation and left the country accompanied by her sister.

After Hasina resigned and left the country, many people entered the Ganabhaban, the residence of the Prime Minister. Prothom Alo reported that people were seen decamping with various items from public buildings. A crowd was also noticed inside the Parliament building and people were seen taking things from inside the parliament building as well.

Protesters also set fire to Sudha Sadan, the private residence of Sheikh Hasina's family in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. Prothom Alo reported that around 5:30 pm, Sudha Sadan was vandalized. A fire was also set inside the house. Protesters were reported to be seen taking things out of the house.

Protesters also vandalized the residence of the Chief Justice. Several people were



Photo credit: thedailystar.net

seen entering the Chief Justice's residence by climbing over its wall and commotion and vandalism were reported from inside. Along with vandalizing the residence, various items in the residence were taken away, Prothom Alo reported.

Protesters also set fire to the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Museum at 32 Dhanmondi. A Prothom Alo report said that the fire was raging there. The agitators also set fire to the Dhaka district office of Awami League.

Meanwhile, the operations of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport was shut for six hours the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) announced on Monday.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir urged the countrymen to remain calm. In a message on Monday, he said, that today's meeting with Army Chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman was good.

Nikkei 225 sheds 12%

CONTINUED FROM P1

Share prices have fallen in Tokyo since the Bank of Japan raised its benchmark interest rate on Wednesday. The Nikkei index is now about 3.8% below the level it was at a year ago.

Analysts said another factor contributing to the falling share prices was carry trades, where investors borrow money from a country with low interest rates and a relatively weak currency, like Japan, and invest those funds in places that will yield a high return. Investors have been selling stocks to repay those loans as their costs have risen with a stronger yen and higher interest rates.

"The surge in financial market volatility was the

result of a perfect storm of macro and market shocks at a time when risk assets were already overbought and overstretched," BMI, a unit of Fitch Solutions, said in a report. It said the Bank of Japan's July 31 decision to raise its key interest rate "led to a sharp unwind of the yen carry trade, which added downside pressure on risk assets which were already selling off."

In its update to Japan's economic outlook, the central bank said it would "accordingly continue to raise the policy interest rate and adjust the degree of monetary accommodation," a stance that now is being called into question. So is the decision of the Federal Reserve to keep interest rates steady at least until September.

Stocks battered across Asia

CONTINUED FROM P1

decline in Indian markets is expected to persist due to multiple global headwinds. Investors are advised to be cautious, particularly in highly overbought sectors."

The downturn in Indian markets mirrored the broader global market turmoil. Asian equities tumbled, driven by fears of a slowing US economy, sustained declines in Japanese stocks, and escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said the global market was jolted into a cautious mode by recessionary fears in the US following disappointing job statistics and an unwinding of carry trade

following the rapid rise of the yen. "The effects were felt by the domestic market as well and are expected to impact in the near-term."

"Nevertheless, the market showed resilience at day's low and recovered to close above 24,000. Historically, the Indian market had showcased a solid track record of outperformance compared to the global market in the long-term. This trend is expected to stay as GDP growth is forecast to be robust for the decade aided by progressive policies, fiscal prudence, and a favourable political landscape," he added.

The global sell-off was intensified by fears of a reverse Yen carry trade following Japan's recent interest rate hike. Addition-

ally, poor US job data exacerbated recession concerns, contributing to the market decline.

The Japanese yen's appreciation by 10 per cent against the dollar over the past three weeks has prompted investors to unwind carry trades, further contributing to global market instability.

US markets also saw sharp declines on Friday with the Nasdaq dropping 2.43 per cent to 16,776.16, nearing a 10 per cent decline from its peak. The S&P 500 and Dow Jones fell by 1.84 per cent and 1.51 per cent, respectively. Adding to the concerns, WTI crude oil prices fell to an eight-week low amid global slowdown fears, despite ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

SC AFFIRMS LG'S POWER TO APPOINT ALDERMEN, CLEARS WAY FOR STANDING COMMITTEE FORMATION

TIKAM SHARMA
NEW DELHI

Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) faced another setback as the Supreme Court on Monday upheld the Delhi Lieutenant Governor's decision to nominate 10 'aldermen' to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

This ruling clears the way for forming the Standing Committee in the MCD, which has been absent since the AAP took power. Following the Supreme Court's order, Sardar Raja Iqbal Singh, the leader of the opposition in the MCD, stated, "Considering the interests of the citizens, the Aam Aadmi Party's Mayor should issue a notification for the elections of the Standing Committee and Ward Committees as soon as possible."

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Justices Narasimha and JB Pardiwala stated that the Lieutenant Governor (LG) is expected to act according to the statutory mandate, rather than based on the aid and advice of the



Delhi government. The top court, in its judgement, declared, "The Delhi LG is to act as per the mandate of the statute, not on the advice of the council of ministers."

The Supreme Court's verdict came in response to a plea from the Delhi government challenging the nomination of 10 'aldermen' by the Lieutenant Governor (LG) to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. In May 2023, the apex court had reserved its judgement on the matter. The AAP government argued that the nominations were made in MCD ward committees where the BJP had a weaker presence. The counsel representing the LG contended that the "aid and advice" of the Delhi government were not required when exercising a statutory power explicitly conferred



on the Administrator. After AAP won the municipal elections, the Lieutenant Governor appointed 10 'aldermen,' a move opposed by the Delhi government. The Delhi government's petition sought to quash the orders dated January 3 and 4, 2023, through which the LG nominated 10 individuals as members of the MCD. The plea argued that the Lieutenant Governor had "illegally" appointed these 10 members on his own initiative, without the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. The Delhi government noted that this was the first time since Article 239AA came into effect in 1991 that such a nomination was made by the LG, bypassing the elected government and thus assuming a power that rightfully belongs to the duly

BJP WELCOMES SC VERDICT

NEW DELHI: The Delhi unit of the BJP on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court ruling that the lieutenant governor has power to nominate aldermen to MCD, saying the AAP has developed the habit of questioning anything done by the LG. At a press conference here, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said the power to appoint aldermen to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has been exercised by the LG for decades.

"However, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has developed the habit of questioning anything done by the LG. We strongly condemn AAP MP Sanjay Singh's reaction to the SC verdict which reflects an anarchist mindset of his party," Sachdeva said. Singh had termed the verdict as "unfortunate" and against democracy.

In a major setback to the AAP government, the Supreme Court had held that the lieutenant governor of Delhi has the power to nominate aldermen to the MCD. The MCD has 250 elected and 10 nominated members. In December 2022, the AAP defeated the BJP in the MCD elections, ending the saffron party's 15-year rule. The AAP won 134 seats, the BJP 104 and the Congress nine.

elect government.

Sanjay Singh, a senior leader of the Aam Aadmi Party and a Rajya Sabha MP, told the media, "I believe this decision is a significant blow to the country's democracy. By bypassing the elected government, all the powers will be given to the LG. This is not good for democracy and

the Constitution of India. With due respect, we completely disagree with this decision." He added, "This decision is entirely against the spirit of democracy and contradicts the court's comments during the hearing. After reading the full order, we will determine our next steps."

BJP demands Kejriwal's resignation after HC dismisses his plea; AAP to move SC

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

After the Delhi High Court dismissed CM Arvind Kejriwal's plea challenging his arrest by the Central Bureau of Investigation in the Excise Policy case, the Bharatiya Janata Party demanded his resignation of Kejriwal while the AAP Legal Cell head said they would approach the Supreme Court challenging the HC decision.

BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj said that Arvind Kejriwal has no moral reason to continue as Delhi CM and should resign.

"Delhi High Court has again said that Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal was involved in receiving kickbacks in the Delhi Excise policy. Delhi HC has again said that his arrest is legal and that central agencies have adequate material to arrest him. Arvind Kejriwal has no moral reason to continue as Delhi CM and he should resign," Swaraj said.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva called Kejriwal a "facilitator" of the Delhi Excise Policy Scam and welcomed the verdict of the Delhi HC.

"Arvind Kejriwal is the facilitator of the Delhi Excise Policy scam. We welcome



the verdict of the Delhi High Court...We hope that all the accused in the scam will be behind bars. We demand that Arvind Kejriwal should resign," Sachdeva said.

BJP MP Manoj Tiwari said that he's not surprised by the Delhi HC's decision.

"Gone are the days when central agencies arrested someone without any proof. Delhi CM Kejriwal is directly involved in receiving kickbacks in the Delhi Excise policy. There are sufficient proofs to support it. I am not surprised by the High Court's decision," Tiwari said.

CBI's special public prosecutor Advocate DP Singh said that there is nothing illegal about Kejriwal's arrest.

"There is nothing illegal about this arrest. We have not

wasted any time for his arrest because the permission under Section 17A was obtained in April. We had sixty days to complete our investigation and file a chargesheet. We did it in one month or even less than that...Our entire case was ready, only then we arrested him...I had an objection to the word insurance arrest. It was more to pressurise the court and to play to the general public at large...We arrested him after the High Court had stayed his arrest...All this has been busted for the second time by the High Court," Singh said.

Meanwhile, AAP Legal Cell head Sanjeev Nasir expressed his disagreement with the Delhi HC's verdict and said that they'll approach the Supreme Court.

AAP slams LG over Asha Kiran administrator appointment

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Launching a scathing attack on Delhi Lieutenant General VK Saxena over deaths in Asha Kiran Shelter Home, Health Minister and AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj said that the LG office is constantly lying and is trying to save the officers who committed corruption.

Speaking to ANI, Saurabh Bharadwaj said, "LG office is constantly lying, this is very unfortunate... This officer who was caught red-handed by CBI, was suspended for 5 years, why did the LG appoint him to the Social Welfare Department, why did he make him the administrator of Asha Kiran there? I am challenging him (LG) to show the file in which a minister had appointed him... The LG is



trying to save the officers who committed corruption, why have the administrator, and secretary not been suspended till now? He should answer..."

This comes after Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena said that appointments, postings and transfers are decided by the National Capital Civil Service Authority, which is headed by the Chief Minister.

Earlier, in an official statement from the Raj Niwas

said, "10 years of misgovernance masqueraded by advertisements and propaganda have begun to implode. Now that the system is crumbling, Press Conference Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj is frantically searching for alibis."

"The AAP 'health model' is there for all to see. The High Court taking suo moto cognizance of the pathetic state of affairs in GNCTD hospitals, personally summoned Bharadwaj.

Security tightened at Bangladesh High Commission

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has beefed up security at the Bangladesh High Commission here in the wake of Sheikh Hasina's resignation as prime minister and an imminent takeover by an interim government in the neighbouring country. Police have also tightened security outside the Indra Gandhi International Airport, in case Hasina lands in the national capital, an officer said.

Hasina has resigned and an interim government is taking over, Bangladesh Army Chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman announced on Monday. There were unconfirmed reports that she was headed to a city in India.

"More barricades have been placed outside the commission and the number of police personnel deployed there has been increased," a



Delhi Police officer said.

Several senior police officers, including New Delhi district's Deputy Commissioner of Police Devesh Kumar Mahla, visited the high commission to check the security arrangements, an informed source said.

More than 100 people have been killed in the protests against the Hasina government in the last two days.

The country has been witnessing fierce demonstrations over the controversial quota system that reserves 30 per cent of jobs for the families of veterans who fought the 1971 liberation war.

Over 3 lakh candidates in fray for admission to 71K UG seats in DU so far

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A total of 3,00,090 candidates have registered so far for the 71,000 available undergraduate seats at Delhi University (DU) for the academic session 2024-25, a senior university official said on Monday.

The numbers are expected to rise as the registration process is still open till August 7.

Over 93,500 candidates have filled out their college and course preferences, completing phase II of the admissions process.

"A total of 300,090 candidates have registered so far for the 71,000 seats on the CSAS (Common Seat Allocation System) portal. As many as 236,717 have completed their profiles and 93,532 have filled out their course and college preferences, completing phase II," an official told ANI.

The admission process for the 2024-25 academic ses-



sion is currently underway. Delhi University is offering admission to over 71,000 seats across more than 65 colleges through the Common University Entrance Test Undergraduate (CUET UG). Currently, Phase I and Phase II are underway.

Delhi University initiated Phase II of the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) for undergraduate admissions last Friday, following the release of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) - UG results by the National Testing Agency. The

university has also published the Allocation-cum-Admission schedule for the 2024-25 academic session. Even though Phase II has begun, Phase I registration remains open. Applicants can still register for DU undergraduate admissions until August 7 at 4.59 pm. During Phase II, candidates are required to match the subjects they studied in Class 12 with those they appeared for in CUET UG 2024. Only CUET papers corresponding to subjects passed in board exams will be considered for admissions.

Police busts inter-state firearms trafficking racket; two held



TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has busted an inter-state firearms trafficking racket with the arrest of two men, officials said on Monday. Six pistols and 12 live cartridges were recovered from the duo, they added.

"An information was received that on July 25, one person carrying illegal arms and ammunition would come from Goyala to Shyam Vihar near Dwarka expressway," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Ankit Singh said.

Following the tipoff, a trap was laid and one person identified as Moham-

mad Rashid (28) was arrested. One country-made pistol with two live cartridges was recovered from his possession, Singh said.

Rashid disclosed during interrogation that he had procured the weapons from an arms dealer in Haryana's Nuh, the officer said. "Based on Rashid's statement, the police team nabbed Ajruddin (32) from Nuh on July 30," he added.

"The team recovered from him five country-made pistols and 10 live cartridges, along with one stolen motorcycle used for transportation of illegal firearms," the DCP said, adding that further probe into the matter is underway.

Ahead of I-Day, CISF to intensify security checks at Metro stations

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Ahead of Independence Day, the CISF will intensify security checks at metro stations from August 5, the DMRC said on Monday and advised commuters to plan their journeys accordingly. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) also urged passengers to cooperate with security personnel.

"In view of the enhanced security arrangements ahead of Independence Day on August 15, security checks for passengers will be further intensified by the CISF (Central Industrial Security Force) across metro stations from Tuesday," the DMRC's principal executive director Anuj Dayal said.

The enhanced checks might result in longer queues at some metro stations, especially during peak hours, he added.

The DMRC advised the passengers to allow for additional time for their commutes. "Passengers are requested to cooperate with the security personnel during security checks," it said.

NCW launches Digital Shakti Centre to combat cybercrimes

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Women inaugurated the Digital Shakti Centre to combat cyber crimes against women on Monday. The National Commission for Women (NCW), in collaboration with CyberPeace Foundation, announced the inauguration of the "Digital Shakti Center" at its premises. The centre was officially inaugurated by Chairperson Rekha Sharma. The Digital Shakti Center is a dedicated facility aimed at raising awareness about cyber crimes targeting women and providing essential technical support for registering and addressing complaints. With the alarming rise in cyber crimes such as identity theft, cyberstalking, and sexual exploitation, this initiative is crucial in empowering women to navigate and protect themselves in the digital world. The center will offer expert guidance to ensure timely and effective resolution of cyber crime complaints, building on the success of the NCW's Digital Shakti cam-



paign, which was launched in 2018. This campaign has reached millions of women, equipping them with the knowledge and tools to safeguard their digital spaces. During the launch the Chairperson mentioned, "There has been a surge in cyber crime cases in India, rising from 52,974 in 2021 to 65,893 in 2022. The NCW has also observed an increase in complaints related to cyber crimes against women. In 2023, the Commission registered 608 complaints, accounting for 2.2 percent of total complaints. As of August 1st, 2024, 386 complaints have been registered, making up 2.5 percent of the total."

The Chairperson further said that recognizing the urgent need for action, the NCW launched the Digital Shakti campaign in June 2018 to educate women on reporting mechanisms, data privacy, and technology use for their benefit. "This initiative has empowered women to stand against cyber crimes and reclaim their digital spaces.

The campaign has reached 6.86 lakh netizens through direct sessions and over 2.67 crore individuals online. Building on this momentum, the NCW has now launched the 5th phase of Digital Shakti in collaboration with CyberPeace Foundation," she added.

Four kill bike taxi rider to avenge brother's murder

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A 24-year-old man was stabbed to death in an attack by four people in a revenge killing in south Delhi's Sangam Vihar area, police on Monday said. According to the police, Lucky, a bike taxi rider, had allegedly killed Shivam in 2015 when he was a juvenile.

On Sunday, Sangam Vihar police station got a call at 4.30 pm regarding a stabbing incident. When a team reached the spot, Lucky was found lying in a pool of blood and had multiple stab wounds, a senior police officer said.

After gathering information and checking CCTV footage, four suspects were identified, the officer said.

Among the suspects, two are Shivam's brothers, the officer said, adding, it is suspected that the brothers killed lucky to avenge Shivam's murder.

One accused, identified as Sunny, has been apprehended and further investigation is underway, the police said.

Meanwhile, Lucky's family members gathered outside of the police station and held

On Sunday, Sangam Vihar police station got a call at 4.30 pm regarding a stabbing incident.

a protest against the police for not arresting all the accused.

Jitender Kumar Nagar said, "Around 6.30 am he told his mother he would return soon and went out and then around 6 pm, we got a call from the police asking us to come to the station and we got to know about his murder.

The family members demanded that the rest of the accused be arrested soon. Another relative Rachna said that Lucky had returned from Haridwar recently.

Meanwhile, Lucky's mother said that she had no idea why her son was killed.

"I was on duty when at around 7 pm, I received a call from some relatives and they informed me about my son's death. Police must take strict action against all the accused," she said.

SURVEY ON WAQF BOARD

80% BELIEVE BOTH STATE AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS SHOULD REGULATE WAQF BOARDS

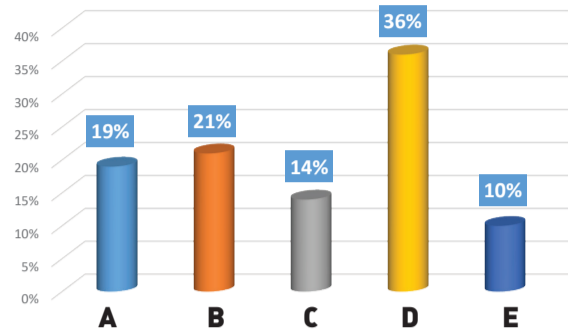
The government plans to introduce a Bill in Parliament to amend the 1995 Waqf Act, aiming to enhance accountability and transparency in

Waqf boards and mandate the inclusion of women. This move follows calls from within the Muslim community. The proposed amendments will re-

quire Waqf boards to register their properties with district collectors for accurate valuation. There are currently 30 Waqf boards in India.

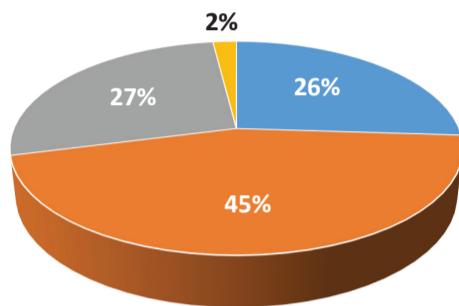
Q1. ▶

Why do you think it is necessary to amend the Waqf Board Act?



A - Fraud in the name of Waqf
B - Increase in illegal occupations
C - Misuse of funds by officials
D - Political control over the board
E - For other reasons

- A - Agree
- B - Disagree
- C - No opinion
- D - Cannot say

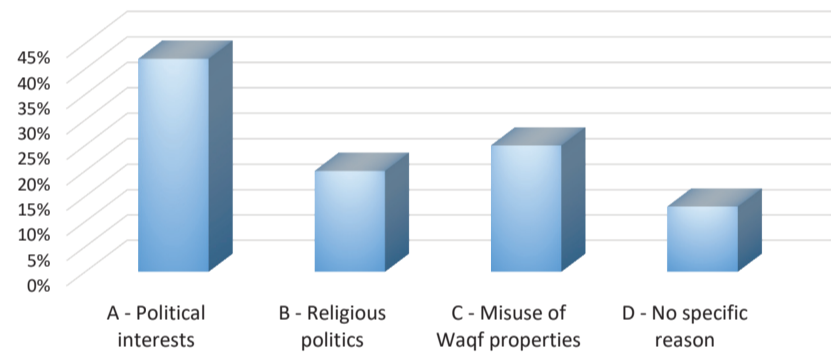
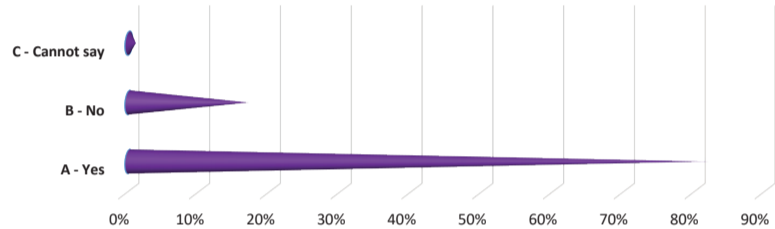


Q2. ◀

Some opposition parties claim that amending the Waqf Board Act is anti-Hindu. What is your opinion?

Q3. ▶

Do you think it is necessary for both the state and central governments to control the Waqf Board?



Q4. ◀

What do you consider to be the main reason for opposing the amendment of the Waqf Board Act?

MALE 94%

FEMALE 6%

THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY

SURVEY ON ARTICLE 370

53% SURVEYED BELIEVE BJP WILL FORM GOVT IN KASHMIR

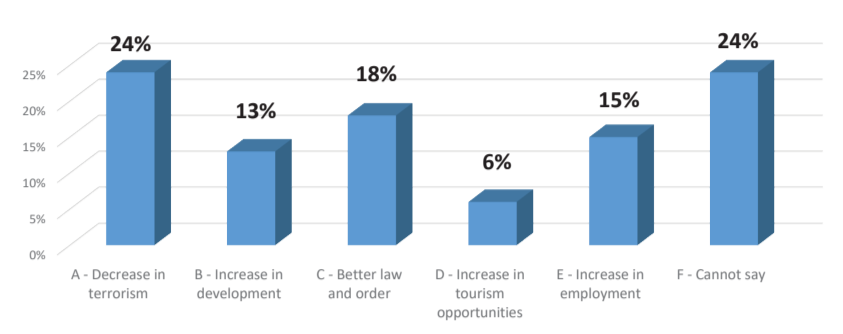
On August 5, 2019, the Centre revoked Article 370, ending Jammu and Kashmir's special status and introduced the Jammu and Kashmir

Reorganization Act, splitting the former state into two Union Territories: Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir. Marking the fifth anniversary of this

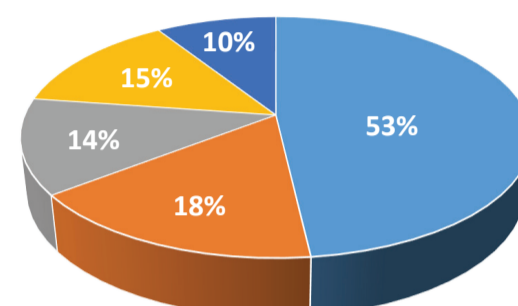
change, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed it as the beginning of a new era for progress and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Q1. ▶

What do you think is the biggest change in Jammu and Kashmir in the last 5 years since the abrogation of Article 370?



- A - BJP
- B - National Conference
- C - People's Democratic Party
- D - Congress
- E - Cannot say

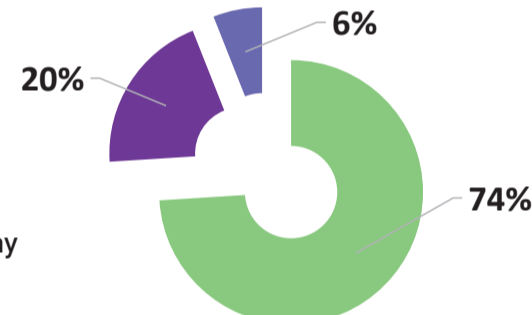
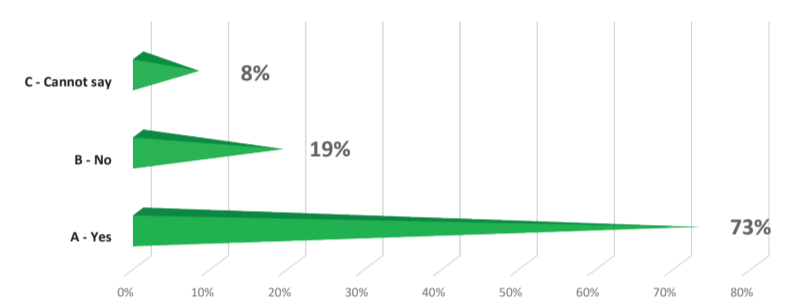


Q2. ◀

Before the assembly elections post Article 370 abrogation in Kashmir, which party do you want to see forming the government?

Q3. ▶

Do you think Pakistan is conspiring to destabilize the new Kashmir post Article 370 abrogation by promoting terrorism?



Q4. ◀

Do you think in Modi government's third term, a surgical strike on terrorist bases in Pakistan is necessary?

MALE 94%

FEMALE 6%

THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY

MALE 93%

FEMALE 7%

CITY

PROBE AGENCIES OPPOSE SISODIA'S BAIL PLEA IN EXCISE POLICY CASE

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate and Central Bureau of Investigation on Monday opposed AAP leader Manish Sisodia's bail plea in the liquor policy alleged irregularities case and submitted before the Supreme Court that he is neck-deep involved in the alleged scam. Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the probe agencies made these submissions before BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan.

ASG Raju said that one cannot arbitrarily increase

the profit margins without reason. He added that Sisodia is not an innocent person picked up for political reasons but he is neck-deep in the scam. He further added that there is evidence pointing to his involvement. He further said that he was Deputy Chief Minister with 18 portfolios and responsible for all cabinet decisions.

However, the top court remarked that the prima facie guilt aspect may not be correct as even the chargesheet is arguably based on suspicion.

The top court also raised questions on the increase in profit margins and remarked



that if such a policy decision is indicative of criminality then the elected government may face difficulty in carrying out their duties. The court then remarked that such decisions have to be contrary to public interest leading to disproportionate gains for others. The court asked where the probe agency would draw the line

between policy and criminality. However Additional Solicitor General SV Raju defended the probe agency case and said that it is just a matter of increasing profits but not accepting committee recommendations. He further said that they cannot arbitrarily increase the profit margins without reason.

Countering Sisodia's plea, ASG said that they are capable of using influence and tampering with evidence. ASG said that many families have been destroyed just because of liquor.

As the argument remained inconclusive the matter was

adjourned. The top court was hearing the Sisodia appeal challenging the Delhi High Court order that dismissed his bail plea in the cases being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate.

ED has also raised a preliminary objection on the maintainability of the Sisodia petition seeking the revival of his bail plea. Delhi's former Deputy Chief Minister Sisodia has moved the Supreme Court seeking the revival of his bail plea and complained about the delay in the commencement of trial in the excise policy case.

Former probationary IAS Puja Khedkar moves HC challenging UPSC decision

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Former probationary IAS Puja Khedkar moved the Delhi High Court on Monday challenging Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) decision to cancel her candidature.

The matter was mentioned before a bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and is slated to be heard on Wednesday. On July 31, the UPSC through a press statement stated that it has taken a decision to cancel the provisional candidature of Puja Khedkar, who was facing accusations of cheating

and forgery. The UPSC found Puja Khedkar guilty of violating rules and debarred her from all the future exams and selections.

The UPSC stated that it has carefully considered the request of Puja Khedkar and in order to meet the ends of justice, she was granted time till 3:30 pm of 30th July, 2024 so as to enable her to submit the response to the show cause notice. It was also categorically made clear to Puja Khedkar that it was last and final opportunity to her and no further extension in time would be allowed. It was also conveyed to her in unequivocal terms that

if no response was received by the aforesaid date/time, the UPSC would take further action without entertaining any further reference from her. Despite extension in time allowed to her, she failed to submit her explanation within the prescribed time, stated UPSC.

The UPSC has examined the available records carefully and found her guilty of acting in contravention of the provisions of the CSE-2022 Rules. Her provisional candidature for the CSE-2022 has been cancelled and she has also been debarred permanently from all the future Examinations/Selections of the UPSC.

HC asks farmers' body to file details of attacks

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court recently asked a farmers' body to place on record the details of attacks on farmers during the 2020 farmers protest.

Farmers body has moved a petition seeking institution of SIT for alleged attacks on farmers during protest.

Petitioner Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee has sought a direction for institution of court monitored SIT to carry out an investigation into the attack which was done on the farmers, during the agitation against the

farming legislations in 2020, at the borders of Delhi.

Justice Anish Dayal is dealing with the petition filed in 2021.

During the hearing, Additional Standing counsel (ASC) stated that the threshold for instituting an SIT is high as established by the Supreme Court, as also they have a right to file application under Section 156(3) CrPC before the competent Court.

Advocate Ajay Verma counsel for petitioner Committee sought some time to address arguments in this relation. Justice Dayal granted time to counsel.

HC appoints arbitrator in Yuvraj Singh's plea against personality rights violation

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday appointed an arbitrator in two pleas moved by cricketer Yuvraj Singh alleging a violation of personality rights and a dispute related to an agreement to sale of a flat to him.

Yuvraj Singh had moved to the High Court against Brilliant Etoile Private Limited seeking the appointment of an arbitrator to resolve the dispute between the parties referred by the counsels of the parties to the agreement to sale of a flat to him.

Justice C Hari Shankar after hearing the submissions by the counsels of the parties referred the matters for arbitration at the Delhi International Arbitration Centre (DIAC). The bench rejected the counter submissions advanced by the counsel for respondents.

The Delhi HC on July 9, issued notice in pleas moved by Yuvraj Singh seeking appointment of a sole arbitrator. Yuvraj Singh moved the Delhi HC against a builder over violation of personality rights and delay in delivery of a flat.

Advocate Rizwan argued for Yuvraj Singh seeking the appointment of a Sole Arbitrator to hear and adjudicate the disputes between the Petitioner and the Respondent arising out of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) dated 24.11.2020 executed between them for the purpose of promotion, en-



dorsement and marketing of a real estate project initiated by the Respondent to develop and construct residential buildings in. The Extended Abadi Deh (Lal Dora), Village Chandanpura, Tehsil, Haus Khas, New Delhi under the name 'Sky Mansion' and displaying the name 'Risland'.

MoU executed between the petitioner and the respondent to engage the services of the Petitioner for the purpose of promotion, endorsement and marketing of the said 'Sky Mansion' Project. MoU envisaged a benefit of Rs. 1,15,00,000 against the purchase of an apartment.

In December 2020, the petitioner based on the sample apartment shown booked the apartment and was allotted apartment No.- 0012, 23rd Floor, Tower A, Sky Mansion.

It is also stated that an agreement to Sale dated 05.02.2021 was executed by and between the

Petitioners and the builder for the purpose of the Pur-

chase of the Apartment for a sale consideration price of Rs. 14,10,07,671.

Respondents delayed the offer of possession and issued a possession letter to the petitioner vide email dated 10.11.2023, the plea alleged.

In December 2023, petitioners on inspection of the Apartment offered for possession found it to be in clear contravention of the sample apartment shown and the terms of the agreement to sale of February 5, 2021. It is stated that petitioners communicated and discussed with the respondents, the issues pertaining to delay in possession, poor quality and surroundings and escalated price of the Apartment.

On April 27, 2024, petitioners also sent a legal notice for damages/concession along with the improved quality of the apartment with respect to delay and misrepresentation of price/quality/surroundings of the apartment in violation of the agreement to sale dated February 5, 2021.

J&K: SECURITY HEIGHTENED IN AKHNOOR IN VIEW OF 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARTICLE 370 ABROGATION

TDG NETWORK
AKHNOOR

Security measures have been escalated in Akhnoor, Jammu district in view of the 5th anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370.

On August 5, 2019, Article 370 was abrogated, taking Jammu and Kashmir's special status and statehood and splitting it into two Union Territories.

Jammu and Kashmir Police has increased patrolling in the Akhnoor LoC area by setting up checkpoints at various places. The vehicles and documents are also being thoroughly checked.

Along with the Jammu and Kashmir Police, other



security agencies are also in alert mode. From city to village, strict surveillance is being done so that any kind of infiltration or other incidents from Pakistan can be prevented.

"Looking at the terrorist activity, we are always alert,

be it August 5 or August 15. We cannot say everything regarding our security preparations to the camera; we want to assure everybody that we are not leaving any stone unturned when it comes to security," SP South Jammu, Ajay Sharma told

In recent months, there has been a spike in terror attacks in the Jammu region, including an attack on an army convoy in Kathua and encounters in Doda and Udhampur.

ANI.

In recent months, there has been a spike in terror attacks in the Jammu region, including an attack on an army convoy in Kathua and encounters in Doda and Udhampur.

CM Patel inspires Women and Child Welfare Department to plant 53,065 trees

TDG NETWORK
GANDHINAGAR

Under the 'Ek Pedh Maa ke Naam' campaign, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Monday took the innovative experiment and inspired the Women and Child Welfare Department of planting 53,065 trees along with the children Anganwadis across the state.

Through this motive, the CM has adopted an inspiring approach towards environment conservation and has inculcated the habit of cultivating and nurturing trees among the Anganwadi children in the state.

The CM has started the statewide campaign of planting the saplings with the children on the first day of the holy month of Shravan.

Under the 'Ek Pedh Maa ke Naam' campaign, a total of 3.15 lakh saplings will be planted in the Anganwadis across the state.

Patel also distributed a heartfelt conversation with the children and distributed saplings among them. Additionally, the CM also set a target of planting 12.20 crore trees by September 2024 and 17 crore trees by March 2025.

Earlier, on August 1, Assam's CM Himanta Biswa Sarma participated in a tree plantation program under the "Ek Ped Maa ke Naam" as a part of the Amrit Brikshya Andolan at the park of Ministers Colony at the Dispur Capital Complex in Guwahati.

Speaking about the plantation program, Sarma said that the Assam government

will be planting three crore plants from August 1 to August 20 as a part of the Amrit Brikshya Andolan.

"The Assam government has participated in a plantation program under the "Ek Ped Maa ke Naam" as a part of the Amrit Brikshya Andolan. We will be planting 3 crore plants from August 1 to August 20. I believe we will be playing a very important role in protecting the environment through this program," the CM said.

The 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam' campaign was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of the World Environment Day Campaign on June 5.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also participated in the campaign and planted a tree in the memory of his mother.

Gujarat: Several parts of Valsad face waterlogging after heavy rainfall

TDG NETWORK
VALSAD

Heavy rainfall has caused severe flooding in Gujarat's Valsad with rising water levels in the Auranga River. People from low-lying areas of the region have shifted to safe places.

The state has been witnessing severe downpours for the last few days.

Mukesh Patel, a local said, "The situation of water logging has come down but the water level is increasing due to rain again. Auranga River can be seen flowing on the road in Bandar Road and Tariawad areas of the city."

"People of Bandar Road say that every day the water fills up there and the people of the low-lying areas have moved to a safe place" he added.

He further said "Currently the water level is low but it



is increasing, from the last two to three days there has been continuous rain in the area, and the administration has warned us to move to a safer place. Most of the people have already moved to a safer place."

"Bandar Road and Tariawad witness flooding every year, we have seen this from our childhood. Bandar Road and the Tariawad area of Valsad city witnessed wa-

terlogging since last night. More than 2500 people live in this area" he added.

Earlier today, the National Disaster Response Force rescued seven people who had been stranded in Hinglaj village in the Valsad district of Gujarat due to heavy rainfall and high tide in the Auranga River.

The NDRF personnel carried out the rescue operation in the early hours of Mon-

day. The people who were stranded were fishermen, officials said.

Inspector NDRF, Ramesh Kumar said, "We got information from the district administration that seven persons are stranded in Hinglaj village because of continuous rainfall and high tide in the Auranga River. The water from the river came to the nearest low-lying areas."

"The people who are stranded are fishermen and they have no option but to get out because the level of water has risen a lot there. We have rescued them," he told ANI.

Many districts of Gujarat, including Valsad have been receiving heavy rains for the last couple of days.

On Saturday, day-to-day activities stalled in several parts of Vapi in Valsad as it faced waterlogging following heavy rain. Earlier, on

August 2, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) warned of the possibility of rain and thundershowers for the next five days in several parts of Gujarat.

Earlier, amid torrential rains in the state, Gujarat's Navsari district experienced severe waterlogging, tasking the National Disaster Response Force to evacuate people from the inundated areas of the district.

The NDRF evacuated people who were stuck in the inundated areas of Navsari. The team rescued five people, including a child and an ailing woman, from the flood-affected area in Mithila Nagari of Navsari. At least 30 people were rescued from there. Amid the deluge-like conditions, Navsari Municipality prepared 20,000 food packets for the people who were stuck in the flood-affected areas of the city.



GET TOGETHER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, Ashwini Vaishnaw and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MPs from Odisha at the Parliament in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

Gujarat: Prices of flowers shoot up in Shravan month

TDG NETWORK
AHMEDABAD

Prices of flowers have skyrocketed in Ahmedabad's Jamalpur market since the beginning of the Shravan month as devotees flock to the temples to worship Lord Shiva.

In the wholesale flower market in Jamalpur, Roses, which used to cost around 40 to 50 rupees or up to 100 rupees on normal days, have now reached up to 300 rupees, 400 rupees per kilogram. Besides, marigold flowers, usually priced at 30 to 40 rupees per kilogram on regular days, now cost 100 to 120 rupees per kilogram in the month of Shravan.

The price of kesar marigold, which was 40 rupees per kilogram, has now reached 150 to 200 rupees



per kilogram. Additionally, the garlands used for decoration and worship, which typically cost 100 rupees per kilogram on normal days, now cost 250 to 300 rupees per kilogram. Overall, flower prices have increased by 30 to 70 per cent.

Shravan month is considered sacred in the Hindu religion, as many Hindus visit temples to worship Lord Shiva. Naturally, the prices of flowers, which are nominal

on normal days, become expensive during Shravan Month.

Belpatra used for Shiva worship has also become expensive, costing 50 rupees a pair.

Jignesh Panchal, a customer who came to buy goods from Ahmedabad's wholesale flower market, said that the prices of flowers have increased significantly compared to normal days, with ordinary flowers like roses

being sold at high prices, i.e., 400 rupees per kilogram for worship.

"Despite the higher prices this year, we will use the necessary flowers for worship, and there will be no compromise in worshipping Lord Shiva," Jignesh Panchal said.

A flower merchant, Zakir Hussain Z Sheikh, said that another reason for the increase in the prices of flowers is rain. "The customers are stuck in the rain, the flowers that we bring from Indore, Ujjain Nashik are stuck in the rain. So the problem is if the flowers will be sold or not because of the rain."

With the increased demand for flowers during the month of Shravan, coupled with reduced flower production due to rain, the demand as well as the prices of the flowers has increased.

White tigress gives birth to 3 cubs, including 2 white cubs in Gwalior zoo

TDG NETWORK
GWALIOR

A white tigress named Meera has given birth to three cubs at Gandhi Zoological Park (Gwalior Zoo) located in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district, Zoo in charge Upendra Yadav said on Monday.

Of these cubs, two are white tigers and one is yellow. Both the tigress and cubs are completely healthy. They are under the supervision of the zoo management and veterinarians. These cubs are born on Sunday night at around 9 pm, he added.

"A white tigress Meera gave birth to three cubs in the Gwalior zoo, which includes two white and one yellow cubs last night at around



9 pm. It is great news for Gwalior. They have been kept in isolation right now and will be brought out for the general public after 40 days," Yadav told ANI.

Earlier, around 40 days ago, a yellow tiger Durga had also given birth to three cubs on intervening night of June 28 and June 29, out of which two were yellow and one was

white. They have been named today and brought out for the general public. Now, the people visiting the Zoo will be able to see the tiger cubs, he added.

"Meera is a white tiger and the male tiger which is the father of the newly born cubs is a yellow tiger named 'Lav'. With these cubs, the number of white tigers has increased

to five and yellow tigers to seven in the Gwalior zoo. We have a total of 12 tigers. Currently, Gwalior has a good number of tigers and the maximum number of tigers in the state is in Gwalior Gandhi Zoological Park," the zoo in-charge said.

Gwalior Zoo was established by the royal family Madhao Rao Scindia back in 1922, the Gandhi Zoo is actually a section of a larger garden known as Phool Bagh and houses various rare species of animals. The Gwalior Zoo makes for a pleasant outing with family, especially for kids. It is also an attractive destination for enthusiasts who would like to see wildlife in the city, including rare and protected species such as the white tiger.

AIUDF chief asks Assam CM to refrain from statements like 'Love, Land Jihad'

TDG NETWORK
GUWAHATI

AIUDF chief Badruddin Ajmal said on Monday that the Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's statement on "Land Jihad" and "Love Jihad" were made just to please the Hindu brothers.

Calling himself his elder brother, Ajmal advised CM Sarma to refrain from making such statements.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said that his government will bring a new law in the state assembly session to increase the punishment in "Love Jihad" cases to life imprisonment. "We will bring a new law in the state assembly where the punishment of

Reacting to this, Ajmal said that anyone from India could buy land in Assam, unlike Kashmir (until the abrogation of Article 370).

Love Jihad will be increased to lifetime imprisonment," CM Sarma said.

In an X post, Assam CM said, "Assam government is bringing two laws to stop Land Jihad and Love Jihad... If a Muslim wants to buy a

Hindu's property or a Hindu wants to buy a Muslim's property, he will have to get government permission... Those practising love jihad will be punished with life imprisonment..."

Reacting to this, Ajmal said that anyone from India could buy land in Assam, unlike Kashmir (until the abrogation of Article 370).

"...Everyone has a right on the land in Assam. Anyone from India can buy land here. This is not Kashmir... What law will they bring? It is only to make Hindu brothers happy... 97-98 per cent of Hindus in the country are secular, they are not communal," Ajmal told ANI.

The AIUDF Chief added, "As a big brother, I advise

him (Assam CM) to stop making such statements... What is 'Love Jihad'?"

Challenging CM Sarma, Ajmal cited examples of Bollywood couples who have been in inter-faith marriages.

Ajmal said, "In the Indian film industry, the wives of many big film stars are Hindu. What will you do? You can't catch them but you will trouble the poor people... Aap par ghera rang ka asar chadh gaya hai..."

He also spoke on the Assam Government's decision to repeal the Assam Muslim Marriages Divorces Registration Act, Rules 1935.

"...Go to the market and you will find out how upset people are with you. You

should talk about real issues. This is democracy, not the time of Hitler. You should respect democracy," he told ANI.

He also said by repealing the Act, the Assam government was allegedly targeting a community.

"You are targeting a community... the Hindu brothers also understand this," Ajmal said.

Ajmal further questioned Assam CM, without mentioning his name, about his role in the development of the State.

Ajmal said, "What is your (Assam CM) role in the development of Assam? All the work which is being done is through money given by the World Bank..."

TMC leader Akhil Giri says 'no regret' on his remarks against woman official

TDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

West Bengal minister and All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) leader Akhil Giri on Monday said that he does not "regret" the remarks he made against a woman forest ranger adding that TMC leader Mamata Banerjee will take cognizance of the complaint by the Forest department.

"I will not say anything. The party ordered me to resign from the cabinet, and I have tendered my resignation. I handed it over to the Chief Minister. I am a Member of the Assembly. This is the last day of the Assembly session. So, I am going there," Giri told ANI.

Giri, who submitted his resignation under party pressure, refused to apolo-

gize to the official against whom he had made the abusive remarks.

"The Chief Minister will take cognizance of the complaint that will be made by the Forest Department. I will not speak about their complaint... I don't regret it. Let the Opposition speak," he said.

Bharatiya Janata Party leader Soumendro Adhikari said that "atrocities and objectionable comments" against women have become a culture of the TMC.

"This is not the first time. Akhil Giri has made objectionable comments on our President (Droupadi Murmu) also. He should not have done that. The atrocities and objectionable comments on women have become TMC's culture. They have said objectionable things about PM

Modi and the Union Home Minister. It is their culture to threaten people," Adhikari told ANI on Sunday.

In a purported video of the incident posted on X by the BJP West Bengal, Giri was seen threatening an on-duty woman forest officer.

"West Bengal Minister Akhil Giri threatened a lady Forest Officer because she was performing her duty to remove illegal encroachment in forest areas. Will Mamata Banerjee dare to throw out this Minister and put him behind bars? Will charges be filed against him for obstructing government workers and outraging the modesty of women? Let's see if this goon is kicked inside the jail for threatening to indirectly kill and outrage the modesty of a woman," BJP West Bengal posted on X.

VANISHING CAMELS AND THE PLIGHT OF OUR WILDLIFE

OPINION

SUNDEEP BHUTORIA



sources and media reports that the camel population in India is declining at a worrying rate. According to available data, there were about 6 lakh camels till a few years ago, which has come down to around 2.5 lakh today. Most of these are in Rajasthan. At this rate, they would, in five years' time, become an endangered species in our country, mostly in zoos and owned by the rich.

This is a scary situation. A sort of silent holocaust of camels is on at the moment. Where have all our camels gone?

The camel is a unique animal that can survive in very high temperatures and the most inhospitable climates, and has a very low maintenance cost. In many remote, inhospitable, sandy terrains, it is still the most reliable means of transport and lives up to its name of being the "ship of the desert". There are villages where the Indian Postal Services use camels to deliver letters. Camels are also used for transporting food and have even been known to carry ballot boxes during elections.

Years ago, someone presented me with a painting on camel skin. Camel bone is also used for making various kinds of so-called handicrafts items. There have been instances of people passing off camel bone products as ivory. I am told that the Rajasthan Assembly had some rules regarding the killing of camels,



The plight of camels is a stark reminder of the broader crisis facing our wildlife. Just as the desert's ships are vanishing, the majestic tigers of our forests are always under threat.

but I wonder if they are being followed. Else, how do you explain the alarming decline in the camel population? Are we waiting for the camel population to come down on par with tigers before we begin to think of banning camel skin and bone products? Why don't we wake up now to save the pride of the desert?

With petrol and diesel prices moving up, there have been reports of a large number of people in the desert going back to buying camels for the purpose of transportation. This resurgence in the use of camels as beasts of burden might at least contribute to bolstering their numbers. However, much more is needed. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), one of the largest and oldest global environ-

mental organisations, has put camels on its Red List of threatened species. When will India take notice of these facts? The plight of camels is a stark reminder of the broader crisis facing our wildlife. Just as the desert's ships are vanishing, the majestic tigers of our forests are always under threat. Both scenarios reflect a disturbing trend of human greed and negligence that threatens to erase our natural heritage.

A while ago, I came across a small piece of news on how one of the largest and strongest networks of poachers in the country was busted, with the arrest of 65-year-old Surajpal, also known as Chacha, who, along with his nephew Sarju, is said to have killed 300 tigers in the past 30 years

and smuggled bones and skulls to international markets, especially China, running into crores of rupees. For both our tigers and earnest conservation efforts across government bodies and civil society, however, it was an incalculable loss.

The report, which read like a horror story, said that 18 kilos of tiger bones, nails and skulls were found with Surajpal, who ran his operation out of Delhi. Besides these, Rs 50 lakh cash was also recovered from his house. The CBI and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau were in hot pursuit of Chacha since 2005, when they came to know about his activities with the arrest of notorious poacher Sansar Chand, who is said to have traded in animal parts by killing over 250 tigers, 2,000 leopards, 5,000 otters, 20,000 wild cats, 20,000 foxes and so on, according to reports. This is nothing short of wildlife genocide.

I was aghast to read that Surajpal had earlier worked with the infamous poacher, Sansar Chand Gujjar, and had earned for himself a dubious reputation of be-

ing the best supplier of tiger skins and bones. The modus operandi of Surajpal was simple but deadly. The tigers were poisoned but attempts were made to make the deaths appear natural.

To me, people like Surajpal and Sansar Chand should be tried for their crimes and meted out the harshest punishment under the law. The legacy of the likes of Veerappan continues in this country, even in our wildlife sanctuaries like Jim Corbett National Park, Rajaji National Park and Melghat Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra. Surajpal had set up a network of poachers, smugglers and poaching tribes across India. But for people like him and a few others, the population of Indian tigers today could have been far higher than it is now.

At the launch of my book *The Safari: A Diary on Ranthambore* some years ago, I was in conversation with two of India's leading wildlife conservationists, Belinda Wright and Nitin Desai. Nitin shared with the audience some of the counter-poaching strategies adopted by his organisation and others, which included working closely with villagers and local residents to inform them about the poaching networks such as the ones used by Surajpal, and incentivising them to work for the precious animal population and not against them.

I now can appreciate the efficacy of such moves. There is a hue and cry over "human rights" violations across the world on so many issues. It is high time we treated "animal rights" on par with human rights under the purview of law. For the sake of both our tigers and camels, and all the other precious natural heritage that will be otherwise lost.

PERSPECTIVE HASINA'S OUSTER

BANGLADESH GOES TO THE RADICALS

Monday's events in Bangladesh may have affected the geopolitical course of the Indian subcontinent for at least the foreseeable future. A coup of sorts saw the ouster of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The coup was engineered by the Bangladesh Army, which, apparently, gave her a notice of 45 minutes to quit. In these new age coups, military tanks do not roll into the Prime Minister's residence—that is bad optics and will stop the flow of funds from western countries that claim to live by democracy and are sensitive to such sights, even though unseen hands from their shores may have been involved in such regime changes. The Bangladesh Army will now take charge through an interim government either directly or as the power behind the throne. Given that the Army chief, in his press conference, mentioned the names of the Jamaat-e-Islami and the BNP—in that order—as the parties he is conferring with to form the interim government, it is certain that the anti-India BNP and its associate, the radical Jamaat will be a part of the interim government. The rise of the Jamaat and BNP drastically reduces New Delhi's influence in Dhaka. That Pakistanis are celebrating New Delhi's "ouster" from Dhaka, should give an idea of which way the Jamaat is inclined. In fact, the Jamaat has its roots in the Razakars, who were collaborators with the Pakistan Army and were the worst kind of oppressors of the people of the then East Pakistan. Ironically, as the Jamaat comes closer to power, TV visuals show the rioters—many of whom came from Jamaat ranks—vandalizing the statue of Sheikh Hasina's father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the man who got Bangladesh freedom in 1971, with India's help. It's almost as if Bangladesh is undoing over 50 years of its history.

At one level, Hasina's ouster was a direct fallout of her mishandling of the genuine anger on the streets against quotas in jobs. In trying to curb the unrest, her police and party workers were heavy handed, leading to the deaths of several students. This was taken advantage of by unscrupulous elements, who infiltrated the students' protests. Once the quotas were scrapped by the Supreme Court, the protests died down but only for a short time. It resurfaced with the demand of the removal of the Hasina government. In the crackdown that followed hundreds were killed, inflaming passions. Given the major involvement of the Jamaat cadre, the question is how organic these protests are. After all, it's the Jamaat that has the street power to bring life to a standstill in large parts of Bangladesh. Sadly, Hindus are being targeted in the violence that is sweeping through the country, indicating the extent of Islamist/jihadi influence on the streets of Bangladesh. To a limited extent, Hasina was successful in keeping these anti-Hindu elements under check. Even then there were periodic riots that targeted Hindus, especially in the rural areas. Ominous signs are coming of this likely to increase.

A serious question now is how much external support these protests got. It is well known that the United States was trying to get Hasina out for a long time, for the alleged backsliding of democracy, while turning a blind eye to all of Pakistan's transgressions, including sending a Prime Minister to prison and rigging an election. The US ambassador to Dhaka, Peter D. Haas, was regularly talking with the Opposition, throwing all diplomatic norms to the wind. The Biden administration, in the name of democracy and human rights, was essentially fighting for the right of the Razakars to fight elections, without going into history to see how undemocratic and radicalised these forces are. Essentially, Biden's Bangladesh policy is a reflection of the influence that Wahhabi elements in the US have on the State Department—Wahhabis who have been lobbying hard to get India black-listed and sanctioned for so-called "human rights violations". It is these Wahhabis who want to control Bangladesh and the rise of the radical Jamaat strengthens their hands. That their rise causes a problem for the US' strategic partner India, does not seem to be a concern for Washington, DC, as long as Biden's "values based foreign policy" is served—whatever those illusory values might be. The China question also comes into the equation. Hasina had a bad visit to China. She announced that she preferred India to China in a Teesta river project near India's border. This would have angered Beijing. It has to be seen whether the new rulers to favour India over China, given their aversion towards India. If not, India will have a Chinese project coming up right next to its border—in fact strategically located near the Siliguri chicken's neck corridor that connects the Northeast to the rest of India. The obvious question is, what role Beijing played in the ouster of Hasina.

The bottom line is, Hasina's removal will have security and strategic implications for India. It will now have to live with another anti-India neighbour, which is going down the path of Wahhabi extremism. With arson and violence sweeping through the country, India will have to brace for an increasing influx of illegal immigrants. India will have to tread carefully through what is now a veritable minefield of forces aligned against it. As for the economic marvel that Bangladesh was proving to be, that story is over, at least for the time being.

JOYEETA BASU

Not Much Dum in Aloo

FROWNING PROHIBITED

JAS KOHLI



A few days ago, I was giving dietary counselling to a patient having hormonal issues. 'Apart from limiting the intake of cereals and sugar, cut down on potatoes,' I instructed her in a dictatorial tone (as a senior doctor, I usually get away with it). Surprise, surprise—instead of nodding in the affirmative, she started smiling. 'Doc, I stay in a hostel and most of the vegetarian dishes served in the hostel mess have po-

tato in them. Have you ever heard of aloo rajmah or aloo daal! We eat them regularly.' If that is the scenario, prepare your own meals,' I retorted. 'No time,' was the instantaneous reply. I had no answer to this googly.

The conversation rattled my grey matter. Ensuring preponderance of the potato as an ingredient in various dishes is a well-known machination of the hostel mess contractors. Obviously, this is done to reduce input costs (could be with the tacit acquiescence of college authorities)—consideration for the health of the students is not in fashion. The government makes sure that the prices of the gol matol tuber are kept in check. The authorities may build lot of flyovers, roads and hospitals but on the voting day, the fate of the sarkaar may be decided by the prices of



Love affair with potatoes can make life as complicated as an inter-caste love affair in rural Haryana. One gets predisposed to diabetes, obesity and metabolic syndrome.

potato, tomato and onion. In future, we might have separate ministries for these three veggies.

I have been addicted to aloo paratha and french fries for long but walked out on them two years ago. While I am ordering food, the salesper-

son at the food joint often gives me an offer—If I you add Coke, I will make it a 'meal' and that way you can have french fries for free. 'No. Thanks,' is my standard reply. Then, I get a look of bewilderment—as if I suffer from a rare mental affliction

characterized by just one symptom—refusal to avail of the offer of free french fries.

What makes the potato tick? It is as malleable as a turncoat politician. It can join soups, salads, curries, snacks, pulao, parathas and non-veg dishes. And when it comes out after a rendezvous with hot oil, the crisp crust and the soft inside induces love at first bite. If potatoes become unavailable, most of our populace will go into clinical depression. Imagine life without vada pav, masala dosa, amritsari kulcha, samosa, aloo tikki, french

fries, aloo chaat, aloo bhujia and others. Go to any dhaba or restaurant and ask the waiter about the veggies being served there. Aloo gobhi, aloo mutter, dum aloo, aloo shimla mirch, jeera aloo the waiter will list in one breath, reminding one of Shanker Mahadevan's song, 'Breathless'.

Nutritionists and dieticians have mixed feelings about potatoes because of their high carbohydrate content and high glycaemic index. Love affair with potatoes can make life as complicated as an inter-caste love affair in rural Haryana. One gets predisposed to diabetes, obesity and metabolic syndrome. It is okay to take one medium potato a day and that too if cooked in a healthy way. However, the tubers are often married to refined flour and trans fats. The favourite indulgence of a couch potato is potato chips, which have around thirty three percent fat content.

The authorities are unlikely to put curbs on sugar, trans fats and potato—even liquor and tobacco have been spared, to a large extent. So, one should act on a personal level by taming one's taste buds!

BANGLADESH AT THE CROSSROADS

Bangladesh, born of war, plagued by violence, and coups. Former PM Sheikh Hasina's resignation marks a turning point for the nation.

THE EXILE OF SHEIKH HASINA

THE RISE AND FALL OF SHEIKH HASINA

Sheikh Hasina, daughter of Bangladesh's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, has been a central figure in the nation's politics for decades. Her tenure as Prime Minister has been marked by economic growth, infrastructural development, and a strong stance against radicalism. However, it has also been marred by allegations of authoritarianism, human rights abuses, and corruption. The recent protests, led by the Anti-Discrimination Students' Movement, culminated in her resignation. Demonstrations across Dhaka saw thousands of citizens, armed with bamboo sticks and batons, marching towards government buildings, demanding her resignation. Clashes with police resulted in casualties, further intensifying the unrest.



Sheikh Hasina Wajid, former Prime Minister of Bangladesh. (Source: Consulate General-Bangladesh)

A HISTORICAL REFUGE



India Bangladesh bilateral relationship has significantly improved over the last decade. Source: X

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina met with NSA Ajit Doval at Hindon Air Base to discuss the current situation in Bangladesh and her future plans. Sources report that the Indian Air Force has placed its personnel on alert in all eastern sectors due to recent developments. NSA Ajit Doval and senior military officials held discussions with Prime Minister Hasina at Hindon Air Base. Sources indicate that the Indian Air Force and other security agencies are ensuring her safety as she is being relocated to a secure location. Hasina's flight to India is not without precedent.

WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR SHEIKH HASINA?

According to her son, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, Hasina has no intention of returning to politics. Disillusioned by the protests and the opposition, she seeks safety and a life away from the political arena. This resignation marks the end of an era for the Awami League, the party her father founded and she led for decades. Accompanying Hasina in her exile is her sister, Sheikh Rehana Siddiq, Rehana, though not actively involved in Bangladeshi politics, has been a staunch supporter of her sister and the Awami League. Her presence suggests a close familial support system as Hasina navigates this challenging period.



Father of Bangladesh, Mujib-ur-Rahman's statue being defiled on August 5, 2024. Source: X

HASINA'S EXIT: JULY 1- AUGUST 5

- **July 1, 2024:** Students initiated blockades, disrupting roads and railway lines in protest against the quota system, which they claimed favored Hasina's ruling Awami League.
- **July 16, 2024:** Violence escalated with the deaths of six people in clashes between protesters and government supporters in Dhaka. Hasina's government closed schools and universities nationwide.
- **July 18, 2024:** Protesters set fire to the headquarters of Bangladesh Television and other government buildings. The government imposed an internet blackout, resulting in 32 deaths and hundreds injured.
- **July 21, 2024:** Bangladesh's Supreme Court ruled against reintroducing job quotas, a decision critics said aligned with the government.
- **August 4, 2024:** Clashes led to 68 deaths, including 14 police officers. Former Army Chief General Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan urged the government to withdraw troops. Current Army Chief Waker-uz-Zaman stated that the armed forces "always stood by the people."
- **August 5, 2024:** Leaders of the civil disobedience campaign called on supporters to march on Dhaka for a "final protest," which resulted in Hasina's resignation and her exit from the country.



Bangladesh's Supreme Court ruled against reintroducing job quotas on July 21, 2024.

THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND BANGLADESH'S FUTURE

In the wake of Hasina's resignation, an interim government is set to be formed. The army chief, General Waker-Uz-Zaman, announced that this transitional administration will steer the country until new elections can be held. The framework for a national government, proposed by the Anti-Discrimination Students' Movement, is expected to be presented soon, outlining the future political structure.

The closure of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport and the entry of protesters into the Gono Bhaban premises highlight the severity of the situation. With the prime minister's residence compromised

and mass protests continuing, the interim government faces the daunting task of restoring order and addressing the grievances of the populace.

STAKES FOR BANGLADESH

The resignation of Sheikh Hasina and the formation of an interim government present both risks and opportunities for Bangladesh. On one hand, the instability and violence accompanying this transition could further disrupt the nation's economic and social fabric.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Bangladesh has experienced significant economic growth under Hasina's leadership, becoming one of the fastest-



TDC EXPLAINER

human rights abuses have fueled public anger.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Bangladesh's geopolitical significance, particularly in South Asia, means that its internal stability is of interest to neighboring countries and international powers. India's role in providing refuge to Hasina indicates its vested interest in the stability of Bangladesh. The international community will be closely watching the developments, with potential implications for aid, trade, and diplomatic relations.

Bangladeshi students are protesting since July 1, 2024. Source: X

growing economies in the world.

However, the political turmoil threatens this progress. Investors may hesitate, and the disruptions could impact trade and industry.

The interim government will need to act swiftly to reassure both domestic and international stakeholders of Bangladesh's stability and economic prospects.

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DYNAMICS

The protests that led to Hasina's resignation reflect deep-seated discontent among various segments of the population. Issues such as corruption, nepotism, and



Bangladesh protesters set fire to state TV headquarters on July 18, 2024. Source: X

Key coups and assassinations in Bangladesh



August 15, 1975 Mujib's Bangladesh—the street scene and a royal wedding. (Source: Consulate General-Bangladesh)

TDC NETWORK NEW DELHI

Rahman followed Pakistan's model for the army, which served as a militia for the ruling government and gained unbridled powers. A state of emergency was imposed in 1974. Bangladesh has seen 29 coups so far. Here are the major ones:

August 15, 1975: A military coup launched by mid-ranking army officers replaced Rahman's secular government with an Islamic government led by Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed. Sheikh Mujib and most of his family members were killed.

November 3, 1975: Ahmed was removed from power in a coup organized by Brigadier Khaled Mosharraf, who put Major General Ziaur Rahman, under house arrest.

November 7, 1975: Left-wing army personnel and politicians launched a coup, killing Mosharraf and freeing Ziaur Rahman, allowing him to eventually seize power and become president.

1977-1982: Ziaur Rahman survived 21 assassination attempts but was eventually killed in 1981 in Chittagong by army officers.

March 24, 1982: Ershad stormed into Bangabhaban, removing President Ab-



2011 plot to overthrow govt was foiled by army. Ishraq Ahmed was to lead the 'new regime'. Source: X

dus Sattar and proclaiming himself Chief Martial Law Administrator, and later President.

1996: Abdur Rahman Biswas ordered Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Mohammad Na-



Following Sheikh Mujib's arrest on March 26, 1971, Major Ziaur Rahman led the 8th East Bengal Regiment's revolt, declaring Bangladesh's independence on March 27. (Source: Consulate General-Bangladesh)

sim to retire two senior army officers. Nasim's coup attempt failed, and he was arrested.

2007: Army Chief Lt. Gen Moeen U. Ahmed staged a coup, with Fakhruddin Ahmed made head of government. The coup ended in

2008 with the Awami League winning the polls.

2009: The Bangladesh Rifles staged a mutiny in Dhaka.

2011: A coup planned for January 11-12, 2012, was stopped by the Bangladesh Army in December 2011.

BORN OUT OF PAKISTAN

Originally part of East Pakistan after the Partition post-India's independence, the Bangladesh Liberation War led to the formation of the nation. The war began when the Pakistani military junta, under orders from Yahya Khan, launched Operation Searchlight against the people of East Pakistan on March 25, 1971, initiating the Bangladesh genocide. Pakistan was defeated, and Bangladesh emerged as an independent, secular democracy in 1972 with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as its leader.



Formed from East Pakistan after the 1971 liberation war, Bangladesh became an independent, secular democracy in 1972. (Source: Consulate General-Bangladesh)

Salimullah Khan: Scholar takes the reins in Bangladesh's crisis

TDC NETWORK NEW DELHI

With the nation gripped by turmoil, Salimullah Khan has been appointed interim leader. His leadership is expected to bring a decisive approach to restoring order and implementing essential reforms.

In a surprise televised address on Monday, Bangladesh's army chief, General Waker-Uz-Zaman, announced the formation

of an interim government headed by Salimullah Khan. This comes amidst escalating tensions and violence sparked by protests against recent government job quota reforms.

These protests have been marked by fierce clashes, leading to numerous casualties. The government's handling of the unrest has faced widespread criticism.

Khan, a respected academic and public intel-



Khan has vehemently criticized the government's response to the protests, labeling it repressive and counterproductive. He argues that the job quota issue is fundamentally political and requires a political solution rather than a crackdown.

lectual, has emerged as a prominent figure during this crisis. Known for his

outspoken views on political and social issues, he has called for an interna-

tional investigation into alleged state-sponsored killings during the protests. Distrust in domestic inquiries has fueled demands for a more impartial probe.

Khan has vehemently criticized the government's response to the protests, labeling it repressive and counterproductive. He argues that the job quota issue is fundamentally political and requires a political solution rather than a crackdown. Khan has proposed a comprehensive approach, including an unconditional government apology and resignation, as essential steps to address the root causes of the unrest. Prioritizing the restoration of a safe learning environment in universities, Khan has called for the release of detained students and support for protest victims. This reflects his commitment to justice and academic freedom.

LIQUOR POLICY CASE: DELHI HIGH COURT UPHOLDS CHIEF MINISTER ARVIND KEJRIWAL'S ARREST BY CBI

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court in the case Arvind Kejriwal v. CBI observed and has dismissed the petition filed by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal challenging his arrest by the Central Bureau of Investigation, CBI in the corruption case in relation to the liquor policy case.

The bench headed by Justice Neena Bansal Krishna in the case disposed of the bail petition of Arvind Kejriwal with the liberty to approach the trial court for the relief.

The court stated that, it cannot be said that the arrest was without any justifiable reason or is illegal.

The counsel, Abhishek Manu Singhvi contended before the court that Arvind

Kejriwal arrest in the CBI case is an 'insurance arrest' as an afterthought to the interim bail granted by the Supreme Court in relation to the ED case.

The counsel, Abhishek Manu Singhvi stated that the policy was not only signed by Kejriwal but also by then LG Anil Bajjal and from that logic, the former LG and the bureaucrats involved in the process should also be made an accused.

Singhvi said that, 'You are trying to catch me by presumptions and hypothesis.' Abhishek Manu Singhvi also emphasised that despite the Apex Court's interim bail in the money laundering case, Kejriwal is 'back to square one because of the insurance arrest.'

Singhvi also stated that, 'Because those who want it,

by hook or by crook, he is behind bars.'

On the other hand, the counsel, CBI SPP said that Arvind Kejriwal is the 'sutrardhar' of the 'entire scam' and that there is direct evidence to show his involvement.

He also stated that the trial court has already given a finding that the arrest is not illegal and thus, the probe agency has passed the stage of legality of arrest in the court below.

Further, Singh submitted that mere filing of chargesheet by Central Bureau Investigation, CBI against Arvind Kejriwal does not entitle the Chief Minister to be released on bail.

Singh also said that bail has been denied to co accused Manish Sisodia

and K Kavitha even when chargesheet was filed against them.

Singh stated that the use of term 'insurance arrest' was not justified.

It has also been argued by them that there have been multiple petitions and applications before the court and till date there were no observations regarding any violations by the CBI.

Further, Singh contended that Delhi Prison Rules mandate seeking court permission to interrogate someone in custody of court.

He also stated that CBI does not have to provide Kejriwal a prior notice.

Arvind Kejriwal approached the High Court seeking bail, without approaching the trial court.

Kejriwal is in judicial custody in the corruption and

money laundering cases related to the alleged scam.

The Supreme Court in the case granted interim bail to Kejriwal in the money laundering case, while referring his petition challenging the arrest by the Enforcement Directorate, ED to a larger bench.

The CBI examined the Chief Minister in Tihar jail. This was hours after the Delhi High Court stayed his bail in the PMLA case. After court's permission, CBI examined Kejriwal in court on June 26 and then formally arrested him in the matter.

In the present case, Kejriwal was arrested by the ED on March 21.

In May, Arvind Kejriwal was granted interim bail by the Supreme Court till June 01 in view of general elections.

UPSC aspirants' death: SC initiates suo motu case on safety compliances of Delhi coaching centres

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Coaching Federation Of India Versus Government Of NCT Of Delhi And Ors observed and has initiated a suo motu case to ascertain the safety compliances of coaching centres in Delhi in the wake of the recent tragedy where three aspirants died in a flooded basement at Rau's IAS coaching centre in Delhi's Old Rajendra Nagar.

The bench comprising of Justice Surya Kant and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan in the case observed and has issued notice to the Union Ministry of Urban Affairs as well as the Delhi Government.

The bench in the case was hearing a petition filed by petitioner Coaching Centre

Federation against the Delhi High Court order, passed in December 2023, wherein the court issued a slew of measures effectively to regulate the exercise of inspection of all coaching centres.

The bench in the case expressed dismay at the unfortunate incidents, wherein it claimed the lives of young individuals who joined coaching to pursue their careers.

Even though the same is dismissed the petition with a cost for an amount of s. 1 Lakh, the Court decided to take suo moto cognizance of the larger issue.

The court issued notice, while asking the Union Government and the Delhi Government to demonstrate the safety norms prescribed and the effective mechanism introduced so far for its

compliance.

The court in the case also stated that this cost will be deposited with the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association and the Supreme Court Bar Association, with Rs50,000 to each of these bodies.

The Delhi High Court in the case observed and has directed the Delhi Government and Municipal Corporation of Delhi to close down the coaching centres operating in the national capital without a no objection certificate, NOC from the Fire Department.

The High Court in its order stated that the Central Bureau of Investigation, CBI to probe the deaths of three civil services aspirants due to drowning in a IAS coaching centre basement in Rajendra Nagar.

SC rejects petition seeking clearance by Coastal Zone Management Authority for railway double-tracking in Goa

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case observed and has upheld the Bombay High Court decision wherein it is stated that prior permission is not required from Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority for doubling of the railway track in Goa.

The bench comprising of Justice Surya Kant and Justice R. Mahadevan in the case stated that the issue relates to ecological balance have been adequately addressed by the statutory authorities and the High Court. Thus, though the court in the case refused to interfere with the High Court's decision, it left the question of law open.

The court in its order stated that, this court see no reason to entertain this petition under Article 136 of the Constitution of India, which is accordingly, dismissed. However, the question of law is kept open to be decided in

an appropriate case.

In the present case, the petition is filed challenging the mentioned construction by South Western Railways, SWR and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, RVNL in the Vasco Gama area of the State of Goa.

The Public Interest Litigation, PIL is filed by a registered society and three residents of Guirdolim, Chandor and Cavorim villages of Salcete taluka. SWR and RVNL were found to have trespassed into a church property. Therefore, on protests being raised by the villagers, the work was stopped by the representatives of SWR.

It being the case of petitioner that several attempts were made to seek intervention from the GCZMA and other authorities. There being no response and SWR and RVNL repeatedly encroached or trespassed into private properties of the residents without any permission.

The High Court in the case held that the mere fact that the railway authorities have sought permission from the forest, as well as wildlife authorities, would not mean that they need environmental clearance from the GCZMA.

The court stated that in any event, whether or not double tracking is a necessity which cannot be decided by us. Thus, it is after all a policy decision taken by the Government of India in the appropriate department and unless such policy decision is shown to infringe any of the fundamental rights of the people, the writ court ought to stay at a distance is the settled law.

Further, the court refused to accept that the decision in the case T. N. Godavaram would not act as a bar for SWR or RVNL to lay lines for double tracking in execution of the special railway project in the other areas which do not fall in a national park or

wildlife sanctuary.

The Supreme Court in the case T. N. Godavaram's in the year 2022 had revoked the approval granted by the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife, NBWL for doubling of existing railway line from Castlerock (Karnataka) to Kulem, Goa.

The Bombay High Court in the case held that SWR and RVNL are not under any statutory compulsion to obtain environmental clearance from the GCZMA or any building permissions or other permissions from any authority under the diverse legislation referred to by Ms. Collaso.

The counsel, Senior Advocate Dr. S. Muralidhar, Advocate-on-Record Sriшти Agnihotri, Advocates M. A. Karthik, Maitreya Subramaniam, Pallak Bhagat, Ayushma Awasthi., Sanjana Grace Thomas, Sruthi Kupadakath, Tara Elizabeth Kurien appeared for the Petitioner.

Motor accident compensation: SC allows compensation in excess of claim on payment of additional court fee

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Kavita Balothiya And Ors. Versus Santosh Kumar And Anr. observed and has reiterated that there is no restriction upon the Motor Accident Claim Tribunal, MACT to award compensation exceeding the amount claimed by the claimant.

The court stated that if the claimant is entitled to a higher amount than claimed, then he is entitled to be paid the actual compensation as determined by the court.

The bench comprising of Justice PS Narasimha and Justice Pankaj Mithal was hearing the present matter.

The court placed reliance on the judgement in the case Mona Baghel & Ors. vs. Sajjan Singh Yadav & Ors., wherein the court observed that since the function of the Tribunal or Court as stated under Section 168 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 is to award 'just compensation',

thus, there being no restriction that the Court in the case cannot award compensation exceeding the claimed amount.

The court stated that the above decision clearly lays down that there is no restriction upon the court to award compensation exceeding the amount claimed. It being the duty of the Tribunal or Court under Section 168 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Act') to award just compensation. Thus, since the Act is a beneficial legislation a 'just compensation' is one which is fair and reasonable on the basis of the evidence adduced irrespective of the amount claimed.

In the present case, the Appellant has been awarded an amount of Rs. 19,55,250/- as compensation by the MACT against the claimed amount of Rs.38,34,000/-.

An appeal was filed before the High Court against the order of MACT, the Appellant has confined its claim to Rs. 23,55,250/- i.e., Rs. 4,00,000/-

in addition to the compensation determined by the MACT, Rs. 19,55,250/- plus Rs. 4,00,000/- equals Rs. 23,55,250/-.

The High Court in the case had revised the award of compensation from Rs. 19,55,250/- to Rs.28,00,375/-, thus, the said court refused to award such compensation because of the default committed by the Appellant in not paying the court fees on Rs. Rs.28,00,375/- but had paid court fees of Rs. 23,55,250/-.

The court in the case observed that the High Court erred in not awarding the determined compensation for an amount of Rs. Rs.28,00,375/- to the claimant, and the court noted that the defect of non-payment of the court fees could be rectified by paying court fees on the remaining amount of Rs.28,00,375/- minus Rs. 23,55,250/- equals to Rs. 4,45,125/-.

The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case stated that this court permit the appellants to amend

the claim amount in the appeal and to pay court fee on the additional amount of the compensation of Rs. 28,00,375/- less the amount awarded i.e., 19,55,250/- and additional amount of Rs. 4,00,000/-, on which court fee appears to be already paid, i.e., Rs. 4,45,125/-, within a period of four weeks wherein the amount of compensation as determined by this court shall be paid to the appellants within a period of four weeks.

Accordingly, the court allowed the appeal.

The counsel, Mr. Shishir Kumar Saxena, Adv. Mr. R.N. Pareek, Adv. Mr. Brijendra Singh, Adv. Mr. Jagmohan Pareek, Adv. Mr. Ajit Kulshreshtha, Adv. Mr. S.K. Bhandari, Adv. Mr. Jyotiraditya, Adv. Mr. Nityanand Mahato, Adv. Mr. Praveen Swarup, AOR appeared for the Petitioner(s).

The counsel, Mr. Atul Nigam, Adv. Ms. Tanvi Nigam, Adv. Ms. Parul Sharma, Adv. Mrs. Priya Puri, AOR represented the Respondent(s).

SC: TRANSFERRING PUBLIC PROPERTY AT NOMINAL PRICE ARBITRARY; STATES' RIGHT CAN BE SOLD ONLY BY AUCTION OR TRANSPARENT PROCESS

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case City Montessori School Versus State of U.P. & Ors., observed that the rights of the State in the property or land can be transferred only by adopting a fair and transparent process by which the State fetches the best possible price.

The bench comprising of Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Augustine George Masi in the case observed and has stated that the rights of the

State as the lessor can only be sold by a public auction or by any other transparent method by which, apart from the lessee, others too get a right for submitting their offer. Therefore, selling the plot to its alleged lessee at a nominal price will not be a fair and transparent method at all. The same will be arbitrary and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution of India.

The present matter relates to the conversion of a leasehold land to a freehold hold in the favour of the lessee in an auction sale despite the

lessee's bid not being the highest bid.

The court in the case observed that it being the appellant who submitted the highest bid for the purchase of the suit land, but its bid was rejected by the State.

The court referred to the case Akhil Bhartiya Upphokta Congress v. State of Madhya Pradesh and Other in order to hold that the State action would be deemed as arbitrary if the act or decision of the State to confer the benefit of the suit land was not founded on a sound,

transparent, discernible, and well-defined policy.

The court while referring to the case Akhil Bhartiya Upphokta Congress observed that any allotment of land or grant of other form of largesse by the State or its agencies or instrumentalities by treating the exercise as a private venture is liable to be treated as arbitrary, discriminatory and an act of favouritism and/or nepotism violating the soul of the equality clause embodied in Article 14 of the Constitution of India.

The court held that the en-

tire process cannot be a fair and transparent process of transferring the State's ownership rights to the lessee.

The judgement authored by Justice Abhay S Oka stated that, we have already stated the facts leading to the cancellation of the highest bid of the school and acceptance of the second highest bid of the sons of the alleged lessee. It being important to note that the Special Nazul officer passed an order dated November 26, 2001, by which the consideration for converting leasehold rights into freehold rights

was fixed at Rs. 67,022.21. thus, this amount was less than 10% of the bid offered by the school about 16 years before the order dated November 26, 2006. This cannot be a fair and transparent process of transferring the State's ownership rights.

Further, the court clarified that since more than 20 years have passed since the auction, thus, it would be unjust to restore the order of acceptance of the bid passed in favour of the school, about 20 years back.

The court stated that the

school is allowed to purchase the plot at the price offered by the school 20 years back, the sale will not be fair, as it is a property of the State.

The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case stated that the impugned judgment of the High Court, by which the order of conversion and the deed of conversion in favour of the alleged lessee were set aside, was not interfered with.

The counsel, Mr. Jayant Bhushan, Sr. Adv. Mr. Ashim Vachher, Adv. Mr. Shantanu

Kumar, AOR Mr. Pritish Kumar, Adv. Mr. Vaibhav Dabas, Adv. Mr. Vinay Navare, Sr. Adv. Mr. R. P. Gupta, AOR appeared for the Petitioner.

The counsel, Mr. Vinay Navare, Sr. Adv. Mr. R. P. Gupta, AOR Mr. Ravindra Raizada, Sr. Advocate, A.A.G. Mr. Shaurya Sahay, AOR Mr. Aditya Kumar, Adv. Mr. Abhishek Chaudhary, AOR Mr. Shantanu Kumar, AOR Mr. Jayant Bhushan, Sr. Adv. Mr. Ashim Vachher, Adv. Mr. Honey Jain, Adv. Mr. Ashish Batra, Adv. represented the Respondent.

Supreme Court: Local Debt Recovery Tribunal must be established in Jammu and Kashmir

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited v. M/S Hotel Alpine Ridge and Ors. observed and has called for the establishment of local Debt Recovery Tribunals, DRTs in Jammu and Kashmir.

The court stated that, someday it has to done, while looking at the topography of Jammu and Kashmir, it needs to be done.

The bench comprising of Justice Abhay Oka and Justice Augustine George Masi in the case was hearing the present matter.

In the present case, the petition is filed by a bank

against the decision of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court's wherein the court allowed the challenges to actions under the SARFAESI Act to be made before the High Court under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, until local DRTs are established.

The bench headed by Justice Oka queried why the High Court should not exercise its power under Article 226 of the Constitution of India in these cases.

The bench headed by Justice Oka held that writ petition is maintainable because persons cannot travel to Chandigarh DRT.

The counsel appearing for the petitioner argued before

the court that the DRTs are currently functioning virtually, with e-filing and video conferencing available.

The petitioner's counsel also contended that access to justice is not denied.

The counsel stated that the Centre previously communicated this stance to the High Court in an affidavit.

The bench of Justice Oka responded by questioning the rationale of maintaining local DRTs if virtual connectivity is deemed sufficient.

Justice Oka stated that if virtual services were adequate, there would be no need for local DRTs.

Justice Oka also remarked that, if logic is that we establish tribunals only at two se-

lected places, because there being good connectivity now, then do it in one place.

On the other hand, the Solicitor General Tushar Mehta suggested that the virtual hearing facilities which is provided by the Chandigarh DRT could be utilized as an alternative to High Court intervention.

The Solicitor General Tushar Mehta highlighted that the parties will lose one remedy if the High Court continues to exercise jurisdiction. He also agreed that local DRTs would need to be established in Jammu and Kashmir.

Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration on August 12,

2024.

BACKGROUND OF THE CASE:

Earlier, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court had ruled that the absence of DRTs within the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh infringes upon the fundamental right to easy access to justice under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

The High Court in the case emphasized that until such tribunals or benches are set up, litigants could invoke the writ jurisdiction of the High Court under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to challenge actions by financial institutions and banks

under the SARFAESI Act.

The court observed that despite the availability of an alternative forum at the DRT which is located in Chandigarh, this forum was ineffective for the litigants in these UTs.

Before the court, the Borrowers argued that the vast distance to Chandigarh imposed undue financial hardship and has violated their right to access justice.

The borrowers highlighted the issues as high airfare costs, difficult travel conditions, and limited access to affordable legal representation.

The High Court in the case acknowledged the existence of an alternative remedy as

stated under Section 17 of the SARFAESI Act but emphasized that the remedy must be 'efficacious.'

The court stressed that while the DRTs themselves are legally adequate, their location in Chandigarh creates substantial challenges due to the distance from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The High Court also referred to the case Anita Kushwaha v. Pushap Sudan and has stated that a redressal forum must be easily, readily, and regularly available to effectively serve its purpose.

Further, the High Court in the case noted that virtual hearings had limitations, which includes connectivity

issues and the importance of physical appearances in certain cases. Thus, the geographical distance and lack of infrastructure significantly hindered access to justice for borrowers in these UTs.

The High Court also expressed concern about the lack of domestic courts with jurisdiction following the State Reorganisation Act of 2019, which impacted cases under the SARFAESI Act.

It also highlighted the difficulties faced by litigants due to the lack of local DRTs and has observed that the absence of such tribunals denied litigants the comfort and convenience available to those in states with established DRTs.

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR: HEZBOLLAH LAUNCHES DRONE ATTACK ON NORTHERN ISRAEL

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV

Early Monday, Hezbollah launched a drone attack on northern Israel, retaliating against the death of Fouad Shukur's and other commanders. The Israeli military reported that the attack wounded two Israeli troops and caused significant destruction.

The violence has escalated fears of a broader regional war following the recent killings of a senior Hezbollah commander in Lebanon and Hamas' top political leader in Iran. In a statement, the Iranian-backed Hezbollah claimed responsibility for targeting a military base in northern Israel, citing "attacks and assassinations" by Israel in several south Lebanon villages as the provocation.

Despite the severity of the incident, the attack did not seem to be part of a larger,



Early Monday, Hezbollah launched a drone attack on northern Israel, retaliating against the death of Fouad Shukur's and other commanders.

more intense retaliation anticipated after Hezbollah commander Fouad Shukur's assassination in Beirut last week. The Israeli military confirmed that fire services

were actively working to extinguish a blaze caused by the attack in Ayelet HaShahar in the upper Galilee.

For the past 10 months, Israel and Hezbollah have

been engaged in near-daily exchanges of strikes against the backdrop of the ongoing conflict in Gaza. However, both sides have maintained a relatively low level of conflict that has not escalated into full-scale war.

Tensions in the region have been on the rise since last week's assassinations of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and Hezbollah commander Shukur in Beirut.

ISRAEL CONFIRMS KILLING HAMAS MINISTER

TEL AVIV: Israel Defence Forces on Monday said that it killed Hamas minister Abed Al-Zeriei in an airstrike in the Gaza Strip a day ago. Al-Zeriei was an operative in the Military Wing's manufacturing department and was also Hamas's economy minister in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli minister said. "He had a significant role in directing Hamas' efforts to seize control of humanitarian aid entering Gaza and in managing Hamas-controlled market," the IDF posted in an operational update on X. Additionally, IDF said "he was responsible for the distribution of fuel, gas and funds for terrorist purposes."

Kim Jong Un unveils 250 new tactical ballistic missile launchers

AGENCIES
SEOUL

North Korea troops received a new tactical ballistic missile system on August 4, the country's state media KCNA has reported. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversaw the delivery of the ballistic missile system at a ceremonial event in Pyongyang, Yonhap news agency said quoting KCNA.

250 new tactical ballistic missile launchers, which serves as "pivot military hardware" were unveiled, according to Korean Central News Agency.

Photos released by KCNA suggest that the weapon system is the "Hwasong-1" launcher, which is expected to be deployed in the military demarcation line area with South Korea, Yonhap said.

In his speech to military troops at the event, Kim said US-led alliance has changed into a military bloc based on nuclear power and that Pyongyang will have en-



hanced nuclear readiness to deter nuclear threats and protect itself to respond to any challenges.

The ceremony also comes North Korea suffers from recent floods. In July this year, North Korea had said that it test fired its new tactical missile that followed the "Freedom Edge" military drills staged by the United States, South Korea and Japan.

In June this year joint statement the United States, Japan and South Korea issued a joint statement that

"strongly opposed" any unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the Indo-Pacific waters and "strongly condemned" North Korea's launches using ballistic missile technology.

The statement was issued following a meeting of US Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell with Japan's Vice Foreign Minister Matsuda Okano and South Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Kim Hong Kyun in Little Washington, Virginia.

At the Quad meeting in July Australia, India, the United States and Japan issued a joint statement condemning the condemn the actions that Pyongyang takes in violation of UN Security Council resolutions, according to the joint statement.

"We condemn North Korea's destabilizing launches using ballistic missile technology and its continued pursuit of nuclear weapons in violation of multiple UN Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs).

Taiwan's TV show on China invasion makes headlines, stirs emotion nationwide

AGENCIES
BEIJING

Ever since the teaser for the upcoming Taiwanese television series "Zero Day" last month showcasing Beijing's invasion, these made-up sequences have sparked strong feelings and imaginative thoughts about what an impending Chinese invasion may look like, according to CNN. The 10-part series dramatises a potential invasion by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA), a first for Taiwan. The teaser shows a besieged island experiencing terror and anarchy after a military blockade: locals race to take out cash, foreigners rush to leave, prisons erupt in riots, and television networks are compromised to air enemy propaganda.



Despite never having controlled Taiwan, China's ruling Communist Party claims it as part of its territory and has vowed to take the island by force if necessary.

Although the threat has been hanging over the self-governing island for decades, it is now intensifying

as the Communist Party-run China becomes more assertive and powerful and shows off its military might, raising

tensions to unprecedented levels, according to CNN. With over a million views on YouTube and local media coverage, the 17-minute teaser proved to be a hit in Taiwan. "As a 21-year-old, I almost burst into tears when I watched it. Every scene in those 17 minutes felt so close to us. Maybe one day in the future, these scenarios will become a reality around us," said a top comment with over a thousand upvotes, according to CNN.

However, the teaser also drew criticism, particularly from leaders in the opposition, who claimed it heightened anxiety and overstated the situation. Despite never having controlled Taiwan, China's ruling Communist Party claims it as part of its territory and has vowed to take the island by force if necessary.

NDMA issues flood alerts in Balochistan, South Punjab

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued a warning of potential flooding in several districts of Balochistan and South Punjab, ARY News reported. Residents in Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajanpur districts in southern Punjab are advised to be prepared for heavy flooding, while medium to high-level flooding is expected in Zhob, Sibi, Naseerabad, and Qalat districts of Balochistan.

A spokesman has also warned against flooding in local drains and nullahs in Larkana, Dadu, Jamshoro and Hyderabad districts of Sindh. The NDMA has cautioned against likely heavy rainfall in the areas adjacent to the Kabul River, which could re-



sult in flooding in the tributaries of the river, as per ARY News.

NDMA has said that floodwater could hit low-lying areas and damage infrastructure in Nowshera. It is to be mentioned here that dozens of villages' land links were disrupted after rainfall at Koh-e-Sulaiman caused flooding in Rod-e-Kohi torrents. Rojhan has been severely affected by flooding, with water submerg-

ing several settlements and entering over 100 homes. Deputy Commissioner Rajanpur reported that more than 200 people have been evacuated to safer areas. The floodwaters have caused significant damage, submerging houses, standing crops, and collapsing several homes under intense pressure. The situation remains dire, with many residents displaced and facing uncertainty.

Pakistan ministers call SC's decision on reserve seats beyond Constitution

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar, said on Sunday that the court's decision on reserve seats was written by going beyond the Constitution, Pakistan-based The News International reported.

Speaking to reporters, Tarar said the detailed decision of the court had not come, even after 15 days. He said the Supreme Court's two judges had spoken about two very important points and termed it very important to respond to their objections with regard to the unilateral relief given to the Imran Khan-founded party.

Attaullah Tarar said the decision of the majority judge will cause the wrong impression. He said the apex court judges said the articles of the constitution would have to be suspended to implement the decision. He asked, "Will this not be a violation of Articles 62 and 63?" Tarar said floor crossing could be done by justifying this decision in future and any member of the assembly could change his or her party. A huge question mark has been raised on the majority's decision after the dissenting note of the two judges. Tarar said a review application had been filed on the reserved seats decision of the court, whether it would be possible to justify this decision by crossing the floor or changing the party in the future, according to The News International report.

He stated that the Sunni Ittehad Council chairman participated in the election as an independent candidate. He further said that it was mentioned in the constitution of the Sunni Ittehad Council that no minority member could become a member of his party.

Iran leader refutes reports about IRGC 'infiltration' to kill Hamas' Haniyeh

AGENCIES
TEHRAN

Iranian Army has refuted reports that officers of Iranian special services were recruited to organise the killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, state media cited a lawmaker in the country.

Quoting a deputy of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds Force, Ebrahim Rezaei, the spokesman for the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee on Sunday, said that the assassination of Haniyeh was "not the result of infiltration", and that appropriate measures are underway, the IRNA news agency reported.

Rezaei spoke with report-



ers following a meeting with officials from Iran's intelligence ministry and the IRGC.

He said that the meeting was the second such meeting held to investigate the July 31 killing of Haniyeh. A New York Times report stated that an explosive device covertly smuggled into a Tehran guesthouse, pro-

ected by IRGC, where Haniyeh was known to stay, was what killed him, said the US newspaper, which based its investigation on accounts by seven West Asian officials, including two Iranians, and an American official.

Haniyeh was in Iran's capital for the inauguration ceremony of Iranian President Masoud Pezesh-

kian when the bomb was detonated remotely, the five officials said, as per NYT. However, the AI Quds deputy commander stressed that the killing of Haniyeh was not a result of the activities of Iranian agents, IRNA cited the country's lawmaker, Ebrahim Rezaei, as telling reporters yesterday.

Iran blames Israel for the attack on Hamas leader. Iran's Revolutionary Guards said on Saturday, in a statement, that Haniyeh was killed by Israel using a short-range projectile with a warhead and plans to take revenge "at the appropriate time. The statement by IRGS also accuses the "criminal government" of the United States of supporting the attack.

PM Netanyahu: 'Whoever seeks to harm us will pay a very heavy price'

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV

On Sunday Israel's Prime Minister called for increasing the military efforts against Hamas terrorists in Gaza saying, "Only increasing the military pressure on Hamas will lead to achieving all of the objectives of the war, including the return home of all of our hostages, the living and the deceased."

Netanyahu's comments came at a State Memorial Ceremony on the anniversary of the death of Revisionist Zionist leader and founder Ze'ev Jabotinsky. The Revisionists, a group that was active before Israel's independence and conflicted with the socialist programs of the pre-state's Labor establishment, were the forerunners



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of the Prime Minister's Likud Party. "Iran and its minions are looking to surround us in a stranglehold of terrorism," added Netanyahu. "We are

determined to stand against them on every front and in every arena - near and far. Whoever seeks to harm us will pay a very heavy price."

Taiwan detects 9 Chinese military aircraft, 9 naval vessels near its territory

AGENCIES
TAIPEI

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence (MND) has said that 9 Chinese military aircraft and 9 naval vessels were operating around Taiwan from 6 am (local time) on Sunday to 6 am (local time) on Monday. Further, the Ministry stated that, of the 9 People's Liberation Army (PLA) aircraft, 6 crossed the median line of the Taiwan

Strait and entered Taiwan's eastern Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ). In response, Taiwan monitored the situation and responded accordingly.

"9 PLA aircraft and 9 PLAN vessels operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 6 of the aircraft crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's eastern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded accordingly," Taiwan's Min-



istry of National Defence said in a post on X.

On Sunday, Taiwan detected 36 Chinese military

aircraft and 12 naval vessels out of which 31 crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait and entered Taiwan's

According to a Taiwan News report, gray zone tactics are "an effort or series of efforts beyond steady-state deterrence and assurance that attempts to achieve one's security objectives without resorting to direct and sizable use of force."

northern, central, southwestern, southeastern and eastern Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ).

So far in August, Taiwan has detected PLA aircraft 71 times and Chinese ships 36 times, Taiwan News re-

ported. Since September 2020, China has intensified its use of gray zone tactics by increasing the number of military aircraft and naval vessels operating around Taiwan.

According to a Taiwan News report, gray zone tactics are "an effort or series of efforts beyond steady-state deterrence and assurance that attempts to achieve one's security objectives without resorting to direct and sizable use of force."

This latest incident adds to a series of similar provocations by China in recent months. China has increased its military activities around Taiwan, including regular air and naval incursions into Taiwan's ADIZ and military exercises near the island. Taiwan has been governed independently since 1949.

However, China considers Taiwan part of its territory and insists on eventual reunification, by force if necessary.

SUNSET SPIKES



The Eiffel Tower at sunset was a dazzling backdrop for a men's volleyball match between Brazil and the Netherlands at the Olympic Games. Paris, France. Photo: Agencies

PM Starmer pledges 'standing army' against 'far-right thuggery' on UK streets

AGENCIES
LONDON

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday pledged a "standing army" of specialist officers to stamp out the riots across several cities in the country, which he termed as "far-right thuggery", after an emergency COBRA meeting of senior ministers and police chiefs.

The emergency Cabinet Office Briefing Room A (COBRA) meeting, which included Home Secretary Yvette Cooper and Scotland Yard chief Mark Rowley, was called to discuss the future course of action to curb the violence and also ensure speedy judicial processes to deal with the suspects being



arrested.

"There were a number of actions that came out of the meeting. The first is we will have a standing army of specialist officers, public duty officers, so we will have enough to deal with this where we need them," Starmer told reporters after the meeting held at 10 Downing Street in London. "The second is we will

ramp up criminal justice. There have already been hundreds of arrests. Some of them have appeared in court this morning. I've asked for the early consideration of the earliest naming and identification of those involved in the process, who will feel the full force of the law," he said. Starmer also stressed that the law applies equally to

social media users who are committing criminal acts online of whipping up hate.

"In relation to the police, I am absolutely clear that we will have the officers we need, where we need them to deal with this disorder. That is why the standing army has been set up, specialist officers ready to be deployed to support communities," he added. Hundreds of arrests have been made as police officers in riot gear responded to violent scenes in Rotherham, Middlesbrough, Bolton and other parts of the UK on Sunday, after days of some of the worst rioting seen on the streets of the country in the wake of the fatal stabbings of three schoolgirls in Southport, north-west England.

'Now it's reality': Ukraine confirms the arrival of F-16 fighter jets

AGENCIES
KYIV

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced the arrival of F-16 fighter jets and stated, "Now it is a reality. F-16s are in Ukraine," adding he thanked Denmark, Netherlands and the United States for the support, CNN reported.

Further, he also described the arrival of F-16 fighter jets in Ukraine as "a new chapter" for the country's Air Force.

Since the start of the war, Ukraine has been urging its allies to supply the coveted jets to help defend its skies against Russian missile attacks.

Russia maintains air superiority over Ukraine and the F-16s offer a significant improvement in Kyiv's weaponry. The F-16s can provide air cover for troops, attack ground targets, take on enemy planes and intercept missiles, as per CNN.

"We held hundreds of meetings and negotiations to strengthen the capabilities of our aviation and air



defence," Zelenskyy said, speaking at an airbase outside Kyiv.

"We often heard the answer that it was impossible," he said. "Now it is a reality. F-16s are in Ukraine. I am proud of all our men who are mastering these aircraft and have already started using them for our country."

Further, Zelenskyy stated that he is grateful to partners, especially to the first countries that accepted Kyiv's request for the aircraft. "I thank Denmark, the Netherlands, and the United States. And to all our partners - we appreciate your support," he said. "Now is a new chapter

in the Ukrainian Air Force. We have done a lot to ensure that the Ukrainian Air Force switches to a new standard of aviation - Western combat aircraft," he said. Zelenskyy also said he can't comment on specific combat missions or how many F-16s are already in Ukraine, but said, "So far, the number that is available in Ukraine and the number of pilots who have already been trained is not enough." Nonetheless, "These jets are in our sky. It's good that they arrived and we can use them. At least for today I can tell you openly that we can use them," he said.

Australia lifts terrorism threat level from 'possible' to 'probable'

AGENCIES
MELBOURNE

The Australian government on Monday elevated the nation's terrorism threat alert level from "possible" to "probable," citing concerns about increasing radicalization among young people and community tensions over the Israel-Hamas war.

It is the first time the threat level has been elevated to the midpoint of the five-tier National Terrorism Threat Advisory System since November 2022. The level had been "probable" the previous eight years.

But Prime Minister Anthony Albanese added that while government officials think the current climate makes terrorism an increased danger, they didn't know of any specific threats. "I want to reassure Australians probable does not mean inevitable, and it does not mean there is intelligence about an imminent threat or danger," Albanese told reporters.

TURMOIL IN UK AS NATION HIT BY WORST RIOTS IN YEARS

AGENCIES
LONDON

As the UK struggles with the greatest social unrest it has seen in years, rioters on Sunday set fire to and broke into hotels designed to house asylum seekers in northern England. The stabbing deaths of three young girls in Southport, northwest England, earlier this week catalyzed the violence, according to reports.

To incite anti-Muslim and anti-immigration demonstrations, the far right has exploited and disseminated a surge of misinformation, including unfounded allegations that the assailant was an immigrant.

The suspect was born in



Britain, according to police. Geolocated footage shows demonstrators attacking and burning two Holiday Inns in northern England on Sunday: one in Rotherham and one in Tamworth, which had previously been criticised by a local lawmaker for hosting

asylum seekers. Local officials said that demonstrators in Tamworth injured one police officer by throwing projectiles, smashing windows, and starting fires. Meanwhile, police in Rotherham reported that demonstra-

tors broke windows, flung wooden planks, attacked policemen with fire extinguishers and set fire to other objects in an attempt to enter the premises.

Assistant Chief Constable Lindsey Butterfield said in a statement that the hotel in Rotherham was at the time "full of terrified residents and staff," according to report. The UK's minister of police has stated that far-right rioters who have caused disturbances will be dealt with "nick them quick," but he has also stated that the army is not necessary.

Just weeks after taking office, Keir Starmer's Labour government faces a formidable battle from the violent upheaval, which is the worst since the 2011 riots.

Trump reminds Pennsylvania voters of Harris's past stance on fracking

AGENCIES
HARRISBURG

Facing the need to win battleground Pennsylvania, Vice President Kamala Harris is swearing off any prior assertion that she opposed fracking, but that hasn't stopped Republican Donald Trump from wielding her now-abandoned position to win over voters in a state where the natural gas industry means jobs.

Last week, in his first appearance in Pennsylvania since Harris became the Democrats' presumptive nominee, Trump repeatedly warned that Harris would ban fracking — a position she held as a presidential



primary candidate in 2019 — and devastate the economy in the nation's No. 2 natural gas state.

"She's against fracking, she's against oil drilling, she wants everybody to have one

electric car and share it with the neighbors," Trump told rallygoers at a Harrisburg rally on Wednesday, which was also his first appearance in the state since he was wounded in a July 13 assassination attempt in Butler County. "Harris has stated repeatedly that she supports, quote, banning fracking. I'll ban fracking, I'll ban it on my first day."

Harris' campaign, in a statement, insisted she would not ban fracking, and called Trump's claims an "attempt to distract from his own plans to enrich oil and gas executives at the expense of the middle class."

Still, Trump criticized Harris' support as a sena-

tor and candidate in 2020's presidential primary for a Democratic resolution to create a "Green New Deal," a sweeping progressive effort to shift the country toward renewable energy. Trump called the platform — never fully translated into policy proposals — a "\$100 trillion green new scam designed to abolish the oil, coal and natural gas industry entirely."

While Harris considers choosing popular Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro as a finalist to be her running mate on the Democratic ticket, Trump has made it clear that he won't concede the swing state, part of the decisive "blue wall" along with Michigan and Wisconsin.

Kamala Harris vice president choice narrows to Walz, Shapiro, sources say

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris has narrowed her search for a vice presidential running mate to two finalists, Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, three sources with knowledge of the matter said on Monday.

Harris, the U.S. vice president, is expected to announce her selection by Tuesday, ahead of her first scheduled public appearance with her running mate that evening at Temple University in Philadelphia.

It was unclear if a final decision has been made, the sources said. The rally will kick off a five-day, seven-city tour of the battleground states likely to decide the Nov. 5 election.

The choice of a running mate is one of the most consequential decisions of Harris' political career, as she hastily pulls together a campaign to challenge Republican nominee Donald Trump and U.S. Senator JD Vance, his vice presidential pick,



in the Nov. 5 election. Vance will also make a campaign stop in South Philadelphia on Tuesday.

Shapiro, 51, is a rising star of the party with strong approval ratings in Pennsylvania, whose 19 electoral votes makes it a must-win state for both Harris and Trump.

A former state attorney general, Shapiro would add to the ticket's historical significance; he would be the country's first Jewish vice president, while Harris is seeking to become the first woman and the first Asian American elected U.S. president.

His strong support for Israel could alienate some progressive voters, though

it could also appeal to moderate voters and defang Republican efforts to turn the Israel-Gaza war into a wedge issue for Democrats.

Walz, 60, is a U.S. Army National Guard veteran and a former teacher who has raised his profile in recent weeks as an effective advocate for Harris. He has attacked Trump and Vance as "weird," a viral insult the Harris campaign has embraced. A former member of Congress from a Republican-leaning district, Walz has proven appeal to rural, white voters, though he has also championed progressive policies as governor, such as free school meals and expanded paid worker leave.

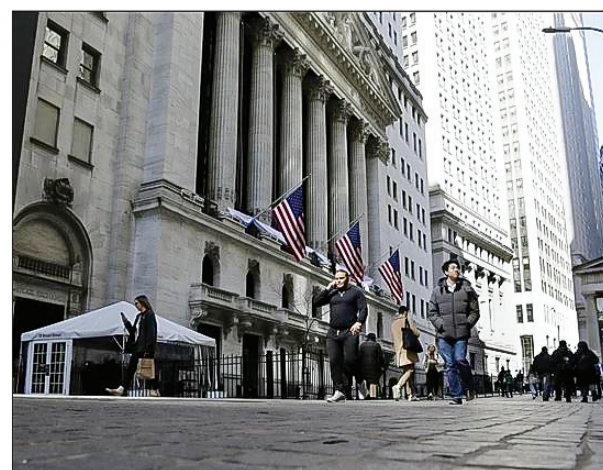
Wall Street declines amid concerns of U.S. economic slowdown

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

Nearly everything on Wall Street is tumbling Monday as fear about a slowing U.S. economy worsens and sets off another sell-off for financial markets around the world. The S&P 500 was down by 2.1% in midday trading. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was reeling by 763 points, or 1.9%, as of 12:20 p.m. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite slid

2.4%. The drops were just the latest in a global sell-off that began last week. Japan's Nikkei 225 helped start Monday by plunging 12.4% for its worst day since the Black Monday crash of 1987.

It was the first chance for traders in Tokyo to react to Friday's report showing U.S. employers slowed their hiring last month by much more than economists expected. That was the latest piece of data on the U.S. economy to come in weaker



than expected, and it's all raised fear the Federal Reserve has pressed the brakes on the U.S. economy by too much for too long through high interest rates in hopes of stifling inflation.

Professional investors cautioned that some technical factors could be amplifying the action in markets, but the losses were still neck-snapping. South Korea's Kospi index careened 8.8% lower, stock markets across Europe sank

more than 2% and bitcoin dropped below \$55,000 from more than \$61,000 on Friday. Even gold, which has a reputation for offering safety during tumultuous times, slipped 1%.

That's in part because traders began wondering if the damage has been so severe that the Federal Reserve will have to cut interest rates in an emergency meeting, before its next scheduled decision on Sept. 18. The yield on the

two-year Treasury, which closely tracks expectations for the Fed, briefly sank below 3.70% during the morning from 3.88% late Friday and from 5% in April. It later recovered and pulled back to 3.93%.

"The Fed could ride in on a white horse to save the day with a big rate cut, but the case for an inter-meeting cut seems flimsy," said Brian Jacobsen, chief economist at Annex Wealth Management. "Those are usually reserved

for emergencies, like COVID, and an unemployment rate of 4.3% doesn't really seem like an emergency."

The U.S. economy is still growing, and a recession is far from a certainty. The Fed has been clear about the tightrope it began walking when it started hiking rates sharply in March 2022: Being too aggressive would choke the economy, but going too soft would give inflation more oxygen and hurt everyone.

FARAH KHAN PENS EMOTIONAL NOTE IN MEMORY OF HER LATE MOTHER



TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Filmmaker Farah Khan is reeling from the demise of her mother Menaka Irani.

On Monday, Farah took to Instagram and penned down an emotional post in the memory of her mother.

Describing her mom as a unique person, she wrote, "My mom was a very unique person.. never wanted the limelight or any fuss around her..despite the hard knocks she faced in her early life she was a rare one who had no bitterness or envy towards anyone. Everyone who met her loved her n realised where we get our sense of humour from. Well hardly.. she was far wittier n funny than both sajid n I put together. I don't know if she can see the outpouring of genuine love n condolences that have come for her.. not only frm our friends n of course family but so many of her colleagues n people who worked in our house came saying how my mom had helped them with loans or sending them money.. never expecting it back."

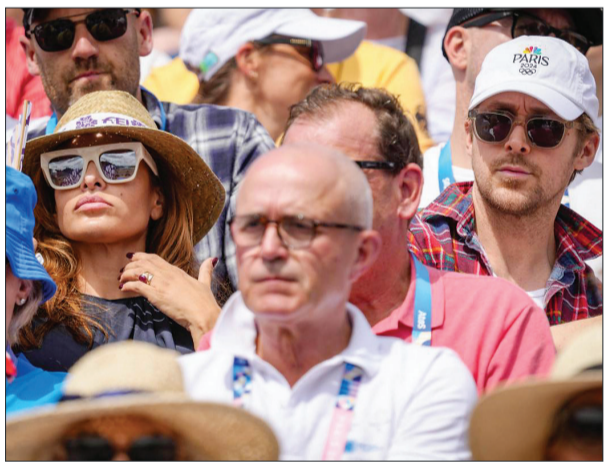
Farah also thanked those who checked on her after the death of her mother.

"Thank you to all who came home to be with us in our grief.. to all who messaged n are still messaging. To all her doctors n nurses at Nanavati hospital who tried their best everyday. N to our consulting docs frm Chandigarh pgi n belle vue hospital.. We are grateful you gave us some more days with her," she added.

Farah concluded her post by uploading a song by her mother's favourite singer Don Williams.

"its time to get back to work.. that's what she was always proud of. Our work! I don't want time to heal this lump that will always stay in my heart.. I don't want to miss her coz she's always a part of me..grateful to the universe for letting her be my mother n letting us look after her the way she single handedly looked after us all her life.. no more mourning now.. I want to celebrate her every day. thank you everyone.. p.s- the song playing was by her favourite country singer Don Williams.

RYAN GOSLING, EVA MENDES SPOTTED AT PARIS OLYMPICS 2024



TDG NETWORK
PARIS

Olympics fever gripped Couple Ryan Gosling and Eva Mendes as they were spotted watching the women's gymnastics uneven bars final at Bercy Stadium on Sunday.

In the visuals posted by US-based news portals, Ryan and his partner Eva could be seen donning the cool sunglasses. The 'La La Land' star dished out couple goals as he wrapped his arm around his longtime partner. They were joined by their 9-year-old daughter, Esmer-

performances with a rendition of Zizi Jeanmaire's "Mon Truc En Plumes" on a set of stairs along the Seine River.

On the other hand, Celine Dion closed out the opening ceremony with her first performance since she announced her diagnosis with stiff-person syndrome in 2022.

It was the second time that Dion performed during the opening ceremony at the Olympics, as she sang at the opening ceremony in Atlanta in 1996.

Paris Olympics 2024 will conclude on August 11. The most notable competi-

Olympics fever gripped Couple Ryan Gosling and Eva Mendes as they were spotted watching the women's gymnastics uneven bars final at Bercy Stadium on Sunday.

alda, and 8-year-old, Amanda, for the events. While walking through the crowd of spectators, the actors held their daughters' hands tight, as per Page Six.

Paris Olympics 2024 kicked-started on July 26. The opening ceremony was a star-studded affair. Icons like Lady Gaga and Celine Dion performed at the ceremony.

Lady Gaga kicked off the Olympics opening ceremony

tors for India in athletics are world champion and Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra and Kishore Jena in the men's javelin throw. India's 'Golden Boy' Neeraj Chopra will defend his gold medal in the men's javelin throw event.

So far the Indian contingent has won three bronze medals at the Paris Olympics and all of them came in shooting.

PICTURE PERFECT

Actress Sana Makbul poses for a photo after winning the third season of Bigg Boss OTT, in Mumbai on Friday. (ANI)



'KYA HAAL HAI' FROM ROMANTIC THRILLER 'PHIR AAYI HASSEEN DILLRUBA' OUT NOW

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The second song from the romantic thriller 'Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba', titled 'Kya Haal Hai', has been released.

The song explores the relationships between the characters played by Taapsee Pannu, Vikrant Massey, and Sunny Kaushal.

Sung by Sachet Tandon and Parampara Thakur, 'Kya Haal Hai' features lyrics by Kumar.

T-Series on Monday took to its official Instagram account to share the song along with a caption that read, "Pyaar ki kahaani ab hogi bayaan kyuki aagaya hai #KyaHaalHai, Song out now! #PhirAayiHasseenDillruba Streaming on 9 August, only on @netflix". Last month, the makers dropped the first song from



the film.

Titled 'Haste Haste', the song is sung by Sachet Tandon, with music composed by the duo Sachet-Parampara. Raj Shekhar has penned the lyrics. Recently, the makers unveiled the trailer for the romantic thriller.

The trailer shows Rani (Taapsee Pannu) and Rishu's (Vikrant Massey) attempts to move on from their tumultuous past, however, they face new challenges in their lives. With new characters like Abhimanyu (Sunny Kaushal), there is more new

twist in the life of Rani and Rishu. Officer Mritunjay, also known as Montu Chacha and played by Jimmy Shergill, heightens the tension. He's a new ace officer with a personal vengeance, out to uncover Rani and Rishu's web of deceit.

'Pushpa 2': Makers busy shooting intense action scene for Allu Arjun-starrer

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Shooting for 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' has been going on in full swing.

On Monday, the makers took to social media and shared a short snippet from the film, featuring Pushpa Raj, aka Allu Arjun, in his thrilling avatar.

They further provided an update about the shoot in the caption, writing, "Shoot Update :#Pushpa2TheRule is currently shooting a spectacular action episode for the climax #Pushpa2TheRule Grand release worldwide on 6th DEC 2024."

The update about the climax has left fans extremely enthused.

"Woww...can't wait," a social media user wrote.

"Blockbuster loaded," another user commented.

Produced by Mythri Movie Makers and Muttamsetty



Media, the film will see Allu, Rashmika Mandanna, and Fahadh Faasil reprise their roles as Pushpa Raj, Srivalli,

and Bhanwar Singh Shekawat. Allu Arjun, the main lead of the film, received a National Film Award for

his performance in the first part.

The first part of Pushpa showcased power tussles set against the backdrop of red sandalwood smuggling. Sukumar directed it.

The film was earlier scheduled to be released in August. However, in June, the makers locked December 6 as the new release date of 'Pushpa 2'.

The production team also shared a note, explaining they have changed the release date due to the remaining shoot and subsequent post-production work.

"Pushpa 2 The Rule is one of the most anticipated Indian films. Following the immense success of Pushpa: The Rise, our responsibility to deliver excellence has increased significantly. We have been tirelessly working to complete the movie and release it on time.

HARSH VARRDHAN KAPOOR TAKES NEPHEW VAYU FOR WALK IN LONDON PARK

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Bollywood actor Sonam Kapoor's brother and actor-producer Harsh Vardhan Kapoor recently shared a series of adorable pictures of himself with his nephew Vayu.

Taking to his Instagram account on Sunday, Vardhan dropped a couple of pictures where the actor can be seen enjoying a stroll in a London park with little Vayu, who is dressed in a stylish pair of black baggy pants over his diaper.

The actor opted for casual black cargo pants, a white shirt, a cap, and sneakers for the outing.



Along with the pictures, Harsh Vardhan wrote, "Stroll in the park with VKA," reflecting his joy in spending time with his young nephew. The pictures

also showed the close bond between the actor and his family, bringing smiles to their fans.

Last month, Sonam shared a series of pictures featuring

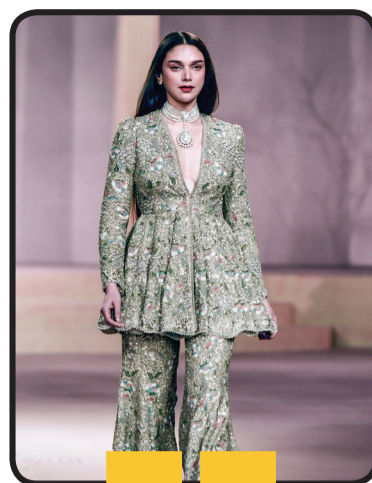
herself, her husband Anand and their son Vayu on the occasion of Anand's birthday.

The post featured Anand and Vayu's playful and adorable moments.

BRAIN PICKING



I can be sweet-looking innocent girl, but I may have a sensual side to me, which I would love to explore.



-ADITI RAO HYDARI
(Indian actress)

JOHN CENA TALKS ABOUT RELISHING INDIAN FOOD AT AMBANI WEDDING



TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

John Cena, a 16-time WWE Champion and Hollywood actor in July 2024 visited India to attend the wedding ceremony of Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant.

He was in Mumbai for a short time but he did not miss any chance to explore Indian culture, especially through desi food.

Speaking with ANI over a Zoom video call, Cena recalled treating his taste buds to Indian cuisine at the Ambani wedding. He added a touch of humour to it by saying how he needs to work on his spice tolerance.

"The Ambani wedding had its fair share of cuisine, but they also did Indian food and Indian street food very well. The food was fantastic. I had a short stay...I would love to go back and be able to try some more Indian food. The level of spice was just enough for me, just enough to break

a small sweat. So I can't wait to try to test my spice meter when I come back. I look forward to returning soon," Cena quipped.

Cena attended the function of Anant and Radhika in a full desi avatar. He donned a powder blue traditional sherwani. He elevated his look with a traditional safa tied on his head in a beautiful shade of white and gold.

On the red carpet, he struck his iconic 'you can't see me' pose, adding a touch of his wrestling persona to the wedding.

Meanwhile, on the acting front, Cena is all set to be seen in Prime Video's film 'Jackpot!', which also features Avkafina, a struggling actress who wins the lottery without realizing that the state of California grants everyone else until sundown to murder the winner and claim the prize money without consequences.

AIRPORT SPOTTING: MADHURI DIXIT OPTS FOR BOSS LADY LOOK



TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Bollywood star Madhuri Dixit Nene on Monday marked a stylish appearance at the Mumbai airport. Before entering the airport, she was clicked by the paps. Donning a black blazer with black pants, Madhuri looked gorgeous as she elevated her airport look with glasses.

She was accompanied by her husband, Shriram Nene. He was also dressed up in black. Meanwhile, on the work front, Madhuri will be touring the USA from August 8 to August 11, 2024, in a special four-city

tour aptly titled 'The Forever Queen of Bollywood - Madhuri Dixit.' She will visit New York, Dallas, New Jersey, and Atlanta, providing fans with an opportunity to celebrate this momentous occasion with her. Expressing her excitement about the tour, Madhuri in a press release by VMPL said, "I have always loved meeting my fans because the feedback I get from them is amazing. Sometimes they come up to me and tell me how the various roles I have played in films have impacted their own lives or what kind of roles they would like to see me in.

MAINTAIN A HEALTHY LIVER: KEY TO A FIT AND ACTIVE LIFE



DR. ANKUR GARG

The liver is one of the most vital organs in the human body, and a healthy liver is the key to a fit and active life. It's highly important to avoid alcohol consumption in order to maintain good liver health.

Are you aware that your diet and lifestyle habits significantly affect your liver health? A number of statistics confirm that Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) is one of the lead-

ing causes of liver diseases. According to the National Library of Medicine, NAFLD has a global prevalence of around 25%. Consumption of alcohol undoubtedly damages the liver as it accumulates fat in your liver, which further potentially results in diseases like fatty liver, alcoholic hepatitis, liver cirrhosis, etc.

LET'S GET SOME INSIGHT ON THE FACTORS THAT ONE NEEDS TO TAKE CARE OF:

Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD): As mentioned, NAFLD refers to the severe accumulation of fat in the liver, which is more commonly associated with obesity, insulin resistance, and metabolic syndrome. It leads to inflammation and liver damage if not treated on



time. There are preventable causes that can save us from developing NAFLD:

- **Obesity:** Excessive weight gain, particularly around the abdomen, also known as Central Obesity increases the risk of developing a fatty liver. Obesity is closely linked to NAFLD. Hence, maintain an ideal

weight, avoid cholesterol in your diet, and exercise daily.

- **Insulin resistance and diabetes:** more diabetic patients face this condition. Insulin resistance is a condition where body cells become less responsive to insulin, and this is often associated with obesity, which further leads to the accumulation of fat in

the liver. People with type 2 diabetes are at higher risk of developing a fatty liver. Take your concerned doctors' help and be extra careful with regard to your diet and lifestyle.

- **High levels of Cholesterol:** Very few people are aware that there are certain types of fats, and triglycer-

ides is one of them that runs in your blood. Now, elevated levels of triglycerides in the blood can contribute to fatty liver. Excessive consumption of butter, oil, and processed foods increases the level of triglycerides, which start accumulating in your liver. Hence, limit the intake of junk and oily food. Consult a doctor if you have high cholesterol.

- **Rapid weight loss:** Many people are seen following crash diets these days with the intent to have a healthy body, but this sudden drop in weight can enhance the risk of a number of hazards. Losing weight too quickly, especially through crash diets, can cause fatty liver because of excessive release of fatty acids from fat tissues. Hence, give time to your fitness regime instead of expecting quick results.

- **Medications:** Certain medications, such as steroids, contraceptive pills, immune system modifying medications and anti-retroviral drugs used to treat HIV, also cause fatty liver. However, their judicious use is sometimes warranted in certain medical illnesses where medication should be under doctor's supervision. Work on your underlying causes and talk to your concerned specialist in this regard.

- **Certain medical conditions:** Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), hypothyroidism, and Wilson disease (a genetic disorder affecting copper metabolism) are some of the medical conditions that may lead to the accumulation of fat in your liver. Prompt medical attention can help prevent fatty liver.

- **Nutritional factors:** Poor

diet and unhealthy eating habits, especially diets high in saturated fats, refined carbohydrates, and sugary foods, induce greater risk to the liver's health.

- **Genetics:** Genetic factors also play an important role in developing NAFLD. Keep an eye on your medical history. If your immediate family members are affected by any genetic condition, be regular with your check-ups and required tests in order to avoid any risk later.

Good liver health requires a comprehensive approach. Take a balanced diet, work on your underlying causes, never avoid any symptoms, and consult your concerned doctors as early as possible.

The author is the Director & Head of Department, HPB Surgery & Liver Transplant at SHALBY Sanar International Hospitals, Gurugram.

Addressing common myths and misconceptions about Hepatitis



DR. SUBRAT KUMAR ACHARYA

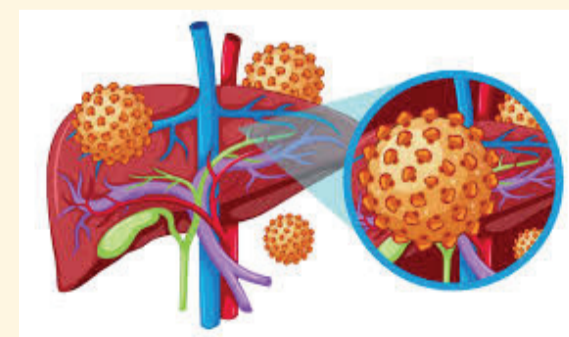
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/immunology-and-microbiology/hepatitis-d#:~:text=Hepatitis%20D%20is%20caused%20by,viruses%2C%20has%20a%20circular%20genome.>

- **Hepatitis E** is typically transmitted through consumption of contaminated water.

Misconception 2: Hepatitis Only Affects Drug Users and Sexually Active Individuals

Another significant misconception is that hepatitis primarily affects drug users or individuals with multiple sexual partners. While intravenous drug use and unprotected sex are risk factors, hepatitis can affect anyone. For example, Hepatitis B can be transmitted from mother to child during childbirth, making it prevalent in certain regions where vaccination is less common.

Hepatitis C can be contracted from blood transfusions, as the infection spreads when blood, unsafe injection, which allows the virus to enter the bloodstream of a previously uninfected person. [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/>



[hepatitis-c/symptoms-causes/syc-20354273](https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/hepatitis-c/symptoms-causes/syc-20354273)

Understanding that hepatitis can impact anyone, regardless of their lifestyle, is crucial for reducing myths and encouraging widespread testing and vaccination.

Misconception 3: Hepatitis B and C are Incurable

Advances in medical science have significantly improved the prognosis for those with hepatitis B and C. While there is no cure for hepatitis B, it can be effectively managed with antiviral medications, which can reduce viral load and prevent liver damage. Additionally, a vaccine is available

for hepatitis B. Hepatitis C can be cured with direct-acting antiviral (DAA) medications, leading to cure rates exceeding 90 per cent. Early detection and treatment are key to achieving these outcomes.

Misconception 4: Hepatitis Symptoms are Always Apparent

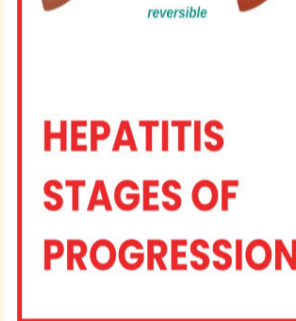
Hepatitis can often be a silent disease, especially in its early stages. Many individuals with chronic hepatitis B or C are asymptomatic, meaning they exhibit no symptoms for years or even decades. This asymptomatic na-

ture can lead to delayed diagnosis and treatment, increasing the risk of severe liver damage, cirrhosis, and liver cancer.

Even when symptoms do appear, they can be nonspecific, such as fatigue, jaundice, dark urine, abdominal pain, and loss of appetite. Routine screening, especially for individuals in high-risk groups, is essential for early detection and treatment.

Misconception 6: Hepatitis B and C are Not Common in Developed Countries

Hepatitis B and C are serious health issues, not confined to devel-



oping countries. While higher prevalence rates are often seen in certain regions of Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe, developed countries, including the United States

and Western Europe, still face significant hepatitis B and C burdens. Factors such as migration, travel, and inadequate screening can contribute to the spread of these infections in developed nations. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8473496/>]

Misconception 7: People with Hepatitis B or C Cannot get Married or Bear Children

This is a widespread concern amongst patients diagnosed with hepatitis B or C. Hepatitis B patients can have their partners vaccinated, and hepatitis C patients can achieve a complete cure with a short course of antiviral medications. Hepatitis B-positive mothers can safely go through pregnancy and their baby can be protected by a dose of hepatitis B immunoglobulin at birth and early vaccination. All pregnant women should be screened for the presence of hepatitis B and C, if not already known.

Myths and misinformation don't have to stand in the way of good health. By understanding the facts about hepatitis, individuals can make informed decisions about prevention, testing, and treatment. One should talk to a healthcare provider for personalized guidance and support on this important health concern.

The author is the Executive Director - Gastroenterology, Fortis Escorts Liver & Digestive Disease (FELDD), Okhla, New Delhi and Pro Chancellor, KIIT University, Bhubaneswar.

Hepatitis is a medical condition characterized by liver inflammation, commonly caused by hepatitis viral (hepatitis A through E) infections. However, it can also arise from exposure to hepato-toxins, alcohol abuse, autoimmune diseases, and certain medications. Hepatitis is a significant global public health issue, affecting millions of people each year. Despite its widespread occurrence, many misconceptions about hepatitis persist, leading to stigma, inadequate care, and the spread of the disease.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), India has the second highest prevalence of viral hepatitis globally. The National Center for Disease Control of 2021 estimates that about 10 million people in India are chronically infected with hepatitis B, with a prevalence rate of 0.68 to 1.16 per cent and for hepatitis C the prevalence is around 0.5 per cent.

Misconception 1: Hepatitis is a Single Disease

One of the misconceptions is that hepatitis is caused by one etiological agent. In reality, hepatitis is caused by five types of viruses named alphabetically as hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E. Each type of hepatitis has different modes of transmission, diagnostic blood tests, preventive strategies and treatment protocols.

- **Hepatitis A** is often transmitted through ingestion of contaminated food or water.

- **Hepatitis B and C** are primarily spread through contact with infectious body fluids, such as blood. Hepatitis B can also be spread through sexual contact.

- **Hepatitis D** occurs only in those infected with hepatitis B, as it requires the hepatitis B virus to replicate. [

THE ROLE OF GENETICS IN SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS



RAJA S

SNHL also known as the Sensorineural Hearing Loss is a very serious global problem, for millions of patients, which is characterized by the impossibility to receive sound signals

Thus, it is apparent that genetics play a large role in SNHL, to the tune of 50-60 percent of congenital childhood hearing loss. These genetic causes can be classified into syndromic and non-syndromic. SNHL is accompanied by other disorders or structural anomalies if it is referred to as syndromic SNHL while, if SNHL is on its own then it is referred to as non-syndromic SNHL.

TYPES OF GENETIC INVOLVEMENT

Syndromic SNHL: It also re-

chromosome linked modes. There are several genotypes of hearing loss, but the most frequent is autosomal recessive one: both parents are carriers of the mutated gene, but they do not have the pathology.

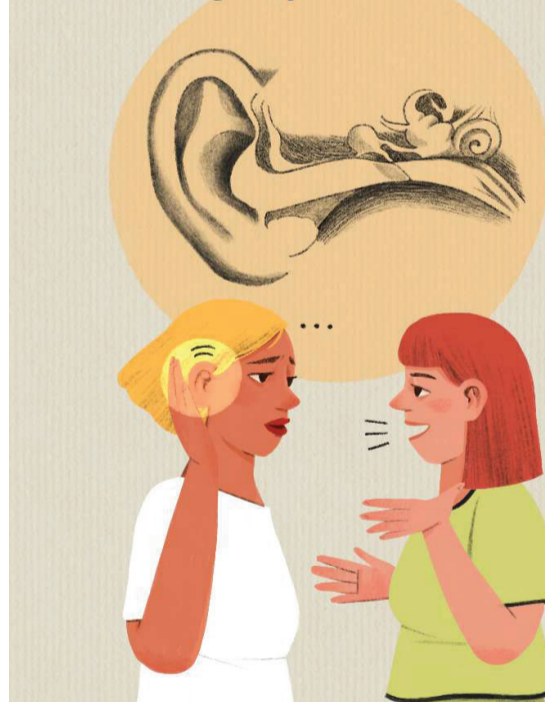
GENETIC MUTATIONS AND PATHWAYS

SNHL can occur at any part of the hearing system because of the genetic mutations that affect the genes carrying the instructions for the formation of the auditory system. These may impair welcomed proteins that are cardinal to the onset, stead or function of hair cells

COURSE OF TREATMENT AND THERAPY

With a large amount of SNHL's root causes based on genes, the hope for cure for most patients at the present stage is still possible. Currently, scientists are focused on developing gene therapies which could either fix the specific genetic defects that lead to hearing impairment or provide a sort of 'work around' for those defects. These therapies could do so and thus open up prospects of similar genetic SNHL patients regaining or maintaining their hearing abilities.

Symptoms of Congenital Hearing Loss



- Liquid draining from the ear
- Earache
- Ringing in the ear
- Vertigo
- Listening to audio at a high volume
- Behavioral problems
- A delay in language skills

due to the dysfunction or damage of structural and functional elements of inner ear or neural connections in the auditory system. Other factors which are known to be associated with SNHL include noise exposure and aging, medications and heredity as it is seen that genetics make some people more vulnerable to SNHL than others.

UNDERSTANDING SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS

SNHL may occur at birth (congenital) or can develop at any lag in the life span depending on certain factors. It is defined by the inability to hear quiet sounds or speech from a distance, distinguish between similar sounds or speech and hear clearly in noisy places. This type is usually characterized by impairment of the fine structures, such as hair cells in the cochlea or the interruption of the nerve pathways that convey information on sound to the cortex.

GENETICS AND SNHL: AN OVERVIEW OF SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

lates to the syndromal diseases that influence not only hearing but also other organs and systems of the human body. An example is the Usher syndrome, Waardenburg's syndrome and Pendred syndrome. All these syndromes are characterized by specific gene changes that implicate hearing and other faculties.

NON-SYNDROMIC SNHL:



The majority of the cases of genetic hearing loss come under this bracket and are characterized by hearing impairment as the initial and most predominant sign. Thus, non syndromic SNHL can be acquired through auto-somal dominant, auto-somal recessive and x-

within the cochlea which is the vegetative organ that translates vibrations of sound into electrical impulses that the brains can interpret.

GENETIC TESTING AND DIAGNOSIS

Genetic developments have extended to the diagnosis and treatment of genetic SNHL. It is true that genetic testing enables clinicians to deter-

COUNSELING AND SUPPORT

Hearing loss therefore requires genetic counseling as one of the important factors of managing genetic SNHL. Genetic counselors assist in the definition of the inheritance of hearing loss, in determining the risks of transmission to next generations and counsel for reproductive strategies. Counseling also includes the provision of support in case the family or the patient decides to go for a genetic test and other issues to do with family planning.

Thus, it can be concluded that heredity has a great influence on the development of SNA. This paper outlines how genetic discoveries and technologies have improved the diagnosis, treatment, and counseling of SNHL. However, the difficulties are still present, and further research offers hope for the development of drugs in the future that can reduce or, in some cases, eliminate the effects of genetic hearing loss.

Mr. Raja S. is a renowned Audiologist, as well as the Founder & Managing Director of Hearzap.

INSOMNIA? MIGRAINE? LACK OF PURPOSE? DEPRESSION? CONNECT WITH YOUR CROWN CHAKRA

(Concluding Part 7) Understanding the Spiritual Connection of Our Energy System



JYOTSNA G BANSAL

Feeling depressed? Insomnia or other Sleep Disorders? Fatigue? Its time to connect with your Crown Chakra.

The Crown Chakra (Sahasrara Chakra), is the source of enlightenment, Spiritual connection. It represents spirituality and is the basis for mindfulness. It acts as a bridge between our physical selves and the spiritual world.

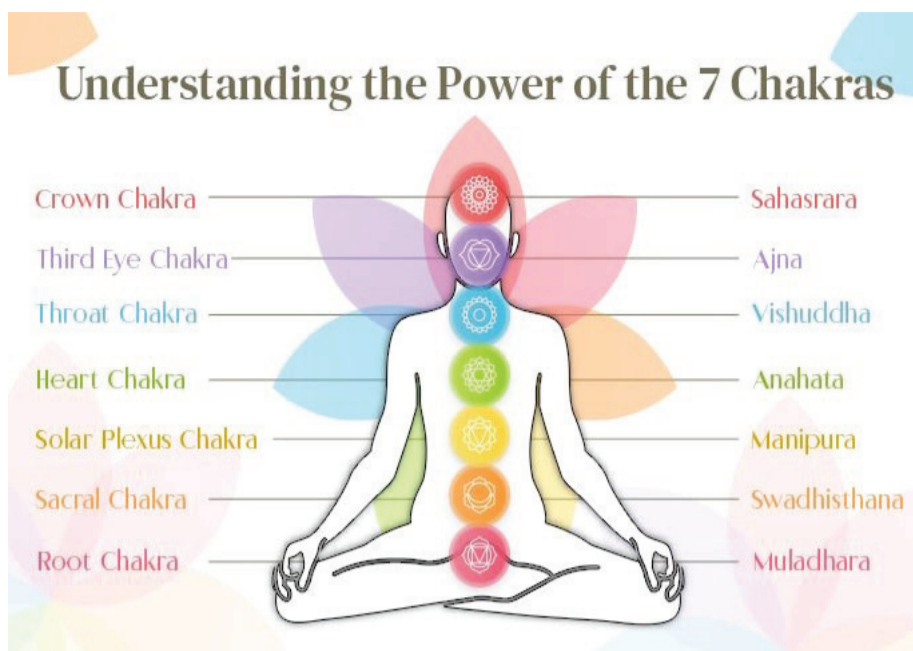
Situated at the Crown of the Head, the Beej Mantra is 'AUM' & the sound frequency is 963 Hz. It governs connec-

tion to our higher selves, the universe, bliss, peace, spirituality, letting go and consciousness. The associated colour Violet represents Purity, Spirituality and Enlightenment.

Positive affirmations like "I am at peace", "I honor the divine within", "I am open to divine wisdom", "I am guided by inner wisdom", & "I trust my intuition" are connected with Crown Chakra

With a balanced Crown Chakra, you'll be able to look beyond yourself, will be inspired and energized, feel a sense of bliss and inner harmony. A balanced Crown Chakra can lead to Mental balance, Mood stabilization, improved sleep patterns, boost in energy along with improved heart health.

An imbalanced Crown chakra can lead to depression, fatigue and migraines. When imbalanced or blocked, it can cause feelings of disconnection, lack of purpose in life, lack



of inspiration or spiritually disconnected. It can also lead to more serious problems like mental illness or sleep disorders or more physical issues like sensitivity to light or neurological disorders.

Let's explore various ways to strengthen our Crown Chakra:

CRYSTALS

Crystals like Selenite, Clear Quartz (aka Master Healer), Amethyst, Sugilite are associated with the Crown chakra.

YOGA POSES

Yoga poses like Head stand, Corpse pose, Half lotus pose are some poses

effective in activating & strengthening the Crown chakra.

SYMBOL

The solar chakra is represented by a 1000-Petaled Lotus.

DEITY

The presiding deity for the Crown chakra is Shiva



(in dancing form known as Nataraja).

MUDRAS

Lotus Mudra is one of the effective mudras for the Crown chakra.

ESSENTIAL OILS

Essential oils such as Jasmine, Rose, Rosewood,

Lavender or Cedarwood are beneficial for strengthening the Crown chakra.

ORGANS/GLANDS

The Crown chakra is associated with the functioning of Endocrine system, which includes the hypothalamus, pituitary gland and pineal gland in

the brain.

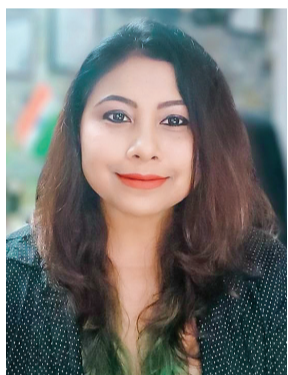
By using techniques such as affirmations, visualization and yoga, we can balance the Crown Chakra and enhance its energy.

As this chakra helps to connect with the Divine Within and the Divine in the Universe, Meditation & Prayer can also be very effective & powerful tools for healing and balancing the Crown chakra. Connecting with the natural world & spending time in nature or water-bodies, getting soaked in the Sunlight can help balance this spiritual chakra.

Balancing our Chakras can lead to emotional stability, better health and overall well-being and a deeper spiritual connection with our Mind, Body, Soul and the world around us.

The author is a Reiki Grandmaster, Author, Numerologist, Researcher, Counselor, Crystals & Spiritual guide, Switchwords Practitioner.

THE ART OF DETACHMENT: LIBERATING THE YOUNG FROM FEAR & ANGER



MOUSUMI KALITA SACHDEVA

'One who is not disturbed in mind even amidst the three-fold miseries or elated when there is happiness, and who is free from attachment, fear, and anger, is called a sage of steady mind.' - Bhagavad Gita

This profound wisdom, though ancient, is profoundly relevant today, especially for the younger generation sailing through a complex and fast-paced world. As societal pressures and expectations grow, there is an urgent need to teach the art of detachment from fear and anger to foster a sense of self-acceptance and inner peace.

The pervasive concerns of depression and anxiety among the youth can often be traced to the relentless expectations placed upon them. Are these expectations, or perhaps over-expectations, leading to an increased sense

of inadequacy and unhappiness? At the heart of this issue lies an inability to free oneself from greed, desires, fear, and anger, all of which welcome distress into our lives. Attachment often morphs into obsession, preventing young people from accepting the natural losses and failures that life inevitably brings.

The increasing number of cases where young individuals engage in self-harm out of fear or harm others out of anger is both shocking and saddening. It is imperative to impart the art of detachment from these destructive emotions and encourage self-acceptance.

Bhagavad Gita offers insight into this, "Attachment means accepting things for one's own sense of gratification, and detachment is the absence of such sensual attachment. But one fixed with Krishna consciousness has neither attachment nor detachment because life is dedicated to the service of the Lord. Consequently, he is not at all angry even when his attempts are unsuccessful." The Krishna consciousness is self-awareness. The ultimate truth lies in acceptance, whether of success or defeat. By recognizing that God is within us, we can cultivate devotion and honesty within ourselves, leading to



self-acceptance free from the influence of external gains or losses. This consciousness helps maintain a steady mind focused on 'karma' (action) without becoming obsessed with outcomes. The very act of being determined and focused on duties and responsibilities is, in itself, a measure of success. There is no greater achievement than cultivating a steady mind.

As quoted in Bhagavad Gita, "In the material world,

one who is unaffected by whatever good or evil he may obtain, neither praising it nor despising it, is firmly fixed in perfect knowledge."

A person who is not swayed by good or evil but remains true to their right consciousness will never be led astray.

In teaching the art of detachment, we equip the young with tools to live life with adaptability, persistency, and clarity. Detachment does not imply indifference but

rather a balanced approach to life's ups and downs. By detaching from fear and anger, young people can learn to embrace the present moment with equanimity, fostering a sense of inner peace and stability.

Let us inspire the younger generation to pursue a life of mindfulness and detachment, where self-worth is not determined by external achievements or failures but by inner harmony and

steadfastness. This spiritual awakening can lead to a more compassionate and fulfilled society, where fear and anger no longer control our lives. By nurturing this consciousness, we can help the youth cultivate a steady mind and a heart filled with peace and acceptance, leading to a brighter and harmonious future.

The author is the CEO of Griffin Publication, writer and motivational poet.

DHARMARAJ



MYSTIC MUSING

RAJESH M. IYER

Satyaki observed Krishna as the latter was advising the Pandavs about adhwamedh yagna and couldn't help but notice Krishna's immense respect for Yudhishtir. Krishna was affectionate towards all the Pandavs, especially his close friend and cousin Arjun. However, despite his strong disapproval of some of Yudhishtir's actions, like the game of dice, Krishna always held him in high esteem.

Later, when Satyaki, Arjun and Krishna were alone, Satyaki asked Krishna, 'I always wanted to ask as to why you refer to Yudhishtir as Dharmaraj? Is it to spur him on out of the depression he seems to be slipping into after the war? Or, is it because he was born with the blessings of Dharmadev?'

'It's because Krishna thinks only Yudhishtir follows the Dharmic principles,' quipped Arjun sarcastically.

'None of them. It's because I've observed his actions for years,' replied Krishna. 'And there's no doubt that Yudhishtir treads on the path of Dharma, even in times of adversity like a war. During the Mahabharata war, what did the warriors do after the day's battle was over? Krishna asked them.

'We gave ourselves a much-needed rest; what else? What with the battle sapping our energy?' Satyaki replied. 'Of course, we had the following day's strategy to discuss,' added Arjun.

'Any idea what Yudhishtir did other than that?' Krishna asked. When Satyaki and Arjun shook their heads, Krishna explained, 'He'd go to the battlefield and inspect the casualties caused during the day. He checked on the soldiers who fought bravely during the day. Not just his soldiers, but Yudhishtir also checked on the well-being of enemy soldiers. In hard-fought conflicts like these, we are invariably so bitter towards our adversaries that we fail to empathise with their problems. Not Yudhishtir. He's deeply empathetic, a trait that is born out of wisdom and is the backbone of Dharma. How else can you align with the cosmic wave and help maintain the universe's equilibrium and harmony without knowing how other hearts beat? After all, the enemy soldiers were merely performing their duties. That acknowledgement sets Yudhishtir apart. Hence the title of Dharmaraj.'

As Satyaki and Arjun mull over the words of profound wisdom, we too have a lot to learn from this short conversation. We must also hope that, even in moments of strife, wisdom dawns upon us and we're able to empathise with others, irrespective of whether they stand with or against us.



We must hope that, even in moments of strife, wisdom dawns upon us and we're able to empathise with others, irrespective of whether they stand with or against us.

The author is the Happiness ambassador, author, spiritual mentor and philanthropist.

HOW TO BRING A HAPPY SOUL TO THIS WORLD



AIR - ATMAN IN RAVI

The concept of a happy or sad Soul stems from ignorance. We often categorize Souls as good or bad, but these distinctions don't exist. The Soul is a Spark Of Unique Life, an extension of the Supreme Immortal Power, much like a wave is part of the ocean. The Soul imparts life; it's a power, an energy. We mistakenly identify with the body, mind, and ego, but our true essence is the Soul. Recognizing this truth liberates us from misery and sorrow, granting Everlasting Peace, Divine Love, and Eternal Bliss. At death, we achieve Moksha, escaping the cycle of rebirth.

We need not worry about bringing a happy Soul into the world, for the Soul is inherently blissful. Living as our true selves, the Soul, ensures perpetual happiness. Sadly, we often live as the body, mind, and ego. The Vedas convey this as: Neti Neti, Tat Twam Asi, Aham Brahmasmi. The goal of life is to realize we are the Soul.

From birth, society equates happiness with success, wealth, and achievements, but this is a misconception. Happiness is not about becoming; it's about being. True happiness isn't found in



success or possessions but in our intrinsic nature. We are spiritual beings, yet we live materially, ensnared by Maya, or illusions. This disconnection from our true selves causes misery.

While pursuing excellence and achievements is not wrong, we must also seek spiritual growth. True happiness arises from spiritual fulfillment, not material

gains. Many succumb to greed, endlessly chasing wealth and fame, but these do not lead to true happiness. By understanding and living as the Soul, we attain genuine joy and peace.

To be 'happy in this world', we can follow the HAPPY Mantra. The acronym HAPPY will help us understand what it is to

be happy. H - Happiness is success. If we are happy, we are already successful. If we are successful but not happy, what is the point of being successful?

A - Accept without Protest and live in Surrender. Whatever happens in life is because of our Karma. As we sow, so shall we reap. It is best to accept what we can't change and then surrender to the Divine.

P - Pleasure. Enjoy but don't sink in it. We confuse happiness with pleasure. But pleasure is ephemeral. It comes from material things. True happiness is eternal. It comes from realizing the truth and living in consciousness of the truth.

P - Peace is the foundation of happiness. Still the mind and peace you will find!

P - Purpose. Discover, 'Who am I?' and live in Satchitananda, Truth Consciousness Bliss.

Y - Yearn for Awakening, for Liberation from all misery and sorrow. We must yearn to be awakened. This must be our only desire.

We must understand that being born as a human being is a blessing. Only a human being can realize the truth, be awakened and attain the ultimate purpose of life - Moksha. We must not lose this opportunity. We must go on a quest for the truth, seek the guidance of a true spiritual master, a Guru to be enlightened, and attain that state of eternal bliss, everlasting happiness.

PARIS OLYMPICS: INDIA TO TAKE ON GERMANY IN MEN'S HOCKEY SEMIS

TDG NETWORK
PARIS

After scripting a heroic win against Great Britain in the Quarter-Final of the Paris Olympic Games, a charged-up Indian Men's Hockey Team led by Harmanpreet Singh will take on a familiar foe in Germany on Tuesday in their quest to 'change the colour of the medal', here at the iconic Yves-du-Manoir Stadium.

"We wanted to play Germany in the Final. At least, that was what we had discussed amongst ourselves during team meetings ahead of the Olympic Games. They are a challenging opponent and when we play against them, the match usually goes down till the last second," expressed Captain Harmanpreet Singh as quoted by a Hockey India release.

While the team has been



handed a setback with their defender and No.1 Penalty Corner rusher Amit Rohidas suspended for one match following the hearing on late Sunday night and subsequently Hockey India has appealed against this decision to the FIH jury bench, the players will stay focused on what is in their control.

"Now, these things are not in our control. While it is a setback to not have Amit on the pitch for the Semis, we are focused on the task

at hand. On Sunday, what stood out in our performance was the team's ability to take on the added responsibility of a key position that Amit played. Every player stepped up and even until the last minute, we were fighting back," Harmanpreet expressed.

The reigning World Champions Germany, come into the Semi-Final after a hard-fought 3-2 win against Argentina in the Quarter-Final. They are a familiar oppo-

nent for India in high-stakes tournaments, the most famous one being the Bronze medal match in the Tokyo Olympic Games where India registered a thrilling 5-4 win - thanks to a stunning last-second save by Sreejesh from a PC, ending a 41-year medal drought at the Olympic Games.

In the days leading up to the Paris Olympic Games, India had played Germany in practice matches and in the most recent past, India have won five out of the six matches they have played against them, the release added.

"Past performances wipe clean and we start fresh on Tuesday. We don't want to go by our results against Germany in the past. What we will take confidence from is our own performance in Paris, where we have grown from strength to strength as we have progressed in

the tournament. Certainly, the win against Australia in the last pool B match gave us the josh we needed for the Quarter-Final and now we take courage from the Quarter-Final against Great Britain where we played with 10 players for nearly 43 minutes," added India's Vice Captain Hardik Singh.

There have been many firsts for this Indian side at the ongoing Olympic Games. First-time in 52 years, the team won against nemesis Australia. This was followed by a 10-man Indian side beating a strong opponent like GB in the Quarter-Final and for the first time, the team has a goalkeeper who has announced this will be his last dance, and the team is fighting to make sure the swansong doesn't end just yet for PR Sreejesh who has stood like a warrior in the goalpost making every moment count.

TT: Indian women's team defeats Romania to reach quarter-finals

TDG NETWORK
PARIS

Team India defeated Romania to reach the quarterfinal of the women's table tennis team competition for the first time ever at the ongoing Paris Olympics on Monday.

India defeated Romania by 3-2 in a thriller. Playing at the South Paris Arena, India first gained a 2-0 advantage as Sreeja Akula-Archana Kamath and Manika Batra secured the first two matches of the tie by 3-0 each.

But later on, Romania put on a brilliant fight back in the singles matches of the tie, defeating Sreeja Akula and Archana Kamath to make the scoreline read 2-2. Akula was beaten 3-2 in a hard-fought match while Archana lost her match by 3-1.

In the last match of the tie, Manika clutched and



India will be facing off against either the USA or Germany in the women's table tennis quarterfinal.

defeated Adina Diaconu by 3-0 to seal the tie for India.

India will be facing off against either the USA or Germany in the women's table tennis quarterfinal.

Paris Olympics 2024, taking place from July 26 to August 11, marks the first time India will have representation in the men's and women's table tennis team events

at the Olympics, having achieved the quotas on the basis of their rankings in March.

Both the men's and women's team events were introduced in the Olympic programme at Beijing 2008.

The Indian paddlers ended their singles campaign in table tennis at the Olympics without any medal to their names.

Noah Lyles of US takes away gold by a whisker in men's 100m final

TDG NETWORK
PARIS

The United States' Noah Lyles sprinted away with the gold medal in the final of men's 100m final at the ongoing Paris Olympics.

Lyles needed to produce something special in the biggest race of his career. He tapped into his prime and delivered his personal best performance in front of a jam-packed crowd at the Stade de France.

In a race that separated the gold and the silver medallists by a matter of milliseconds, Noah emerged victorious and

became the fastest man in the men's 100m final.

In a race that wrapped up within a blink of an eye, Noah clocked of 9.784s to walk away with the gold. He was just 0.16 seconds of breaking the legendary Usain Bolt's Olympic record of 9.63s.

Jamaica's Kishane Thompson settled for silver after falling short by a fraction of a second in one of the closest 100m races in the history of the Summer Games. Noah's compatriot Fred Kerley clinched the bronze medal with his season-best timing of 9.81s.



Badminton: Lakshya Sen falters again, bronze medal slips out of hand

TDG NETWORK
PARIS

India shuttler Lakshya Sen's remarkable campaign concluded on a disappointing note after he narrowly missed out on the bronze medal in the men's singles event at the ongoing Paris Olympics on Monday.

Lakshya Sen, just like many other India athletes, stood on the cusp of making history at the Paris Olympics. He was in contention for becoming the first Indian shuttler to win a medal in the men's singles event at the Olympics.

However, he came close but ended up too far from etching his name in the history books following his 21-13, 16-21, 11-21 loss against Malaysia's Zii Jia Lee and finished fourth in the event.

With Jia on the service and Sen on the receiving end, an intense rally between the two shuttlers unfolded to begin the proceedings for the bronze medal match.



The Malaysian shuttler hit it too long beyond the backline to allow the Lakshya to take the first set.

A nervy start from Jia forced another error from him, handing an early two-point lead to Lakshya. He misjudged the landing spot of the shuttle, making the scoreline 2-1.

Lakshya regained a two-point lead after Jia's return went wide at 4-2. Lakshya took three consecutive points after the Malaysian continued to misplace his shots.

Jia reduced the deficit to three with a cross-court

smash to shift the momentum.

He raced to an 8-3 lead, but Jia restored the parity with five consecutive points. Jia took eight consecutive points to lead by three points at the half-time break.

Lakshya broke Jia's streak of points with a ferocious smash, and he followed it up with another cross-court smash to unsettle Jia.

He chased down the lead, making the scoreline 12-12. Jia once again restored a slender lead, but Lakshya didn't allow the Malaysian to extend his lead with powerful in-line body smashes.

Lakshya tried to close the gap, but the Malaysian held his nerves to maintain the gap and level the scoreline at 1-1 with a 16-21 win in the second set.

In the bronze medal decider, Lakshya was outplayed by Jia's forehand, backhand and relentless smashes.

Jia raced to a 2-9 lead by executing gobsmacking smashes.

Maheshwari-Naruka pair misses bronze by a whisker

TDG NETWORK
CHATEAURoux (FRANCE)

The Indian shooting duo of Maheshwari Chauhan and Anant Jeet Singh Naruka fought tooth and nail before missing out on a bronze medal by a whisker in the skeet mixed team event, finishing fourth at the Paris Olympics here on Monday.

Maheshwari and Naruka shot 43 to finish fourth behind China's Yiting Ji-ang and Jianlin Lyu (44) in a thrilling match for the bronze medal.

Earlier, the Indians finished fourth in the qualifi-



cation after both teams were tied on 146 at the end of the three-round, 150-shot process, forcing a shoot-off.

In the qualification, Maheshwari shone with 50/50 in her final two rounds

while Naruka notched scores of 25, 23 and 24 in the three rounds.

What swung the match in China's favour was the incredible form of Lyu who did not miss a single shot on

way to the podium, even as his partner Ji-ang recovered after a rare three straight misses to help the pair to victory.

At the start of the medal round, China's Lyu and Ji-ang earned perfect scores of 4/4 against India.

In reply, India's Naruka missed out on one of the four targets (3/4) in the first station. Chauhan shot a score of 4/4 to get off to a good start.

Trailing China (8/8) after the first station, India (7/8) fought back in station two and restored parity heading into the third station.

Former England cricketer Graham Thorpe dies at 55

TDG NETWORK
LONDON

Former England cricketer Graham Thorpe passed away at the age of 55 on Monday after suffering from an illness for a long time.

Thorpe's passing, at the age of 55, has shocked the cricketing world. In a statement, the England Cricket Board (ECB) shared deep sorrow over his death.

"It is with great sadness that we share the news that Graham Thorpe, MBE, has passed away. There seem to be no appropriate words to describe the deep shock we feel at Graham's death. More



than one of England's finest-ever batters, he was a beloved member of the cricket family and revered by fans all over the world," the ECB statement read as quoted by ICC. It then mentioned Thorpe's contribution to England cricket over the years.

"His skill was unquestioned, and his abilities and achievements across a 13-year international career brought so much happiness to his teammates and England and Surrey CCC supporters alike. Later, as a coach, he guided the best England Men's talent to some incredible victories across all formats of the game," the ECB statement added.

Thorpe made his international debut in 1993 and was the mainstay of the English batting throughout the late 90s and early 2000s. The southpaw played 100 Tests and scored 6744 runs at an average of 44.66, with 16

hundreds and 39 fifties to his name. His highest score was 200*.

In ODIs, the gritty batter scored 2380 runs at an average of 37.18 with 21 fifties. He appeared at two ICC Men's Cricket World Cups, scoring 254 runs at the 1996 edition in Sri Lanka and then contributing 125 runs three years later at the event in England, Netherlands, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

In the ICC batting rankings, Thorpe peaked at No.3 in Tests ahead of England's tour of the West Indies in 1998. His peak in the ODI rankings was No.10, the release added.

'I am super proud', says Djokovic after winning gold medal at Paris Olympics

TDG NETWORK
PARIS

Serbian Tennis player Novak Djokovic said that he is feeling super proud after winning the gold medal in the ongoing Paris Olympics on Sunday.

Djokovic turned his ultimate dream into reality by winning his first Olympic gold medal by overcoming Spain's Carlos Alcaraz in the men's singles final in Paris.

Speaking to ANI, Djokovic said, "God is great. Thank God. I am super proud, super happy."

He also celebrated his moment by holding the Serbian flag in his hand with pride.

The 24-time Grand Slam Champion was down on his knees and tears of joy fell from his eyes after taking the game point. With the name Djokovic echoing around the stadium, the Serbian climbed the stairs and went into the stands to celebrate with his family. After Djokovic's 7-6, 7-6 win in the gold medal match, the emotions got the better of Alcaraz as he settled for the silver medal.

Now after this win, he has won 24 Grand Slam titles, the most by anyone across both men's and women's



tennis. Djokovic has won 10 Australian Open titles, three French Open titles, seven Wimbledon titles and four US Open titles.

Besides all this, he now finally has an Olympic gold medal, which is required for a player to complete a career golden slam.

Aside from his dominance at Grand Slam level, Djokovic has a total of 72 big titles in tennis. After spending years trying to catch up with stars like Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, he has outshined them to become

eight Wimbledon titles, 28 ATP Masters titles and six ATP Finals titles. This all combines and makes 54 big titles. He has no Olympic singles gold medal though, having one silver medal in the 2012 London Olympics.

The blockbuster gold medal clash had its fair share of highlights, with Alcaraz flaunting his ace and Djokovic shining with his precision. In a neck-to-neck battle, Djokovic sealed the first game and stood inches away from breaking Alcaraz's serve.

Throughout the first set, fierce rallies unfolded with Alcaraz, quick as lightning, pulling off slapsots backhand and forehand shots from his arsenal. Djokovic relied on using the court to his advantage and negating the threat that Alcaraz carried. Alcaraz and Djokovic stood steps away from breaking each other's serve numerous times. Eventually, Djokovic managed to take away Alcaraz's advantage during the breakpoint and smiled. Each time Alcaraz denied the Serbian to go ahead in the game, the Spaniard was more aggressive and animated in his reaction.

Nadal is second among the 'Big Three', with a total of 59 big titles, including 22 Grand Slams, which also includes a record 14 French Open titles, 36 ATP Masters titles and one Olympic gold medal in singles competition.

Federer is at number three, with 20 Grand Slam titles, including a record