

THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI TUESDAY 6 AUGUST 2024



NATION | 3

Jaya Bachchan objects to 'Amitabh' in name, again; spars with RS Chairman



WORLD | 6

Kamala Harris to announce vice-president pick before battleground states tour

DELHI AGE | 9

Chiranjeevi, Ram Charan donate ₹1cr to CM relief fund for Wayanad victims



www.asianage.com

RNI No. 57290/94, Regd No: DL-SW-05/4189/15-17

Vol. 31 No. 172 | 16 PAGES | ₹5.00

WINDOWS



Alma Coope, winner of Miss USA 2024, poses during the 73rd annual Miss USA Pageant at Peacock Theatre in Los Angeles on Sunday. — AFP

Stock mkt's crash nearly 3% amid global equity rout

Mumbai: Stock markets crashed nearly 3 per cent on Monday due to across-the-board selling in banking, IT, metal and oil & gas shares following a global equity rout, wiping out more than ₹15 lakh crores of investor money in a single day. The 30-share BSE Sensex plummeted 2,222.55 points or 2.74 per cent to settle at over a month's low of 78,759.40, marking its worst single-day retreat since June 4, 2024. During the day, the index tanked 2,686.09 points or 3.31 per cent to 78,295.86. The NSE Nifty slumped 662.10 points or 2.68 per cent to settle at more than a month's low of 24,055.60. Full report on Page 7

Govt may table Waqf Bill in RS this week

New Delhi: The government likely to introduce the Waqf Board Amendment Bill in the Rajya Sabha this week. Minority affairs minister Kiren Rijju and leader of the House in Rajya Sabha J.P. Nadda met Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of the introducing the bill. Full report on page 3

IAS aspirants' death: SC notice to Centre, Delhi

New Delhi: Coaching centres have become "death chambers" and are playing with the lives of students, the Supreme Court said as it issued notices to the Centre and the Delhi government on three IAS aspirants drowning in the basement of an institute here. Full report on Page 2

COUNTERPOINT



Bleak future... how can we unskilled robbers survive in this digital and cashless society?

WEATHER

Max: 33°C
Min: 27°C
RH: 74%
Rain: 20%

Forecast: Mostly Cloudy

ASTROGUIDE

Krodhi: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Sravana Shukla Vidiya till 7.54 pm
Star: Makha till 5.45 pm
Varyyam: 6.20 am and 2.41 am to 4.28 am (Wednesday)
Durmuhurtam: 8.33 am to 9.23 am
Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm
SUNSET TODAY 7.08 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.46 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 8.06 AM
MOONSET TODAY 8.27 PM

Bangla Army chief claims interim govt will take over

Hasina forced to quit as PM, flee to India; Army takes charge in Bangla

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI with agency inputs NEW DELHI/DHAKA, AUG. 5

In a dramatic turn of events seen as a huge geopolitical and strategic setback for a shell-shocked New Delhi, its close friend Sheikh Hasina resigned as Prime Minister of Bangladesh on Monday and fled Dhaka to India after the Army in her country took charge following fresh protests by students and Opposition activists against her 15 year-long rule that has often been marred by allegations of autocratic behaviour.

Media reports said Sheikh Hasina, accompanied by her sister Sheikh Rehana, initially fled in a helicopter from Dhaka and later boarded a Bangladesh Air Force C-130 aircraft that took her on a globally-tracked flight to Hindon airbase near New Delhi, in Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh, on Monday evening. After Ms Hasina's departure on Monday, Bangladesh Army chief Gen. Waker Uz-Zaman told the nation in a widely-televised press conference that there would be an interim government in the country soon. But this did not stop the protesters who stormed even the official residence of Sheikh Hasina after she had left and looted it.

Till late Monday evening, Sheikh Hasina was reportedly staying at a heavily-guarded safe house within the Hindon airbase that was cordoned off by elite IAF Garud commandos.

Both national security adviser Ajit Doval and



Sheikh Hasina

Ex-PM Khaleda to be released

Dhaka: Bangladeshi President Mohammed Shahabuddin on Monday ordered the release of jailed former Prime Minister and key Opposition leader Khaleda Zia, hours after her arch-rival Sheikh Hasina was ousted and the military took power. The President's press team said that a meeting led by Shahabuddin had "decided unanimously to free Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia immediately". — AFP

Indian Air Force's Western Air Command head, Air Marshal P.M. Sinha, met the former PM inside the aircraft at the Hindon airbase, with some media reports claiming that she intended to fly to London and had even requested Britain for political asylum.

In New Delhi, external affairs minister S. Jaishankar briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the developments in the neighbouring nation, where Pakistani and Chinese influence is now on the ascendancy. Turn to Page 4



Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves the country in a helicopter as protesters stormed the Prime Minister's official residence in Dhaka on Monday. Protesters (right) climb atop a statue of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh's founding father, and vandalised it. — PTI/AFP



BSF is on high alert all across Bangla border

New Delhi/Kolkata, Aug 5: The BSF on Monday issued a "high alert" across all its formations along the 4,096-km Indo-Bangladesh border and directed all its field commanders to be "on ground" and "deploy all personnel on border duty immediately. Following a political turmoil in neighbouring Bangladesh, the BSF director-general (acting) Daljit Singh Chawdhary and other senior commanders air-dashed to Kolkata to review the security situation along eastern borders.

The leaves of all the personnel posted along the Bangladesh border were cancelled in the last few weeks after Bangladesh witnessed massive protests. More on Page 3

Mujib's statue vandalised in Dhaka

Protesters storm into, loot PM's house; set Awami offices on fire

Dhaka, Aug. 5: Thousands of protesters in Bangladesh on Monday looted and vandalised Sheikh Hasina's official residence in the capital Dhaka, smashed a statue of her father Mujibur Rahman with hammers and set her party's offices on fire as they celebrated her departure as Prime Minister. Sheikh Hasina, 76, resigned amid mass protests against her government.



Protesters gather outside the Prime Minister's house in Dhaka on Monday. — PTI

The protests, which started last month initially with a demand to end the quota system that reserved 30 per cent of

government jobs for the families of veterans who fought in Bangladesh's war of independence against Pakistan in 1971, later turned into anti-government demonstrations. Jubilant crowds took to

the streets across the country to celebrate their victory after Army Chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman announced her resignation. Her resignation ended her 15 years in power.

Thousands of protesters defied a military curfew and stormed her official residence. However, she was not at her residence.

Video footage showed protesters vandalising and looting Sheikh Hasina's official residence "Ganabhaban" in the capital Dhaka. They were seen celebrating on Turn to Page 4

AI, IndiGo cancel flights to Dhaka

New Delhi, Aug. 5: Air India and IndiGo cancelled scheduled flights to and from Dhaka with immediate effect on Monday. A Vistara official said the airline has cancelled its flights to Dhaka for Tuesday.

"In view of the emerging situation in Bangladesh, we have cancelled the scheduled operation of our flights to and from Dhaka with immediate effect," an Air India spokesperson said. — PTI

Chouhan seeks farmers' talks, help of states to fix problems

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

Nothing there are problems in the agriculture sector which can be resolved through a dialogue with farmers and their associations, agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday requested political parties not to treat farmers as a vote bank. Resuming his reply as he could not complete it on Friday in the Upper House as it had to take up the listed business, Mr Chouhan also sought cooperation from all state governments, saying it was necessary for the welfare of farmers. The minister asserted he will work collectively with the state governments irrespective of which party was in power in the state in order to resolve all these issues.

"There are problems in agriculture but solutions are also there. We will speak to farmers and farmers' associations," he said, replying to a discussion on his ministry and farmers' welfare. "We will resolve it through dialogue and will move forward taking everyone along with us," he added. More on Page 3

Ending 370 a watershed moment: PM

Shah: Move strengthened grassroots democracy, empowered the poor

AGE CORRESPONDENTS NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

On the fifth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35(A) of the Constitution, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday called the decision of Parliament a "watershed moment that led to a beginning of a new era of progress and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh".

In a post on X, Mr Modi said: "Today we mark 5 years since the Parliament of India decided to abrogate Articles 370 and 35(A), a watershed

moment in our nation's history. It was the start of a new era of progress and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh." The Prime Minister said the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35(A) meant that the Constitution was implemented in these

places, in letter and spirit, in line with the vision of the great men and women who framed the Constitution.

He said: "With the abrogation came security, dignity and opportunity for the women, youth, backward, tribal and margin-



Narendra Modi

alised communities who were deprived of the fruits of development. At the same time, it has ensured that corruption, which plagued J&K for decades, has been kept at bay."

He added: "I assure the people of J&K and Ladakh that our government will keep working for them and fulfil their aspirations."

Union home minister Amit Shah said, meanwhile, on Monday that the abrogation of Article 370, which gave special status Turn to Page 4



People amid monsoon rains in Shimla on Monday. The meteorological centre in Shimla has issued an "orange" alert of heavy to very heavy rains, thunderstorm and lightning at isolated places in Una, Kangra and Sirmour districts of Himachal Pradesh. The hill state has been pummeled by heavy rains for almost a week. The death toll due to flash floods triggered by cloudbursts in three districts of the state increased to 14 while about 40 people are still missing, officials said. — PTI

HC upholds CBI arrest of Kejriwal; CM to move SC

SANJAY KAW NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

In a blow to chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Delhi high court on Monday refused to quash his arrest by the CBI in a corruption case linked to the excise policy scam. Justice Neena Bansal Krishna, however, granted him liberty to move the trial court for bail, noting the change in circumstances of the case.

Mr Kejriwal is likely to approach the Supreme Court soon to challenge the high court's order.

Saying there were adequate grounds to arrest the AAP leader, Justice Krishna said: "Arrest was not without any justifiable reason, or is illegal." She made it clear that though there is no dispute on the fact that district courts and the high court have concurrent jurisdiction, it has been held time and again by the Supreme Court that the party must first approach the court of first instance. More on Page 2

Setback to AAP: SC upholds L-G's right to pick aldermen

RAKESH K. SINGH NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

In a major setback to the AAP-led Delhi government, the Supreme Court on Monday ruled that the law "expressly enables" the lieutenant-governor to nominate aldermen to the MCD on his own, without needing the advice of the council of ministers.

A bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices P.S. Narasimha and J.B. Pardiwala rejected the Delhi government's

plea challenging the L-G's power to nominate 10 aldermen in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi without the aid and advice of the council of ministers. The apex court pronounced verdict on the

Delhi government's plea after reserving it for nearly 15 months. In its ruling which impacts the fraught relationship between the L-G's office and the AAP-led Delhi government, the bench said the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act as amended in 1993 "expressly enables the L-G to nominate persons having special knowledge to the corporation".

The top court said the power expressed by the statute in the name of the Turn to Page 4

SHORT TAKES

2 held for interstate firearms trafficking

New Delhi: The Delhi police has busted an interstate 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 Goyal 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 Mohammad Rashid (28) was arrested. One country-made pistol with two live cartridges was recovered from his possession, Mr 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.

Man gets 10-yr term for raping 12-yr-old

New Delhi: A court here has sentenced a man to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for kidnapping and raping a 12-year-old girl nine years ago, saying the gruesome crime called for stringent punishment. Additional sessions Judge Judge Sushil Bala Dagar was hearing the case against the 28-year-old man, who was earlier convicted for the penal provisions of rape and kidnapping and under Section 6 (aggravated penetrative sexual assault) of the Pocco Act. Additional public prosecutor Yogita Kaushik Dahiya, who appeared for the state, said the incident took place in the national capital in 2015. The convict had kidnapped the minor girl, put vermilion on her forehead in a temple and forcibly established physical relations with her on several occasions, Ms Dahiya said.

Self-care campaign for tribal mother, kid

New Delhi: Reckitt, in partnership with Plan India, is enhancing the "self-care for new moms and kids under 5" programme to educate rural and tribal communities on proper nutrition, hygiene, and disease prevention. This initiative aligns with the ministry of health and family welfare's "stop diarrhoea campaign." The programme includes targeted educational campaigns and promotes self-care as a key component of primary healthcare. To amplify the message, Reckitt recently launched the self-care theme song, 'Maa-E-Maa', performed by Gujarati folk singer Geeta Rabari, at the 8th CSR Health Impact Awards by the IHW Council.

PRIVATE SECURITY BODY HOLDS MEET ON PUBLIC SAFETY

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

The Central Association of Private Security Industry (CAPSI), the largest body of private security agencies, recently hosted a conference to develop a "national citizens security culture" aimed at improving public safety. Kunwar Vikram Singh, chairman of CAPSI and the association of private detective and investigators, emphasised the importance of these roundtable conferences in fostering collaboration among stakeholders. The conferences bring together government officials, law enforcement, community leaders, security professionals, corporate figures, and citizens to build a unified approach to national security. Mr Singh highlighted that the goal is to create a comprehensive national strategy and actionable plan by involving all relevant parties. The "Stay Alert, Stay Secure" campaign is a key component of this initiative, employing a multi-faceted approach that includes public awareness events, government engagement, and involvement from universities and civil society organisations. The campaign aims to enhance citizens' knowledge, skills, and awareness, empowering them to contribute effectively to their safety and national security.

BJP: AAP has developed habit of questioning anything done by L-G 'Big blow to democracy': BJP, AAP trade barbs over aldermen verdict

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

In the ongoing Delhi government versus L-G imbroglio, the Supreme Court verdict upholding L-G's power to appoint an alderman to the MCD may have far-reaching consequences for the civic body, where the AAP is in power and will likely face impediments in getting funds cleared by the standing committee in whose constitution the nominated members will have a say.

While the AAP said it "respectfully disagrees" with the decision, terming it a "big blow" to India's democracy, the city BJP welcomed the ruling, alleging the ruling party has developed the habit of questioning anything done by the L-G.

Reacting to the decision, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said the SC verdict gives the L-G the right to bypass the elected government.

"This is a big blow to

IF THE BJP gains hold in the standing committee, the AAP-led MCD may witness more power tussle over the passing of policy proposals through the committee

India's democracy. By bypassing the elected government, you are going to give all the powers to the lieutenant-governor, so that the L-G can run Delhi. This is not good for democracy and the Constitution of India. We respectfully disagree with the decision of the Supreme Court," the Rajya Sabha MP said.

The decision is "unfortunate" and "against the spirit of democracy," he added.

AAP leader and Delhi

minister Atishi said the party will study the written order.

"We respectfully disagree with the decision because if an elected government is bypassed, the mandate of the people is

bypassed, the majority of the MCD is changed and a nominated person makes decisions. I think it is a threat to democracy," she said.

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said the power to appoint aldermen to the MCD has been exercised by the L-G for decades.

"However, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has developed the habit of questioning anything done by the L-G. We strongly condemn AAP MP Sanjay Singh's reaction to the SC verdict, which is a sign of his frustration and naxalite ideology," he charged.

"The Aam Aadmi Party has been continuously trying to undermine the constitutional rights of the lieutenant-governor. However, they forget that there is a difference between Delhi and other states. Delhi is a Union Territory," he said. 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.

In the 18-member standing committee, which has been pending because the matter was in court, six members are elected by the House and 12 each from the MCD zones.

If the BJP gains hold in the standing committee, the AAP-led MCD may witness more power tussle over the passing of policy proposals through the committee.

The standing committee has the power to refer back any proposal which, however, can be cleared with a majority in the House. Nevertheless, this tussle will affect the clearing of key MCD proposals and will also cause delays if AAP and BJP members in the standing committee don't come to a consensus.

Grants liberty to CM to move trial court for bail No relief for Kejriwal as HC upholds CBI's arrest

SANJAY KAW
NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

In a blow to chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Delhi high court on Monday refused to quash his arrest by the CBI in a corruption case linked to the excise policy scam.

Justice Neena Bansal Krishna, however, granted him liberty to approach the trial court for bail, noting the change in circumstances of the case.

Stating that there were adequate grounds to arrest the AAP leader, Justice Krishna said, "...arrest was not without any justifiable reason, or is illegal."

She, however, made it clear that though there is no quarrel about the proposition that the district courts and the high court have concurrent jurisdiction, at the same time it has been held time and again by the Supreme Court that the party must first approach the court of first instance.



Arvind Kejriwal

Mr Kejriwal is likely to approach the apex court challenging the high court order.

Welcoming the high court verdict, the BJP reiterated its demand for the resignation of Mr Kejriwal.

"The question now is whether Mr Kejriwal has the moral authority to remain the chief minister," Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said.

Mr Kejriwal was arrested by the CBI on June 26 from Tihar Jail, where he was lodged in judicial custody in a connected money laundering case filed by the ED.

The CM, who was arrested by the ED on March 21, was granted bail by the trial court in the money laundering case on June 20.

The trial court's order was, however, stayed by the high court.

On July 12, the Supreme Court granted him interim bail in the money laundering case. Mr Kejriwal continues to remain in jail as he has not been granted bail in the CBI case so far.

The high court said Mr Kejriwal is not an ordinary citizen but a distinguished recipient of the Magsaysay Award and the convenor of the AAP.

The court noted that the links to the crime extended even to Punjab but material witnesses were not coming forward due to the influence exercised by Mr Kejriwal by virtue of his position.

The judge said it was only after he got arrested that the witnesses came forward to record their statements.

SHELTER HOME DEATHS

HC orders water test, says deaths no coincidence

Directs authorities to visit premises Aug. 6

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

The Delhi high court on Monday remarked that the recent deaths of 14 inmates in the city government-run Asha Kiran shelter home for the mentally challenged was a "strange coincidence" and directed the social welfare secretary to visit the premises on August 6 and file a report.

Noting that "nearly all" the deceased suffered from tuberculosis, a bench headed by acting chief Justice Manmohan directed the Delhi Jal Board to test the quality of water in the shelter home as well as the condition of water and sewer pipelines and file a report.

The bench, also comprising Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, emphasised that "curative measures" were needed in the matter and said if the shelter home was overcrowded, the authorities would decongest it and move some inmates to another facility.

SINCE FEBRUARY, 25 inmates have died at the centre, currently housing 980 'intellectually disabled' persons, including men, women and children

As many as 14 inmates, including a child, died at Asha Kiran in July. The court, hearing a public interest litigation seeking a probe into the deaths, listed the matter for hearing on August 7.

Meanwhile, the committee on petitions of Delhi Assembly on Monday claimed "huge shortage" of staff at the shelter home. The committee, chaired by AAP MLA Kuldeep Kumar, also held a meeting with the officers of the Asha Kiran shelter home in the Assembly.

Since February, 25 inmates have died at the centre, currently housing 980 "intellectually disabled" persons, including men, women and children, according to official data.

Coaching centres 'death chambers': SC

'These institutions are playing with lives of aspirants' ■ Issues notice to Centre, Delhi govt

RAKESH K. SINGH
NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

Observing that the coaching centres have become "death chambers," the Supreme Court on Monday took suo motu cognisance of the fatalities of three civil services aspirants due to drowning in the basement of a coaching centre in the national capital and sought responses from the Centre and the Delhi government.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan noted that the incident was an eye-opener for all and said, "This is horrible what we are reading. If need be, we will even close

down these coaching centres. For the time being, the coaching should go online, unless there is meticulous compliance with building regulations and other safety norms."

"These places (coaching centres) have become death chambers. Coaching centres are playing with the lives of these aspirants who have come from different parts of the country with dreams and are working hard," the bench said.

The top court said, "The recent unfortunate incident which took away lives of three young aspirants who joined the coaching centres for their career is an eye-opener for one and

The recent unfortunate incident which took away lives of three young aspirants who joined the coaching centres for their career is an eye-opener for one and all

— Supreme Court

We, therefore, deem it appropriate to expand the scope of proceedings and issue notice to the Centre and the NCT of Delhi to show cause as to what safety norms have been prescribed so far and what

effective mechanism evolved to ensure compliance."

The top court took cognisance of the matter while hearing a petition filed by an association of coaching centres challenging a December 2023 Delhi high court order which had directed the city's fire services and the civic body to inspect all coaching centres here to ascertain if they are complying with the fire safety norms.

Terminating the plea frivolous, the apex court dismissed the appeal while imposing a cost of ₹1 lakh on the association and said no coaching centre should be allowed to operate

unless there is compliance with fire safety norms and other requirements.

On Friday, the high court transferred the probe into the deaths of the three students from the Delhi police to the CBI "to ensure the public has no doubt over the investigation."

The three who died at the basement of the coaching centre were Shreya Yadav (25) of Uttar Pradesh, Tanya Soni (25) from Telangana, and Nevin Delvin (24) from Kerala.

Students enrolled in various coaching institutes have been protesting since the incident, demanding improved safety measures at coaching centres.

Supreme Court to hear pleas on marital rape next week

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

The Supreme Court will next week hear pleas on the intensely discussed legal question of whether a husband should enjoy immunity from prosecution for the offence of rape if he forces his wife, who is not a minor, to have sex.

Taking note of the submissions of senior advocate Karuna Nandy, appearing for one of the parties, that the petitions on the issue of marital

rape be heard, a bench comprising Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra on Monday said the pleas will be heard next week.

On July 16, senior advocate Indira Jaising, appearing for one of the parties, had mentioned the petitions and said they be accorded "some priority."

"The CJ indicated that they might be taken up on July 18.

Vijender Gupta returns for 2nd stint as LoP in Delhi Assembly

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

BJP's Rohini MLA Vijender Gupta was on Monday declared by the party as the new Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, a statement said.

Mr Gupta, a former Delhi BJP president, will succeed Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, who resigned from the post after being elected to the Lok Sabha.

A meeting of the legislative party at the state BJP office elected Mr Gupta as the new Leader of the Opposition, the statement said.

All seven BJP MLAs, Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party co-incharge Alka Gurjar, president Virendra Sachdeva and general secretary (organisation) Pawan Rana were present in the meeting.

His name was proposed by the party's chief whip in the assembly Ajay Mahawar.

His election was unanimous, the statement said and added that his name for the post was declared by the Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party president. Mr Gupta held the post of the Leader of the Opposition from 2015 to 2020.

Ahead of I-Day, security upped at Metro stations

New Delhi, Aug. 5: 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 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 across metro stations from Tuesday," a DMRC official said.

Stray dog seen carrying a headless newborn in Rohini

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

Sensation gripped the parkgoers in Rohini's Sector 22 when they met with the shocking sight of a stray dog carrying a headless body of a newborn.

The incident happened Saturday morning in a park of the northwest Delhi locality.

A senior police officer said that the matter was reported around 10 am by a local who saw a dog carrying the mutilated body of a newborn.

"The local police immediately reached at

PRELIMINARY INQUIRY revealed that the newborn had been thrown in the park just after its birth. The gender of the baby could not be ascertained due to mutilation of the body.

the spot and found a mutilated headless body of a newborn baby. The body was taken to a hospital and preserved for post mortem. The gender of the baby could not be ascertained due to mutilation of the body," police officials said.

Preliminary inquiry revealed that the newborn had been thrown in the park just after its birth. "An First Information Report (FIR) under section 94 (concealment of birth by secret disposal of dead body) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was registered at Aman Vihar Police Station and investigation is underway," a senior police officer said.

Residents were deeply disturbed by the discovery. "It's heart-wrenching to think someone could do this to a newborn," said a nearby resident.

revealed that the newborn had been thrown in the park just after its birth.

"An First Information Report (FIR) under section 94 (concealment of birth by secret disposal of dead body) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was registered at Aman Vihar Police Station and investigation is underway," a senior police officer said.

Residents were deeply disturbed by the discovery. "It's heart-wrenching to think someone could do this to a newborn," said a nearby resident.

Schools directed to use only NCERT, SCERT books

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

The Delhi government's education department has issued a directive to all recognised private schools, prohibiting textbooks for elementary classes that are not prescribed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) or the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT).

As per the directives, schools mandating students to study textbooks

NCERT denies removing Preamble from Class 3 & Class 6 textbooks

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

Amid report of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) dropping the Preamble to the Constitution from several Class 3 and Class 6 text-

books, the NCERT on Monday refused the allegations and said claims "do not have a sound basis". "The allegations regarding the removal of the Preamble from the NCERT textbooks do not have a sound basis", the NCERT said.

not included in the prescribed list of NCERT or SCERT will be in violation of the RTE Act.

Violating these guidelines, which causes "mental or physical suffering" to students,

could invoke the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015. This mandate ensures compliance with the Right to Education Act, 2009.

"If any school follows and/or forces the children to study textbooks for elementary classes other than that prescribed by National Council of Educational Research and Training or respective SCERT, it shall amount to a violation of the RTE Act, 2009," reads the notification. The directive further

added, "No child shall be discriminated and/or harassed and/or neglected by the school for carrying books published/prescribed by the academic authority (NCERT/SCERT) causing 'mental or physical suffering.' Any action taken against the child hence may attract the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015." The education department has also directed the schools to display the directions on the schools' website and notice boards.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
NIT No. 46245131 Date : 25.07.2024	
SMM/EMUGZB acting for and on behalf of President of India Invites E-Tender against Tender No. 46245131 dt- 25.07.2023. The details are as under:-	
1 Name of work	Micro Processor based Electronic Speed Indicator Cum Recorder and Energy Monitoring System as per RDSO Spec No. RDSO/PE/SPEC/JEMU/0032-2002, Rev. 0 or later.
2 Approx. cost of work	83,83,250/- (eighty three lakh sixty three thousand two hundred fifty Rupees)
3 Quantity	35 Set
4 Last Date & Time of submission of tender bid of tender	27.08.2024 (11:00 Hrs.)
5 Date of Time of Opening of tender document	27.08.2024 (11:00 Hrs.)
6 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in
Note : (i) The tenderers must be registered on the Indian Railways E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. (ii) Please refer to the tender document for all terms and conditions. (iii) No manual offers are acceptable.	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2397/24	

SHORT TAKES

AAP to contest all 36 Mumbai seats

Mumbai: The Aam Aadmi Party will contest the Maharashtra Assembly polls and field candidates on all 36 seats in Mumbai, its leader Preeti Sharma Menon said on Monday. Addressing a press conference, she also said the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP was part of the Opposition INDIA bloc, adding "the alliance was for the Lok Sabha polls and will continue to be together at the national level". "The AAP will contest all 36 seats in Mumbai. In the rest of Maharashtra, our colleagues and volunteers are galvanised and preparations are on in full swing," Ms Menon said. The AAP is a national party which under the visionary leadership of Kejriwal had emerged from a people's movement and is now in power in Delhi and Punjab, while it has MLAs in Goa and Gujarat as well as MPs, she asserted. In just 10 years, the AAP has demonstrated the "Delhi model" of development, she said. — PTI

Rly porters meet Rahul, Priyanka

New Delhi: A group of railway porters on Monday met Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and handed over a memorandum detailing their grievances. The interaction comes almost a year after Mr Gandhi interacted with porters at Anand Vihar railway station last September and sought to know their problems. In that interaction, he was seen wearing the porters' trademark red shirt and lifting luggage over his head. On Monday, the group of railway porters met Mr Gandhi and Ms Vadra outside Sonia Gandhi's 10 Janpath residence here and handed over a memorandum detailing their grievances. They explained to the Congress leaders the issues they were facing and urged them to raise their matter in relevant forums. — PTI

Eyeing polls, Ajit to launch yatra Aug. 8

Mumbai: In a bid to change its fortunes after an embarrassing defeat in the Lok Sabha polls, the Ajit Pawar-led NCP has decided to reach out to voters by launching a statewide yatra ahead of the Vidhan Sabha polls in Maharashtra. Deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar will kickstart the yatra from Dindori in Nashik district in August 8, the anniversary of Quit India Movement. Dubbed as the "Jan Samman Yatra", the rally would traverse through Mumbai-Konkan, Western Maharashtra, North Maharashtra, Marathwada and Vidarbha regions. "The focus of the yatra is to promote the welfare schemes announced and implemented by the Eknath Shinde-led Mahayuti government till the last person in the state," said state NCP president Sunil Tatkare.

HC JUNKS PLEA AGAINST SHINDE GOVT SCHEMES

AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, AUG. 5

In a major relief to the Eknath Shinde government ahead of the state Assembly elections, the Bombay high court on Monday dismissed the PIL challenging the Maharashtra government's cash transfer scheme for women and paid apprenticeship for youth. While rejecting the PIL, the bench, led by Chief Justice Devenendra Kumar Upadhyaya, held that the petitioner's arguments can make a "good speech for the roads but not for the courts". The bench observed that taxpayers do not have a say in how tax revenues are utilised, as it falls within the government's policy domain. "Tax is a compulsory exaction of money... Just because you are paying tax does not mean you can say how it needs to be used," it said. The "CM Mazi Ladki Bahin" scheme intends to give ₹1,500 per month to women from economically weaker sections, whereas the "Mukhya Manti Yuva Karyaprashiksha Yojana" will provide stipends ranging from ₹6,000 to ₹10,000 per month to youth between 18 to 35 years enrolled in the technical training programmes.

■ 'High alert' across all BSF formations ■ Leaves cancelled
Close watch at Bangla border: BSF chief, top brass visit front

AMRESH SRIVASTAVA with agency inputs NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

The BSF on Monday issued a "high alert" across all its formations along the 4,096-km Indo-Bangladesh border and directed all its field commanders to be "on the ground" and "deploy all personnel on border duty immediately". Following political turmoil in neighbouring Bangladesh, BSF director general (acting) Daljit Singh Chaudhary and other senior commanders air-dashed to Kolkata to review the security situation along eastern borders.

The leaves of all the personnel posted along the Bangladesh border were cancelled in the last few weeks after the nation witnessed massive protests. All units have been asked to "acquire an all-alert posture", officials in the force said.



A BSF soldier stands guard along the India-Bangladesh border checkpoint at Hilli in Dakshin Dinajpur district on Monday. — PTI

The visit of senior officials commenced with a detailed briefing of the Eastern Command by Ravi Gandhi, ADG Eastern Command at South Bengal frontier headquarters. The briefing covered the strategic scenario and operations of the battalions of the Eastern Command, wherein the director general was apprised

of the role of the BSF in maintaining national security along the sensitive international border. Mr Chaudhary, along with the Eastern Command ADG, and inspector general, South Bengal, made an important visit to the Indo-Bangladesh border in North 24 Parganas district and the Sunderbans area of West

Train ops to B'desh called off indefinitely

New Delhi: All train services between India and Bangladesh have been suspended indefinitely, the Indian Railways said on Monday after massive protests against the Sheikh Hasina government. According to the ministry, Maitri Express, Bandhan Express and Mitali Express operated their last trips in mid-July and have been cancelled since then.

Bengal. The purpose of this visit is to review the operational preparedness and strategic deployment of the BSF in these important border areas.

The force, a senior officer in the eastern command said, is concerned about a "jump in illegal crossing and a step up in cross-border crimes in the wake of the situation."

Security beefed up at Bangla high commission

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

The security apparatus has been beefed up at the Bangladesh high commission in Delhi in the wake of Sheikh Hasina's resignation as PM and an imminent takeover by an interim government in the neighbouring country.

"We have stepped up the security arrangements outside the Bangladesh high commission and deployed more police personnel," a senior police officer said.

The officer added that the area where the commission is located has been completely secured. "We are on alert and closely following the developments... More barricades have been placed outside the commission and the number of police personnel deployed there has been increased," the police said.

Mamata: Maintain peace in Bengal & avoid provocation

RAJIB CHOWDHURI KOLKATA, AUG. 5

West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday appealed for calm over the unrest in Bangladesh. The Trinamul Congress supreme also backed the Centre's stand on the issue.

"I appeal to all the people of Bengal to maintain peace and avoid all forms of provocation. We will follow whatever decision the Centre takes on this issue," she said at the Assembly.

Last month, Ms Banerjee had offered to provide shelter to Bangladeshi nationals in the state which triggered a huge uproar.

US embassy press attache and spokesperson Chris Elms, who was in the city, refused to comment on the emerging situation in Bangladesh.



West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee plants a tree sapling during "Vanmahotsav 2024" at the state Assembly premises in Kolkata on Monday. — PTI

West Bengal shares a total of 2,217 kilometres of its border with Bangladesh.

According to state government officials, the police have also been instructed to keep a close tab on the movement in the bordering areas.

"Steps need to be taken to stop any form of provocation here using incidents in Bangladesh," an official said. Meanwhile, Indo-Bangladesh trade has 'halted' this afternoon amid unrest in the neighbouring country.

BJP may get chairmanship of 7 to 8 LS panels, Cong 3

New Delhi, Aug. 5: The BJP may get the chairmanship of seven to eight department-related parliamentary committees of the Lok Sabha, the Congress three and the Samajwadi Party one, sources said on Monday as the process for the constitution of 16 of these panels gets underway.

No other party, including the Trinamul Congress that is the fourth largest with 29 MPs, has the numbers to give them a numerical claim over the chairmanship of a committee, they said, adding that Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla would use his discretion to ensure fair representation at the top of these panels and among their members.

The department-related committees, 16 headed by Lok Sabha MPs and eight by Rajya Sabha members, are a key multi-party oversight over the working of different ministries, allowing their members to interact with stakeholders and influence policy. — PTI

■ Rijju, Nadda meet Modi over bill ■ SP will oppose Centre's move, says Akhilesh
Bill to amend Waqf Act may be moved first in RS

AGE CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

The government may introduce a bill to amend the 1995 Waqf Act in the Rajya Sabha this week. Minority affairs minister Kiren Rijju and Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha J.P. Nadda on Monday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of the introduction of the bill.

The ruling BJP, sources said, is in talks with its

allies, including the JD(U) and the TDP, to get a consensus among the ruling alliance before the bill is introduced in Parliament.

Sources said the government held several rounds of talks with various Muslim scholars and intellectuals and also members of several Waqf boards before formulating the draft bill.

The bill was recently passed in the Cabinet. Several Opposition leaders criticised the government's decision, alleging

that it will create a divide in society and asserted that they will strongly oppose such legislation.

As the Modi government faces criticism over reports that it is all set to introduce the bill, Mr Rijju said that continuous demands and representations were made by common Muslims to make regulation of Waqf properties more transparent and efficient. He, however, did not comment on the bill during his brief interaction with reporters.

"For a long time there have been continuous demands and representations from the poor and common Muslims, including women, to make Waqf properties more transparent and efficient," Mr Rijju said.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav said his party will oppose the Centre's move to bring a bill in Parliament to amend the 1995 law governing Waqf boards, and accused the BJP of trying to snatch the rights of Muslims.

"We will be against it (Waqf Act amendment bill)," Mr Yadav said.

The Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind asserted that bringing about any change in the status and nature of Waqf properties or making it easier for the government or any individual to "misuse" them is unacceptable. The prominent Muslim body also stressed that it is prepared to knock on the doors of the Supreme Court if a move is made to weaken the Waqf boards.

NORTHERN RAILWAY (E-Auction Notice)

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway Delhi Division invites bids through e-Auction through IREPS (<https://ireps.gov.in/>) for the allotment of Deluxe Pay & Use Toilet Contracts on BOT, MOT & ROMT Basis, at following Railway stations/locations:-

E-Catalogue No.	Date & Time of bidding	Railway Stations/Locations/Sites
PayNUse 03-2024	20.08.2024 at 12:00 Hrs	New Delhi (NDLS) - 4 Sites, Panipat (PNP)-1 Site, Badli (BHD)-1 Site. Total 6 Sites
PayNUse 04-2024	21.08.2024 at 12:00 Hrs	Okhla (OKA) -1 Site, Nizamuddin (NZM) - 2 Sites, Kurukshetra (KKDE) -1 Site, Patel Nagar (PTNR) -1 Site, Shivaji Bridge (CSB) - 1 Site. Total Sites 6 Sites

Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen <https://ireps.gov.in/>

All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfil following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids:

- Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module -Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module.
- Payment of One Time Registration Fee; Current Account in State Bank of India; Integration of SBI Bank Account with IREPS Account; Lien Marking of Funds; Update of Turnover Details
- A new mechanism namely Virtual Account Number (VAN) has been introduced now for EAuction Leasing module, which can be used by the bidders as an alternative to Lien Marking Mechanism. The bidders are free to switch between Lien Marking Mechanism (if activated) and VAN mechanism at any point of time, before entering the bidding room. VAN mechanism does not require the bidder to have a current account in State Bank of India. The users are free to transfer money from any of their existing bank accounts in any bank to their VAN account, which enables them to participate in IREPS E-Auctions.
- Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online request for registration by clicking on New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender /E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page.

Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query: Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi 110055. Email: sanitationcell@gmail.com Tel: 011-23743084

No. 7PUB/TN/Pay&UseToilets/ Auction/2022 Dated: 02.08.2024 2396/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

■ Can change name on poll certificate: Dhankhar
'New drama': Jaya spars with RS Chair over name protocol

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

SP Rajya Sabha MP Jaya Bachchan once again raised an objection in the Rajya Sabha when Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar addressed her by her full name, Jaya Amitabh Bachchan, calling it a "new drama" in Parliament. Earlier, she had objected to it when deputy chairman Harivansh had addressed her by her full name.

She told Mr Harivansh, "Sir, only Jaya Bachchan would have sufficed," highlighting the issue of women being identified primarily through their husbands' names. Ms Bachchan told the House about her pride in her husband's achievements but expressed discomfort over women's identities being tied to their husbands' names. Mr Dhankhar responded by citing a provision to change names on election certificates if desired. During the session, Ms



Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan in the Rajya Sabha during the Monsoon Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Monday. — PTI

Bachchan remarked, "Sir, I hope you know the meaning of Amitabh. I mean, I am proud of the association with my marriage and my husband, but I am just saying that I am very happy and proud of my husband's achievements." She continued, "This is a new drama started by you all. This did not use to happen before." The RS Chairman responded to her concerns, highlighting the procedural norms tied to election certificates. He

explained, "However, Jayaji the name that appears in the election certificate is what is used and you can get the name changed; there is a provision for that." She also questioned why Union minister Manohar Lal Khattar did not include his wife's name after his. Mr Khattar, who is unmarried, humorously replied, "As for my wife's name in front of mine... not in this birth; for this, you will have to wait until the next birth."

LS approves demands for grants '24-25

FC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

After applying a guillotine, the Lok Sabha on Monday cleared the Budget estimates for expenditure contained in the demands for grants for different ministries. The guillotine was applied after the House discussed demands for grants of 4 ministries, namely railways, education, health and fisheries.

About a total of ₹140 lakh crore expenditure demands of different ministries of the central government was approved by the House, completing two-thirds of the legislative approvals needed for the full Budget for 2024-25.

Guillotine means that the demands for grants for the ministries, on which it is being applied, are considered approved without a discussion. The "demand for grants" is a formal request for funds made by various ministries or departments of the government.



SHORT TAKES

Chhattisgarh deputy CM's nephew drowns

Kawardha (Chhattisgarh), Aug. 5: The 21-year-old nephew of Chhattisgarh deputy chief minister Arun Sao drowned in a waterfall in Kabirdham district, police said on Monday. Tushar Sahu, an office-bearer of the BJP's youth wing, drowned in Rani Dahra waterfall, a tourist spot under Bodla police station limits, during an outing with five of his friends around 4 pm on Sunday, Kabirdham additional superintendent of Police Vikas Kumar said. A police team was rushed to the spot, and a search was launched to trace Sahu. However, the rescue exercise was called off in the evening after it turned dark, he said. Around 6.30 am on Monday, divers found the body stuck under a rock in the waters and fished it out, the official said. Another police official said eyewitnesses reported that Sahu and his two friends slipped into the pool of the waterfall from a 40-foot-high rock. While the two friends came out, Sahu went into deep water, he said. — PTI

Wall collapse: DM, SP removed in MP

Bhopal: A day after nine children were killed in the collapse of a house wall in Sagar district in Madhya Pradesh, chief minister Mohan Yadav on Monday removed the local collector and superintendent of police from their posts. Sagar district collector Deepak Arya and superintendent of police Abhishek Tiwari have been replaced by Sandeep G.R. and Vikash Kumar Sahwal respectively. Similarly, subdivisional district magistrate (SDM) in Sagar district Sandeep Singh was also removed from his post. In another development, superintendent of local primary health centre Dr Hari Om Bansal was placed under suspension on charges of dereliction of duty.

NIA's spot inspection in K'taka cafe blast

New Delhi/Bangaluru: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday brought two accused, arrested in the Rameshwaram Cafe blast, to the spot for inspection into the incident that occurred on March 11 in IT city Bengaluru. The inspection was carried out amid heavy police presence deployed outside the cafe and barricades were also erected in the surrounding area. During the course of its investigation into the cafe blast, the NIA has conducted extensive searches at more than 29 locations across the country. "A team of NIA probing the Rameshwaram Cafe blast came here this morning at the cafe for spot inspection, along with two of the accused as part of their internal investigation into the case," a source in the security set up said.

ART 370 ANNIV

BJP celebrates undoing of 'historical blunder' ■ Amarnath Yatra halted
Key leaders locked up, curbs stepped up

YUSUF JAMEEL SRINAGAR, AUG. 5

The Jammu and Kashmir authorities on Monday placed several key Opposition leaders, including former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, under house detention and took other restrictive measures to hold back anti-government demonstrations planned by them on the 5th anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, which debarred Jammu and Kashmir from special status, and splitting it into two Union territories by the Central government.

However, the BJP celebrated what it insists was the "historic undoing of a historical blunder" by holding rallies in twin capitals of Srinagar and

Jammu and other places across the UT. It also claimed that the abrogation of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution ushered in an era of peace and opportunity for the people of J&K, and that Ladakh too is moving ahead in every sphere of life.

However, Ms Mufti in a post on X asserted that the abrogation of Article 370 of the Indian Constitution ushered in an era of peace and opportunity for the people of J&K, and that Ladakh too is moving ahead in every sphere of life.

The ex-CM said, "Since then the state has been threatened into silence which is touted as 'peace and normalcy' to the rest

Post-Aug. 5, 2019, democracy took up deep roots in J&K: Manoj Sinha

AGE CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR, AUG. 5

Lieutenant-governor Manoj Sinha on Monday asserted that post-August 5, 2019, democracy has taken up deep roots in J&K, the manifestation of which was the "huge and enthusiastic" participation of the people in the last Lok Sabha elections.

In a statement issued on

the fifth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, Mr Sinha said, "In the past five years democracy has taken deep roots in the Union territory of J&K. Enthusiastic participation and record voter turnout in the recently held Lok Sabha polls is a testimony to people's faith in the constitution and internalisation of the spirit of democracy".

she and her mother were put under house detention which has become a routine for the police to stop the opponents of the government from reaching out to the people on such occasions. "If Kashmir is

as normal as government of India claims it to be, why does J&K police place us under illegal house arrest on 5th August every year? The arrogance is such that SHO Nowgam has locked us up inside our own house and taken the keys away. Cops or new age jailers? You decide".

The National Conference (NC) said that the government once again unjustly placed our leaders under house arrest, effectively isolating the party headquarters Nawa-e-Subha in Srinagar.

It added, "This blatant suppression of mainstream democratic activities only serves to showcase the administration's underlying fear and exposes the hollowness of their claims of progress over the past five years. August

5, 2019 remains a stark reminder of the disempowerment of the people of J&K, a process that continues unchecked with the absence of a democratically elected government in the region."

Also, the movement of convoys of Amarnath pilgrims between various base camps was not allowed, whereas, no fresh batch of yatries left Jammu's Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the Kashmir Valley. The officials termed these curbs as a precautionary measure. However, the security agencies assigned the task of road opening duties for Amarnath yatra routes and national highways including NH 44 had been asked to continue their work and keep their deployment active.

In Bihar, 9 Kanwariyas electrocuted, 3 others hurt

Hajipur (Bihar), Aug. 5: At least nine Kanwar Yatra pilgrims were electrocuted to death and three others sustained injuries when they came in contact with a high-tension wire in Bihar's Vaishali district, a senior official said on Monday.

The incident took place in Sultanpur village in Industrial police station area in the intervening night of Sunday and Monday. Officials investigating the matter said action will be taken if lapses are found on anyone's part.

"Nine pilgrims (Kanwariyas) died and three sustained severe injuries when a high-tension overhead wire fell on their vehicle in Sultanpur village under the jurisdiction of Industrial police station in Vaishali district.

"The incident took place in the intervening night of Sunday and Monday when the Kanwariyas were going to Baba Harihar Nath Temple in Sonepur to perform Jalabhishek." Rambabu Baitha, subdivisional officer of Hajipur-Sadar, told reporters.

Mr Baitha had earlier said eight people died in the incident.

The injured persons have been admitted to a hospital where their condition is stated to be stable. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination and the matter is being investigated, he added.

In another incident, four persons, who were heading for a ghat to take a holy dip in the Ganga river, on the occasion of "Shravan Somwar", were killed in Bihar's Katihar district, police said. — PTI

SC to hear Aug. 13 pleas against UP Madarsa Act order

'7 petitions merited closer reflection'

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

The Supreme Court on Monday said it will list for final hearing the pleas challenging the Allahabad high court order that had scrapped the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act 2004 on August 13.

On April 5, the apex court stayed the high court judgment, saying the issues raised in seven petitions against the verdict merited "closer reflection".

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said it would list the pleas for final disposal on August 13. The top court also appointed lawyer Ruchira Goel as nodal counsel for ensuring filing of common compilation of documents in electronic form.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for one of the petitioners, said a contempt petition against the state government has also been filed.

Noting that the issues for adjudication are on a narrow compass, the CJ said, "Should we list these for final disposal next Tuesday?... Once we have granted the order of stay then we can list these for final disposal."

While staying the HC verdict, the SC had said, "The object and purpose of madarsa board is regulatory in nature and the Allahabad HC is not prima facie correct that establishment of board will breach secularism."

SC asks WB to provide data on castes listed in OBCs

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the West Bengal government to furnish quantifiable data on social and economic backwardness and the inadequate representation in public sector jobs of the castes that were included by it in the OBC list for granting quota benefits.

While issuing notices to the private litigants on a plea of the state government against a Calcutta high court verdict, the SC also asked the TMC-ruled government to file an affidavit giving details of the consultations, if any, conducted by it and the state's backward classes panel before including 37 castes, mostly Muslim groups, in the OBC list.

The HC had on May 22 struck down the OBC status of several castes in West Bengal granted since 2010, holding as illegal the reservation for them in public sector jobs and state-run educational institutions.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra took note of the submissions of senior advocate

Indira Jaising, appearing for the state government, before issuing notices on the appeal.

Referring to critical remarks made in the judgment, Ms Jaising asked if the HC was "trying to run the state".

The SC said, "Issue notice, including on the application of stay (of the judgment filed by the state government)."

SC raps UP gov't over delay in remission pleas

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

The Supreme Court on Monday rapped the Uttar Pradesh government for not complying with its order to consider remission pleas within the time frame specified by it, and directed the principal secretary of the state's prisons department to appear before it on August 19.

While hearing a convict's plea seeking remission in accordance with the applicable policy of the state, a bench of Justices Abhay S. Oka and Augustine George Masih said, "We want to correct the system."

The SC directed the principal secretary of the prisons department to appear before it through videoconference.

The apex court had said the HC "prima facie" misconstrued the provisions of the Madarsa Act, which did not provide for any religious striking.

The HC, while striking down the provisions of the Madarsa Act, directed relocation of the students. "This would affect 17 lakh students... We are of the view that the direction of relocation of students to other schools was not warranted," the top court had said.

"The State shall file counter on or before June 30, 2024," the SC ordered.

11,000 rescued in 5 days from Kedarnath Valley

AGE CORRESPONDENT DEHRADUN, AUG. 5

More than 11,000 stranded tourists and pilgrims were rescued from different locations on Kedarnath route in the last five days as the road was badly damaged at 45 locations due to heavy rains. Rescuers on Monday found the body of a 21 years old youth from Haryana at Lincholi stopover near Kedarnath temple area.

Rescue teams including agencies from the Central and the state governments used five helicopters and created pedestrian alternate routes to evacuate the stranded pilgrims to safer places since August 1, a day after heavy rains triggered cloudbursts and landslides bringing the pedestrian movements to a grinding halt.

More than five teams of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) squad, India Army, District Disaster Response Force (DDRF) and



Stranded people board an IAF helicopter in Kedarnath on Monday.

state police were able to rescue more than 11,000 people who were left at God's mercy since July 31 when a cloudburst at Lincholi and a landslide at Bhimbali police post, 6-7 kilometres from Lincholi, brought the movements on the road to a grinding halt.

More than 70 metres stretch marks of road at Bhimbali was swept away in the landslide. Latter two bridges on Mandakini River at Rambara were

also broken snapping the connectivity between Lincholi and Bhimbali on either sides of the river.

Besides this, a 15-metre patch of the road was washed away at Gaurikund and another 50-metre road subsided at Jungle Chatti area as well. This forced rescuers specially SDRF men to look for alternate pedestrian routes and airlift the stranded pilgrims according to the suitability of the situation.

World record: 1,500 damrus echo in Ujjain

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY BHOPAL, AUG. 5

As many as 1500 musicians on Monday played "damru" (a small power drum) in unison in the premise of ancient shrine of Mahakaleshwar, one of the 12 Jyotirlingas, in Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh creating a new Guinness World Record.

The "damru" players in saffron clothes gave a mesmerising performance at the "Mahakal corridor" adjoining the Maha-

kaleshwar temple recreating the thrilling sounds of cymbal and drum beating seen during the "unique" "bhasma aarti" rituals in the shrine. The event was sponsored by Shree Mahakaleshwar temple committee and the state culture department.

"More than 1500 damru players achieved the feat of entering into the Guinness World Record in the 'largest damru ensemble' category", a consultant for the world record attempts Nischal Barot said.



Musicians play damrus in Mahakaleshwar shrine.

Setback to AAP in SC

Continued from Page 1 L-G, also seen in the context of other provisions, demonstrates the statutory scheme in which the powers and duties are distributed among authorities under the law.

Reacting to the verdict, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said: "This is a big blow to India's democracy. By bypassing the elected government, you are going to give all the powers to the lieutenant-governor, so that the L-G can run Delhi. This is not good for democracy and the Constitution of India. We respectfully disagree with the decision of the Supreme Court." The decision is "unfortunate" and "against the spirit of democracy", he added.

Welcoming the verdict, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva said: "Sanjay Singh's reaction to the decision is a sign of his frustration and Naxal ideology and we strongly condemn his statement."

He said the system of aldermen has been in place for many years and the AAP has been continuously trying to undermine the constitutional rights of the L-G.

South Delhi MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said the decision was a slap on the AAP government's face as the AAP has paralysed the MCD for 20 months, causing great suffering to the people of Delhi.

While pronouncing the verdict on behalf of the bench, Justice Narasimha said: "The text of Section 3(3)(b) as amended in 1993 expressly

enables the L-G to nominate persons having special knowledge to the corporation. The context in which the power is located confirms that the L-G is intended to act as per the mandate of the statute and not guided by the aid and advice of the council of ministers. The power to be exercised is the statutory duty of the L-G and not the executive power of the state. This is how we analysed the constitutional provisions."

The apex court said: "The statutory power under Section 3(3)(b)(i) to nominate persons of special knowledge was vested in the lieutenant-governor for the first time by the 1993 amendment of the DMC Act 1957 to incorporate constitutional changes brought through Article 239AA and the introduction of Part IX related to municipalities. The power to nominate is therefore not a vestige of the past or the power of administrator that is continuing by default. It is made to incorporate the changes in the constitutional structure."

The top court ruled that the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act as amended in 1993 "expressly enables the L-G to nominate persons having special knowledge to the corporation". The power expressed by the statute in the name of the L-G, also seen in the context of other provisions, demonstrates the statutory scheme in which the powers and duties are distributed among the authorities under the Act, the bench said.

'Ending 370 a watershed moment'

Continued from Page 1 er ship. This transformative decision has ushered in a new era of empowerment for marginalised sections and strengthened grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh," he wrote on X.

The home minister, who tabled the bill in Parliament on August 5, 2019 for the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A, also thanked the Prime Minister for this landmark decision and reaffirmed the government's commitment to advance the region's aspi-

er ship. This transformative decision has ushered in a new era of empowerment for marginalised sections and strengthened grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh," he wrote on X.

The home minister, who tabled the bill in Parliament on August 5, 2019 for the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A, also thanked the Prime Minister for this landmark decision and reaffirmed the government's commitment to advance the region's aspi-

er ship. This transformative decision has ushered in a new era of empowerment for marginalised sections and strengthened grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh," he wrote on X.

The home minister, who tabled the bill in Parliament on August 5, 2019 for the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A, also thanked the Prime Minister for this landmark decision and reaffirmed the government's commitment to advance the region's aspi-

er ship. This transformative decision has ushered in a new era of empowerment for marginalised sections and strengthened grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh," he wrote on X.

er ship. This transformative decision has ushered in a new era of empowerment for marginalised sections and strengthened grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh," he wrote on X.

The home minister, who tabled the bill in Parliament on August 5, 2019 for the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A, also thanked the Prime Minister for this landmark decision and reaffirmed the government's commitment to advance the region's aspi-

er ship. This transformative decision has ushered in a new era of empowerment for marginalised sections and strengthened grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh," he wrote on X.

The home minister, who tabled the bill in Parliament on August 5, 2019 for the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A, also thanked the Prime Minister for this landmark decision and reaffirmed the government's commitment to advance the region's aspi-

er ship. This transformative decision has ushered in a new era of empowerment for marginalised sections and strengthened grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh," he wrote on X.

er ship. This transformative decision has ushered in a new era of empowerment for marginalised sections and strengthened grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh," he wrote on X.

er ship. This transformative decision has ushered in a new era of empowerment for marginalised sections and strengthened grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh," he wrote on X.

The home minister, who tabled the bill in Parliament on August 5, 2019 for the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A, also thanked the Prime Minister for this landmark decision and reaffirmed the government's commitment to advance the region's aspi-

er ship. This transformative decision has ushered in a new era of empowerment for marginalised sections and strengthened grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh," he wrote on X.

The home minister, who tabled the bill in Parliament on August 5, 2019 for the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A, also thanked the Prime Minister for this landmark decision and reaffirmed the government's commitment to advance the region's aspi-

er ship. This transformative decision has ushered in a new era of empowerment for marginalised sections and strengthened grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh," he wrote on X.

The home minister, who tabled the bill in Parliament on August 5, 2019 for the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A, also thanked the Prime Minister for this landmark decision and reaffirmed the government's commitment to advance the region's aspi-

er ship. This transformative decision has ushered in a new era of empowerment for marginalised sections and strengthened grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh," he wrote on X.

Hasina forced to quit as PM

Continued from Page 1 Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi also reportedly met the EAM to discuss the developments in Bangladesh. Later in the evening, Mr Modi, home minister Amit Shah, defence minister Rajnath Singh, Mr Jaishankar Mr Doval, the three service chiefs and heads of Indian intelligence agencies, including the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), are said to have deliberated on the developments in Bangladesh at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security. It is learnt that Mr Jaishankar may make a statement on Tuesday in Parliament on the shocking developments in the neighbouring nation.

The countdown for Ms Hasina began after a second wave of violent protests began Sunday that once again led to the deaths of almost 100 protesters. The violence initially began in July after protests there over the proposed quota of up to 30 per cent in government jobs for the families of those who fought in the 1971 war of liberation against Pakistani troops. In fact, tensions had been brewing since January this year when Ms Hasina won a "historic fourth consecutive term in parliamentary elections" that were boycotted by

Opposition parties, including the main Opposition, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). Overall, this was Sheikh Hasina's fifth term in power since she was first elected to power from 1996 to 2001 and then continuously since 2009.

Ms Hasina, as Bangladesh PM, was seen as the closest friend of India in the region amid a golden chapter ("sonali adhyaya") in bilateral ties. She had visited India twice in June, the first time for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony and then for a bilateral visit just days later. New Delhi had always maintained that "as a close and friend and partner of Bangladesh", it would continue to support Bangladesh's vision of a "stable, peaceful and progressive nation". The ties between India and Bangladesh had been extremely strong when Sheikh Hasina was in power. On the other hand, the Opposition BNP and the Jamaat-e-Islami, which are widely expected to be part of the new ruling dispensation in Dhaka now, have always been openly anti-India and pro-Pakistan for the past several decades.

With tensions already prevalent on India's borders with both Pakistan and China, uncertainty

and instability on the border with Bangladesh is the last thing New Delhi wanted.

Bangladesh had attained independence in December 1971 after Pakistani troops surrendered to the Indian Army after a 13-day India-Pakistan war. Sheikh Hasina's father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the founding father of Bangladesh. Known as "Bangabandhu", he was killed along with most of his family members by junior officers of the Bangladesh Army in a bloody massacre in 1975. Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana escaped the massacre as they were not in the country then.

India had earlier said it was "hopeful that the situation in the country would return to normal soon". New Delhi had also termed the protests in the neighbouring nation as the "internal affair" of Bangladesh. Near midnight on Sunday, India had said: "In view of ongoing developments, Indian nationals are strongly advised against travelling to Bangladesh till further notice. All Indians in Bangladesh are advised to exercise extreme caution, restrict their movements and remain in contact with the high commission.

THE ASIAN AGE

6 AUGUST 2024

Autocratic Bangla PM forced to flee in face of public anger

A flight out of a troubled Bangladesh, rocked by student unrest owing to a major quota in government jobs for the progeny of freedom fighters, has been the response of Sheikh Hasina, the beleaguered autocratic Prime Minister of Bangladesh. Instead of adopting a conciliatory approach to addressing the issue that had much to do with the future of youth in a developing country and sitting down to negotiate with student leaders, the authoritarian PM asked the police to put down "anarchist forces" with an iron hand.

The future has assumed several shades of grey as the Army stepped into the immediate breach in what is a troubling scenario for a country that was just making its way out to economic growth. Sheikh Hasina's initial response was to contemptuously dub the protesters as 'Razakars, a derogatory term used for those who collaborated with the East Pakistan regime to throttle the democratic ambitions of Bangladeshis and made the situation considerably worse.

In scenes straight out of Colombo during the public protests about a grave economic situation in Sri Lanka that saw the Rajapaksas flee to temporary havens, thousands of Bangladeshi protesters stormed the PM's residence in Dhaka after having publicised their Monday march. On the day after nearly 100 people, including policemen, had died in the worst clashes between the protesters and the law and order forces, a discontented crowd of students and youth has decided they had had enough of a leader who only paid lip service to meeting them and sorting out things.

Not an exemplary democrat at the best of times, Sheikh Hasina was guilty of squeezing the Opposition out and virtually forcing them into boycotting the last elections that validated the continuance of her 15-year rule. Such authoritarianism cannot be exhibited without risks in an open society like Bangladesh. She may have been expecting the Army brass to back her, but they gave her hardly any time to pack before putting her on a military plane to India.

In the month of July of extreme shows of public disaffection, Sheikh Hasina may have had the time to attempt the conciliatory approach, put the jobs quota on hold and speak to protesters instead of relying on the brute force of the riot police. Shutting the Internet, banning assemblies of people, declaring curfews and empowering the police to not only fire tear gas were the processes through which the government tried to stanch the burgeoning protests, buttressed by Opposition party loyalists who smelt an opportunity.

Far more democratic ways may have been open to her to find a solution that would first restore public order, but she reacted exactly like an autocrat would. It was humiliating in the end that she had to flee with her sister fearing personal safety. As a friend of India, perhaps the most reliable of those in the region, she was supported in her flight to safety, and she landed in India.

What shape the geopolitics of the region takes even as a power struggle in Dhaka is certain to follow her departure is anybody's guess now. A democracy, though only notional thanks to Sheikh Hasina's machinations against the Opposition, may be in peril now that the Army brass has had to take charge, and the generals are likely to put in place an interim regime when power has landed in their lap.

Global meltdown triggered by US

It is always said that when America sneezes, the world catches a cold. Monday's global market rout, which wiped out nearly ₹15.34 lakh crore of investor wealth in India, has its origins in the United States. The trigger was the weaker-than-expected jobs report in the United States, which sparked recession fears in the world's largest economy. The Japanese markets have seen the steepest fall since 1987, after a surprise hike in interest rates announced by the Bank of Japan.

Economists at Goldman Sachs Group Inc. put the probability of a US recession in the next year to 25 per cent, which is 10 percentage points more than their previous forecast of 15 per cent. Analysts at JPMorgan were even more bearish, assigning a 50 per cent probability to a US recession.

A weaker US economy will have a twin impact on the Indian economy. The United States is the largest export destination for India, accounting for 18 per cent of its outbound trade. A weaker consumer demand in the United States will translate into softening exports from India. Similarly, if the US Federal Reserve slashes interest rates, it will exert pressure on all central banks, including that of India, to follow suit.

A weaker dollar will force other countries to recalibrate their currencies, which could lead to stoking supply-side imported inflation, throwing the world into an extended period of economic uncertainty.

While some experts argue that the fundamentals of the US economy were stronger, the fact remains that the jobs have seen lower-than-expected growth. Whether it was caused by the stress in the US economy or new advancements in technology, it is bound to affect consumer demand in the United States, which continues to be the largest economy in the world and will have a ripple effect around the world.

A weaker US economy will have a twin impact on the Indian economy. The United States is the largest export destination for India, accounting for 18 per cent of its outbound trade. A weaker consumer demand in the United States will translate into softening exports from India. Similarly, if the US Federal Reserve slashes interest rates, it will exert pressure on all central banks, including that of India, to follow suit.

A weaker dollar will force other countries to recalibrate their currencies, which could lead to stoking supply-side imported inflation, throwing the world into an extended period of economic uncertainty.

THE ASIAN AGE

KAUSHIK MITTER
Editor

K. SUDHAKAR
Printer & Publisher

THE ASIAN AGE office is located at:
New Delhi: Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002. Phone: (011) 23211124.

Published and Printed on behalf of and for:
Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited, Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110 002 at BFL Infotech Ltd., C-9, Sector-III, Noida -201301.

London: Quickmarsh Ltd, 8th Floor, Block 2, Elizabeth House, 39 York Road, London, SE1 7NQ.

RNI Registration number: 57290/94



Aakar Patel

Bid to regulate social media will fail, govt needs to hear its critics

The dictionary defines the word "propaganda" as being "information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view".

In Old India, propaganda was managed by controlling Doordarshan. Or at least that is what political parties assumed. The news segments in the evenings reported on the government and its agenda. The Opposition was given no space. This was accepted as being natural.

During elections, however, the Opposition would demand to be given as much screen time as the ruling party, especially in delivering their manifestos. Party leaders would read them out in front of the camera, and smaller parties would then ask to be given as much time as the larger ones.

With the coming of private news channels a quarter century ago, this changed and instead of Doordarshan, or perhaps along with it at least in the initial years, senior party leaders would come to panels in studios. It seemed that this was the dawn of independence and some of the senior journalists around today are the product of that time, particularly those who were in the old Star News segment which became NDTV.

The phenomenon of "Godi media" beginning in the months before 2014 took us back considerably to propaganda. This time it was worse than in Old India and more damaging. On Doordarshan, the Opposition was merely ignored; it was not daily vil-

ified and attacked and called anti-national. On Doordarshan, even when it was in the hands of hypocrites, the minorities were not the constant target and distraction was not the only game. In New India, this became the daily fare of the channels and have remained so for a decade.

But a third shift has now come, and while it is relatively recent it is so fully established that the government is moving to gain control over it. That shift is the rise of independent journalists using the social media to reach large audiences. This includes the set of people known as content creators, who might not necessarily be journalists by background but engage with current affairs through humour, particularly satire.

How large are their audiences? Have a look at the numbers. On YouTube, independent journalists have as much reach as news channels. Punya Prasun Bajpai (47 lakh subscribers), Ajit Anjum (61 lakh), Abhisar Sharma (67 lakh) and Ravish Kumar (1.1 crore) can rival entire news networks. Times Now (53 lakh subscribers), Republic (62 lakh) and India Today (93 lakh) are in the same region.

Dhruv Rathee (2.3 crore subscribers) has as much reach as Zee News (3.6 crore).

Indeed, in many ways the reach of the independent voices is more because of the concentration of their content on one specific daily issue.

The average Ravish Kumar video gets over 10 lakh views while the average one from Zee gets a few

thousand, because there are so many of them. Distribution of these clips through WhatsApp further amplifies the independent voice's reach. The sharing of advertising revenue by social media networks like YouTube afford these individuals the opportunity to be able to do their work outside of a corporate space. In addition to the journalists, a set of humourists has risen to comment on our times. They are a product of the stranglehold of the Godi media and the suffocation people have felt of having propaganda inflicted on them. A few names are worthy of mention, like Bhagat Ram, Ms Medusa, Meghnaad, Garima, Ranting Gola, Shyam Rangeela and Urvish Kothari, all of whom I follow and greatly admire and whose work I enjoy.

Unfortunately for the government, there are few quality creators on the other side. This is because propaganda and sycophancy are not good ingredients for humour. Godi creators tend to produce content that is sullen and angry and for this reason generally ignored.

It will take an academic paper or a book to examine the effect of the independent voices on our democracy. There is to my mind little doubt that they have managed to loosen the monopoly of the Narendra Modi government on narrative.

It is for this reason that the government has moved to throttle the voices of the creators and independent journalists. This is being done through the broadcast bill, a draft of which is being circulated.

Essentially, it seeks to regulate everyone who is on the social media because that is the only way in which the government can interfere, block and ban content it doesn't want seen. The government is also trying to go after independent websites like The Wire, Scroll, Newsland and Newsminute.

Because these creators are independent individuals on social media, they cannot be licensed or regulated in the way that news channels can. This is why the government is attempting to do this with the broadest of definitions that will affect every single person using the social media. The intent might be to use the law in targeted fashion but that will not be how it will turn out. Bad laws produce bad outcomes. Will the Modi government be successful in pushing the regulation through? It will not. This is not the same place we were last year. There are too many obstacles for it and too many points of resistance.

Even if it had been passed in the previous Parliament through brute force, it would have been a total mess in implementation. The Prime Minister and his Cabinet will be compelled to do what governments in other democracies must listen to criticism from citizens and tolerate it and even learn from it. In doing so, perhaps they can also get a laugh out of the material, as many of us so often do.

The writer is the chair of Amnesty International India. Twitter: @aakar_patel



Art 370 move 5 years ago a game-changer for India



Syed Ata Hasnain

On August 5, 2019, the Government of India surprised everyone with a bold and momentous decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution; a decision which was subsequently upheld by the Supreme Court of India. Five years down the line, there may be different perceptions about how successful the post-370 era has been in Jammu and Kashmir. There will be many comparisons between now and the earlier period, in the context of the economy, development indices, quantum of happiness, level of freedom and further aspirations of the people of J&K.

Most opinions will be positive, and rightly so. The freedom of movement, social interaction, conduct of business, pursuit of education and simply the quality of life of the people has undergone a huge margin of change. There will be statistics galore to prove how graphs have moved positively but none of that is required when you simply assess with experience the intense period of instability that J&K had undergone. Compare that period gone by with current times, and more important, look at the future. It will be incorrect to label the current situation as one of normalcy. As someone who professionally looks at conflict termination and its resolution, I would reserve my adjectives simply so as not to go overboard. I would not be conservative either. A lot has changed due to the momentous decision. Change has taken place in the daily lives of the people, and perhaps the biggest and most unrealised change is the return of dignity to them. Hybrid conflicts of a proxy nature, where terrorism is the core entity,

and happiness can never come when there is societal sulk, something which existed in good measure. It is not as if J&K has been converted into an El Dorado but life has become much more normal where the young can meet over coffee and families can go shopping. The era when people, irrespective of status, were subjected to frequent frisking at checkpoints by stern troops who only did their job, was one which no citizen of J&K would wish to return to. That is the reason why it's been easier to remove separatist influence and neutralise terror networks. On the anniversary, or near about, of the abrogation of Article 370, the inevitable question that a suspicious strategic mind like mine will ask is this: can all this be turned around yet again, against the nation and against the people?

The situation in Jammu division is triggering the above question in the minds of many people, and it deserves an answer. The reality is that 30 years of hybrid strife can perhaps not be rooted out by five years of near normalcy. We have achieved much but cannot be lulled by that because such situations are many times transitional. We have changed things internally but nothing much externally. Pakistan, with its intent against J&K, remains existent without any change in its approach or attitude. The radical elements which make up the terrorist ranks have only proliferated and Pakistan is much more emboldened

by its strategic partnership with China. The separatists are still there, comparatively irrelevant but existent. That is why eyes cannot be taken away from the scanner; the horizon has too many straws in the wind. The terror revival in Jammu division of sorts should not perturb us too much. There it cannot be on a mass scale. Pakistan is also aware of its limitations of pursuing the Jammu dividend. The centre of gravity for Pakistan lies in the Kashmir Valley. A military terrain analysis will reveal that by straining the Pir Panjal region, nothing much is achieved by Pakistan except a few casualties inflicted on Indian security forces, in which too it is a matter of time before there is a reversal of fortunes, now that the counter-terrorism grid, the intelligence networks and the fraternisation with the population has received an impetus. Pakistan also knows that well and it is proliferating action to the Line of Control.

What definitely needs to be realised by the leadership and the people of India is that ours is one of the rare nations which has effectively countered a very active proxy hybrid war, although it may have taken us several years doing so. Our initiation may have been entirely kinetic but in recent years the adoption of a combination of the political, military, social, economic and very largely a psychological approach has paid us rich dividends. The August 5, 2019 decision by the Government of India was something which should have happened in 1972 as a sideshow to the Shimla Agreement, such was our moral ascendancy then. If not then, it could have happened on February 22, 1994 when the Joint Resolution of Parliament was passed on J&K. It finally happened five years ago, unexpectedly, but as a complete game-changer.

The writer, a retired lieutenant-general, is a former GOC of the Srinagar-based 15 ("Chinar") Corps

LETTERS

HICKORY DICKORY DOCK

In an odd incident last week, Hyderabad's 135-year-old iconic Charminar clock was damaged by pigeons, with an "L" shaped hole noticed on the white background of the clock near the 25-minute mark. The impairment highlights the challenges faced in preserving historical monuments. Pigeon infestation is a common issue in many ancient structures, often leading to significant damage over time. The hole in the clock's dial board, although seemingly minor, represents a broader issue of maintaining the integrity of heritage sites. The Charminar clock is more than a timepiece; it is a part of Hyderabad's rich history. Ensuring its preservation, therefore, is essential to maintaining the cultural heritage of the city for future generations.

R. Sivakumar
Chennai

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

WHO COULD have asked for a more intriguing and a close contest on a Sunday that added yet another unforgettable moment to India's hockey history when it snatched victory from the jaws of defeat? After surprising world-class Australia for the first time in 52 years, India continued their winning streak by defeating England 4-2 in a nail-biting finish to enter the Olympics semi-finals. All credit to veteran goalie P.R. Sreejesh for a marvellous display. The semi-finals will be played on August 6. Will India repeat the feat of the eight-time gold-winning Indian team of yesteryears?

Vijay Singh Adhikari
Nainital

MONSOON MEASURES

WATERLOGGING IS a big problem during the monsoon. The authorities must make arrangements for regularly cleaning drainage pipes. Waterlogging occurs when pipes are blocked due to garbage which flows into it with the rainwater. So, if the pipes are cleaned regularly, these would not be blocked and this problem would be minimised. Potholes should also be filled before the onset of the monsoon. The sale of polythene bags should be banned as polythene chokes the drains. Roads which get waterlogged every monsoon should be identified and water pumps should be installed to clear the water.

Jubel D'Cruz
Mumbai

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹500. Email: asianage.letters@gmail.com.



SHORT TAKES

**INDONESIA
REBELS KILL NZ
HELICOPTER PILOT**

Jakarta, Aug. 5: Separatist rebels in Indonesia's eastern-most region of Papua on Monday killed a helicopter pilot from New Zealand, police said, adding four passengers aboard the aircraft were safe.

The pilot was killed immediately after rebels rounded up those on board after the helicopter landed in an isolated area, police said in a statement.

It comes nearly 18 months after the abduction by rebels of another pilot from New Zealand, Phillip Mehrrens, who remains in captivity.

**VIETNAM TYCOON
GETS 21 YEARS'
JAIL FOR FRAUD**

Hanoi, Aug. 5: A former Vietnamese property and aviation tycoon was jailed for 21 years on Monday for fraud and stock market manipulation worth \$146 million, state media said.

Trinh Van Quyet was among 50 defendants found guilty in what is the latest corruption case targeting the communist country's business elite.

A Hanoi court said Quyet, who owned the FLC empire of luxury resorts, golf courses and budget carrier Bamboo Airways, was given the heaviest sentence because he was the leader of the scam.

**90 ETHIOPIAN
MIGRANTS SAVED
IN SOUTH AFRICA**

Johannesburg, Aug. 5: South African police said they rescued 90 Ethiopian migrants who were being held against their will at a property in Johannesburg.

Police carried out a search at the property on Sunday for a person reported to have been kidnapped and discovered the migrants, they said.

Two people were arrested on suspicion of kidnapping and human trafficking. The alleged kidnapping victim was also rescued, police said Monday. The Ethiopian migrants are believed to have been illegally trafficked.

**MUSK REVIVES
SUIT AGAINST
ALTMAN, OPENAI**

California, Aug. 5: Billionaire Elon Musk revived a lawsuit against ChatGPT maker OpenAI and its CEO Sam Altman on Monday, saying that the firm put profits and commercial interests ahead of the public good.

It marks Musk's latest attempt to oppose the startup he co-founded in 2015 and left three years later. Since his exit, OpenAI has gone on to become the face of generative AI, while Musk started another rival startup, xAI, last year that was valued at \$24 billion in May.

**UKRAINE GETS
\$3.9 BILLION
FROM AMERICA**

Kyiv, Aug. 5: Ukraine has received a \$3.9 billion grant from the United States via the World Bank, Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said on Monday.

"This is the first tranche of direct budget support from the United States in 2024," Shmyhal said on the Telegram messaging app.

"In total, Ukraine will receive \$7.8 billion in direct budgetary assistance from the United States this year, which will allow us to confidently pass this financial period," he added.

JUST OVER A MONTH AFTER HE BECAME BANGLADESH'S ARMY CHIEF, GENERAL WAKER-UZ-ZAMAN HAS BEEN THRUST INTO THE LIMELIGHT, ANNOUNCING THE RESIGNATION OF PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA WHO FLED THE COUNTRY ON MONDAY.



- **June 23, '24:** Waker-Uz-Zaman, 58, assumed the duties of Army chief for a period of three years.
- **1966:** Born in Dhaka. He is married to Sarahnaz Kamalika Zaman, the daughter of General Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, who was Army chief from 1997 to 2000.
- **6 months:** Served as the Chief of Gen-

- eral Staff before becoming Army chief.
- Zaman holds a Masters degree in Defence Studies from the National University of Bangladesh and a Master of Arts in Defence Studies from King's College, London.
- He also served as the principal staff officer at the Armed Forces Division under the Prime Minister's Office.

"We will now go to the president of the country, where we will discuss about the formation of the interim government, form the interim government, and manage the nation."
— GENERAL WAKER-UZ-ZAMAN
Bangladesh's Army chief



Protesters climb a public monument as they celebrate after getting the news of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation, in Dhaka, on Monday. — AP

PM ousted, Army Chief takes charge

Waker-Uz-Zaman says he's taking full responsibility and assures that all injustices will be addressed

Dhaka, Aug. 5: Bangladesh Army chief Waker-Uz-Zaman spent nearly four decades rising to the top of the military and said on Monday he was "taking full responsibility" after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was ousted and fled.

Bedecked with medal ribbons on his green fatigues and wearing a four-star general's cap, Waker said 76-year-old Hasina had quit and that the Army would "form an interim government".

"I give you my word that all the injustices will be addressed," the career infantry officer said in a broadcast to the nation on state television, although it was not immediately clear if he would head the new government.

"The country has suffered a lot, the economy has been hit, many people have been killed — it is time to stop the violence." The mild-looking, bespectacled officer was appointed as chief of Army staff, the military's top job, only in June. Hasina had trusted him because he was a distant relative.

The experienced soldier has served as a UN peacekeeper as well as in Hasina's office. His father-in-law was Army chief during the first of Hasina's five terms as prime minister from 1996-2001.

The military declared an emergency in January 2007 after widespread political unrest and installed a caretaker government for two years.

Hasina then ruled Bangladesh from 2009 and won her fourth consecutive election in January after a vote without genuine opposition.

As protesters stormed Hasina's palace on Monday and she fled by helicopter, Waker said he would speak to the President to form a government. He vowed that the new authorities would "prosecute all murders" following weeks of deadly protests.

The Army was deployed on the streets to crush the protests last month but shifted on Sunday and in several instances allowed demonstrations to go on.

Waker said he had held talks with the main opposition parties and civil society members, although not with Hasina's Awami League.

"All of us together will forge a beautiful future," he said. "If we work together, we can achieve a favourable outcome."

The Bangladesh Military Academy graduate, who served two tours as a UN peacekeeper in Angola and Liberia, called for the weeks of protests to stop.

At least 300 people were killed in the unrest.

"If the situation gets better, there is no need for emergency," he said.

Waker appealed to the university students who first launched protests in early July to support the Army. The protests were initially against government hiring rules but spiralled into demands for Hasina to leave office. s— AFP



Thousands of anti-government protesters display Bangladesh's national flag as they storm and occupy former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's palace in Dhaka on Monday. — AFP

Attack on Mujib statue, former home shows role of extremists

GOUTAMI SENGUPTA with agency inputs HYDERABAD, AUG. 5

The demolition of the statue of the revered Bangabandhu, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, as well as the raid on his memorial museum, located in his residence at 32 Dhanmondi in Dhaka, is seen as an expression of the influence of Pakistani ideology that permeated various facets of administration and politics starting from his assassination.

Mujibur Rahman was assassinated in 1975, four years after he won the war for Independence, along with most members of his family. Luckily, his daughter and ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina was saved as she was away in London at that time.

Within hours of Bangabandhu's assassination, the government led by Khondkar Mushtaq Ahmed, who assumed the presidency with the support of the Army, changed the slogan 'Joy Bangla,' the chant of the 1971 Liberation War; to 'Bangladesh Zindabad,' Bangladesh Betar (Radio) was renamed 'Radio Bangladesh'.

The active participation of the banned organisation Jamaat-e-Islami in the current anti-Hasina movement has brought back old memories. The breaking of Mujib's statue and the burning of the Dhanmondi Museum are indicative of this resurgence.

Protesters laid siege to the official residence of Ganabhaban, the Prime Minister's official residence, after Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana fled the country, at around 2.30 pm on Monday. Reports of Hasina leaving the country sparked a wave of violence and looting of Ganabhaban.

Protesters also targeted the residence of home minister Asaduzzaman Khan in Dhanmondi. Hundreds of protesters were seen entering the residences of other ministers.

Amidst the turmoil, some protesters attempted to control the situation and condemned the vandalism, urging that the country's wealth should not be destroyed. Ayesha, a protester from Rajshahi, told *Deccan Chronicle* from Dhaka, "We are against this vulgarity; the country's wealth should not be destroyed."



The Bangabandhu Memorial Museum is set on fire by anti-government protesters in Dhaka on Monday. — AFP

Unruly mob defaces Indian cultural centre

Dhaka, Aug. 5: An Indian cultural centre was vandalised by an unruly mob in Bangladesh's capital and four Hindu temples suffered "minor" damages across the country on Monday, eyewitnesses and a community leader said.

Kajol Debnath, Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council leader, said he has received reports that at least

4 Hindu temples were damaged across the country. "These are minor damages," he said.

The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre located in Dhaka's Dhanmondi area was damaged by the unruly mob. The protesters also set fire to several key locations in Dhaka, including Bangabandhu Bhaban. — PTI

HISTORY OF COUPS

1975: The country's first Prime minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Hasina's father, was assassinated along with most of his family members in a military coup. Two more coups in the same year ended with General Ziaur Rahman seizing power in November.

1981: Ziaur Rahman was assassinated by rebels who stormed a Chittagong government guest house where he was residing.

1982: Rahman's successor, Abduus Sattar, was ousted in a bloodless military coup led by Hussein Muhammad Ershad, who took over as chief martial-law administrator and later assumed the office of president.

2007: The Army chief staged a military coup and backed a caretaker government that ruled the country for the next two years until Hasina took power in 2009.

2009: Unhappy with their wages and living conditions, revolting paramilitary forces killed more than 70 people in Dhaka.

2012: The Bangladesh Army foils a coup attempt by retired and serving officers.

Army gave Hasina 45 mins to quit, says AL

AGE CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, AUG. 5

Following Sheikh Hasina's departure from Bangladesh, the Awami League (AL) has alleged that the Bangladesh Army gave the Prime Minister only 45 minutes to resign. According to a member of the AL who spoke to the *Deccan Chronicle*, Hasina sought

to address the nation before resigning, but Army Chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman did not grant her that opportunity.

The Army Chief reportedly stated that the military is taking control of the country "for now," with plans to oversee the formation of a new government.

In a subsequent address to the nation, Army Chief

acknowledged the country is in a critical phase. He announced that discussions will be held with President Mohammad Sahabuddin regarding the formation of an interim government in accordance with the Constitution. The Army Chief assured that those responsible for recent violence would be brought to justice.

General Zaman also expressed optimism about productive discussions with political leaders. He said, "I had a constructive dialogue with them. The PM has resigned, and we will form an interim government to manage the situation. Please be patient; we are committed to resolving all issues together." He indicated that a cur-

few or state of emergency might not be necessary if the situation stabilises.

According to the esteemed Bangladeshi newspaper *Prothom Alo*, General Zaman has already met with leaders from various parties, including the BNP, Jatiya Party, and Jamaat-e-Islami, to navigate the evolving political landscape. — PTI

Hezbollah says it launched a drone attack on N. Israel

Jerusalem, Aug. 5: The Lebanese militant group Hezbollah said it launched a drone attack on Monday on northern Israel that the Israeli military said wounded two Israeli troops and set off a fire.

The violence came as fears of an all-out regional war mount following the killings last week of a senior Hezbollah commander in Lebanon and Hamas' top political leader in Iran.

The Iranian-backed Hezbollah said in a statement it targeted a military base in northern

Israel in response to attacks and assassinations carried out by Israel in several villages in south Lebanon.

The attack did not appear to be part of a more intense retaliation expected in response to the killing of Hezbollah commander Fouad Shukur in Beirut last week.

Israel and Hezbollah have exchanged near-daily strikes for the past 10 months against the backdrop of the war in Gaza, but they have previously kept the conflict at a low level that had not escalated

into full-on war.

Last week's assassinations of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran's capital, Tehran, and Hezbollah commander Shukur in Beirut raised tensions in the region. Israel has been bracing for a retaliation from Iran and its allied militias.

Gen. Hossein Salami, the head of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, threatened Israel on Monday over the assassination of Haniyeh, warning that Israel was digging its own grave. — AP

IMRAN SAYS IT WILL BE FOOLISH NOT TO HAVE GOOD ARMY TIES

Islamabad, Aug. 5: Pakistan's jailed former prime minister, Imran Khan, who blames the military for his ouster and 12-month-old imprisonment on what he calls trumped-up charges, said on Sunday it would be "foolish" not to have an excellent relationship with the Army.

Ahead of Monday's anniversary of his jailing on dozens of charges ranging from corruption to leaking state secrets, Khan also said in written responses to



Imran Khan

Reuters questions that he held no grudge against the United States, which he has also blamed for his 2022 ouster from office. — Reuters

Harris' V-P choice now narrows to Walz, Shapiro

Washington, Aug. 5: 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 US Vice-President, is expected to announce her selection by Tuesday, ahead of her first scheduled public appearance with her running mate in the evening at Temple University in Philadelphia. It was unclear if a final



Kamala Harris

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. Speculation had focused on six men in all — four governors, a senator and a Cabinet secretary in the Biden administration.

Harris closed out her search by interviewing three top candidates — Walz, Shapiro and US Senator Mark Kelly of Arizona. — Reuters

quick BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	78,759.40 -2.74
Nifty 50	24,055.60 -2.68
S&P 500*	5,185.69 -3.01
Dollar (₹)	83.85 0.11
Pound Sterling (₹)	106.85 0.15
Euro (₹)	91.83 1.34
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	69,026.763 -1.09
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	76.49 -0.42
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.860 -0.041
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	3.725 -0.071

* As of 8:30 PM IST

CtrlS Datacenters to invest ₹400 cr in Patna facility

CtrlS Datacenters on Monday said it will invest about ₹400 crore in the greenfield data-centre in Patna and has acquired land for the new facility. The datacentre is expected to be operational by the second-half of FY 25-26. CtrlS Datacenters plans to invest approximately ₹400 crore in this new datacentre, which will boast a 10MW IT load capacity and house approximately 1,000 racks, the company said.



RBI proposes new guidelines for credit risk models

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday proposed to lay down principles for management of model risks in credit for banks and other regulated entities with a view to ensuring prudence and robustness. Inherently, model outputs are exposed to uncertainties as they are based on assumptions which may not manifest in the envisaged ways and may take different forms in a real-world scenario, the RBI said.

Airtel Q1 net profit up 2.5-fold to ₹4,160 crore

Bharti Airtel reported more than 2.5 times jump in its consolidated profit to ₹4,160 crore in the first quarter ended on June 30, 2024, compared to the year-ago period. The company posted a profit of ₹1,612.5 crore in the same period a year ago. The consolidated revenue from operations of Bharti Airtel increased by 2.8 per cent to ₹38,506.4 cr during the reported quarter from ₹37,440 cr in June quarter of last year.

Cargo traffic at 12 major ports rises to 70 MT

Cargo traffic at 12 major ports in the country grew 5.92 per cent to 70.08 million tonnes (MT) in July from 66.17 MT handled in the year-ago period, according to the data released by major ports' apex body Indian Ports Association (IPA). The data also showed that 10 of these major ports logged positive growth in cargo traffic handling, while the remaining two saw a negative growth, as per the IPA.

Printed & Published by K. Sudhakar on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at BFL Infotech Ltd, C-9 Sector 3, Noida-201301. Published at 219, N D Tiwari Bhawan, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002. Editor: Kaushik Mitter, RNI Registration number 30074/09, Air surcharge Re 1. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor, Financial Chronicle is prohibited.

Meltdown erodes ₹15.3 lakh cr

Sensex sinks 2,222.7 points, Nifty-50 down 662 points on Monday

RAVI NANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, AUG. 5

Market investors' wealth shrank by over ₹15.32 lakh crore as stock market witnessed sharp decline of 2.7 per cent over negative global cues, mainly U.S. on recession worries after weak job data and yen carry trade getting impacted by interest rate hike in Japan leading to massive 12.4 per cent fall in the Nikkei 225 index.

A (Yen) carry trade is one in which money managers borrow in the currency with the lowest interest rates (yen, in this case), and deploy that money in other assets - equities, bonds, commodities, currencies - that offer a higher return.

Major Asian markets fell - China's Shanghai Composite (-1.54 per cent), Hong Kong's Hang Seng (-1.46 per cent), South Korea's Kospi (-8.77 per cent). European market were also down by more than two per cent around 8 pm IST.

The Sensex fell 2,222.55 points or 2.74 per cent to 78,759 points while Nifty-50 fell 2.68 per cent or 662.10 points to 24,055.60.

Market opened in the red



after the weekend break as Friday's selloff in the US and European market had a ripple effect in the Asian market too.

It was the sixth biggest fall by points for the Sensex in history. BSE's market capitalisation fell sharply by over ₹15.32 lakh crore to over ₹441.84 lakh crore from Friday's over ₹457.16 lakh crore as market bore a look of sea of red with broader market fall even sharper as BSE mid-cap index fell 3.60 per cent and BSE small-cap fell 4.21 per cent.

The Sensex was down intraday by 2,686.09 points touching a low of 78,295.86 on panic selling and Nifty-50 registered intraday fall of 824 points to 23,893.70 points.

Only two of Sensex stocks - Hindustan Unilever and Nestle India and five of Nifty-50 stocks - HUL, Tata Consumer, Nestle, Britannia and HDFC Life managed to close in the green.

Out of the 4,189 stocks traded on the BSE, only 638 stocks advanced compared to 3,446 declines and 105 closed unchanged. Foreign portfolio invest-

ors were net sellers of equities worth of ₹10,073.75 crore while domestic institutions were net buyers of equities worth ₹9,155.55 crore. Barring the BSE FMCG (-0.72 per cent), all other sectoral indices fell heavily from 1.81 per cent to 4.73 per cent.

Volatility index, popularly as fear gauge, rose by 42.2 per cent to 20.3 and intraday rose close to 60 per cent to 23.1 indicating highly volatile market movement in near future.

"The Bank of Japan's rate hike has significantly

Global Market	Monday's Fall (%)
Nikkei 225 (Japan)	-12.40
Shanghai Composite (China)	-1.54
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	-1.46
Kospi (South Korea)	-8.77
Sensex (India)	-2.74
Nifty-50 (India)	-2.68
Dax (Germany)	-2.25*
CAC (France)	-1.75*
FTSE 100 (UK)	-2.19*

FC Research/ Around 8.20 PM IST

impacted global markets. While Japanese rates are set to rise, the rest of the world is expected to cut rates. This shift disrupts the reflexive strategies that market participants have relied on for nearly three decades. Investors are grappling with this new reality, likely leading to the unwinding of the famous yen carry trade. The sharp decline in the Nikkei index reflects this adjustment," said Vikas V. Gupta, chief executive officer and chief investment strategist, OmniScience Capital.

"Renewed speculation about a long-anticipated U.S. recession has emerged, due to a slightly higher unemployment rate. Despite the concerns, we believe the U.S. economy remains strong," said Gupta.

"The end of Japan's carry trade is a key concern. As central banks tighten monetary policies, borrowing costs increase, causing a shift away from riskier assets. Uncertainty in U.S. economic data and global political instability further exacerbate market volatility," said Sharad Chandra Shukla, director, Mehta Equities.

Service sector in July sees upturn in business activity

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
NEW DELHI, AUG. 5



With the robust growth in the services sector, Indian service providers experienced a further upturn in business activity during the month of July. The respondents mostly cited investment in technology, online offerings, new business gains and rosy demand as main drivers of growth, a private survey showed on Monday.

As per the survey, the seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services Business Activity Index stood at 60.3 in July, down only fractionally from 60.5 in June. In the purchasing managers' index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"Service sector activity rose at a slightly slower pace in July, with new business increasing further, primarily driven by domestic demand," said Pranjal Bhandari, chief India economist at HSBC.

However, the survey also noted that new export orders increased at the third-strongest pace since the inception.

On the price front, the survey further said that higher wage and material costs continued to push up business expenses, with the overall rate of inflation quickening from June.

"Stronger cost pressures and positive demand trends contributed to the steepest rise in prices

● SERVICES FIRMS remained strongly optimistic about growth prospects. Around 30 per cent of the survey panel forecast greater output volumes in the next 12 months, while only 2 per cent expect a decline.

charged for the provision of services for seven years," it added.

As per the survey, favourable economic conditions and optimistic expectations for output supported recruitment among services firms.

"Looking ahead, services firms remained strongly optimistic about growth prospects. Around 30 per cent of the survey panel forecast greater output volumes in the next 12 months, while only 2 per cent expect a decline," the survey noted.

Meanwhile, the HSBC India Composite Output Index posted 60.7 in July, down only fractionally from 60.9 in June and above the crucial 50.0 no-change mark for the thirty-sixth month running.

"Robust demand conditions led firms to increase hiring levels," Bhandari added.

India GDP to grow at 7-7.2%: Deloitte

New Delhi, Aug. 5: India's economy is expected to grow at 7-7.2 per cent in the current fiscal year driven by robust economic fundamentals and continuity in domestic policy reforms, Deloitte India said on Monday.

The August update of Deloitte's India Economic Outlook said several initiatives in the Union Budget 2024-25 toward improving agriculture productivity, creating jobs for the youth, and in manufacturing and addressing the challenge of access to finance for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), would help improve supply-side demand, curb inflation, and prop up consumer spending mainly in the rural areas.

Deloitte India economist Rumki Majumdar said, India will witness robust growth in the second half after a period of uncer-

● REDUCING THE urban and rural spending gap in the coming years will ensure sustained consumer demand from a larger consumer base.

tainty in the first six months of the year.

"Key contributing factors include the continuity in domestic policy reforms, reduced uncertainties in the US post-elections, and more synchronous global growth within a low inflation regime," Majumdar added.

"The much-desirable policy pivot was evident in the Union Budget presented last month. Reducing the urban and rural spending gap in the coming years will ensure sustained consumer demand from a larger consumer base," the report added. —PTI

Car sales in July rise 10% on new models, discounts

New Delhi, Aug. 5: Passenger vehicle (PV) retail sales in India witnessed a 10 per cent on-year jump in July driven by new model launches and enhanced discounts, industry body FADA said on Monday.

Total PV retail sales rose to 3.2 lakh units in July, as compared to 2.9 lakh units in July 2023.

"Dealers reported benefits from good product availability, attractive schemes, and a wider range of products," the federation of automobile dealers associations (FADA) vice-president C S Vigneshwar said.

Heavy rains, low consumer sentiment, and intense competition posed challenges but dealers managed to sustain sales through strong promotions and incremental discounts, he added.

Vigneshwar, however, noted that the growth is accompanied by high



inventory levels which has surged to a historic high of 67-72 days, equating to ₹73,000 crores worth of stock.

"This poses a substantial risk for dealer sustainability, necessitating extreme caution. FADA urges PV original equipment manufacturers to be vigilant about potential dealer failures due to high inventory levels," he stated.

Two-wheeler retail sales last month stood at 14.4 lakh units, an increase of 17 per cent over 12.3 lakh units in July 2023.

The segment experienced notable growth due to a thriving rural economy, positive monsoon

effects, and the government's support programs enhancing rural incomes, Vigneshwar noted.

"The introduction of new products and better stock availability also contributed significantly, despite market slowdowns in certain regions," he added.

Commercial vehicle retail sales grew 7 per cent year-on-year to 80,057 units last month.

"Positive factors included growth in the construction and mining sectors, while challenges such as continuous rainfall, negative rural market sentiment, poor finance availability, and high vehicle prices were also noted," Vigneshwar said.

Tractor sales declined 12 per cent year-on-year to 79,970 units in July.

The festive season, attractive schemes and good monsoon are expected to boost sales, FADA said. —PTI



NEW SHIPBUILDING SCHEME ON CARDS TO OFFER INCENTIVES

New Delhi, Aug. 5: The ministry of ports, shipping and waterways (MoPSW) is working on a new shipbuilding scheme, which would incentivise Indian shipyards till 2035 by various measures, a senior government official has said.

Ports, shipping and waterways secretary T K Ramachandran further said with the new policy, India will endeavour to be among the top 10 shipbuilding nations by 2030 and the top five by 2047, from 22nd in the world at present.

Ramachandran also said global cruise major MSC Cruises, based out of Geneva, has expressed willingness to deploy their ships for domestic itinerary.

He said MoPSW in coordination with ministry of petroleum and natural gas is planning to have a JV between shipping corporation of India (SCI) and oil marketing companies to own large tankers. "The model of ownership is still to be decided depending upon demand requirement and market conditions," Ramachandran added. —PTI

PSB Mudra loan NPAs fall to 3.4%, says FM

FC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said that public sector banks' non-performing assets (NPAs) associated with the Mudra loan category have declined to 3.4 per cent in the 2023-24 fiscal.

"This marks an improvement from 4.77 per cent in 2020-21, 4.89 per cent in 2019-20, and 3.76 per cent in 2018-19," she said while responding to questions regarding the non-performing assets (NPA) in

the Lok Sabha.

"Mudra loan NPAs in private sector commercial banks fell to 0.95 per cent in FY24 from a peak of 1.77 per cent in FY21 and 0.67 per cent in FY19. Regional rural banks' NPAs also dropped from 3.86 per cent in 2018-19 to 2.47 per cent in 2023-24," she said.

Notably, NBFCs reported a decline in NPA from 0.47 per cent in FY19 to 0.22 per cent in FY24. "Overall, the NPA on disbursement for mudra loans has come down to 2.10 per cent," Sitharaman added.

DIGITAL | MONEY

RBI's CBDC likely to stay in pilot stage for next couple of years

Fintech players seek to join RBI's e-rupee

Mumbai, Aug. 5: GooglePay, Walmart-backed PhonePe and AmazonPay are among five payment firms seeking to join the Indian central bank's digital currency pilot by offering transactions via the e-rupee, three sources directly involved in the discussions said.

Fintech firms Cred and Mobikwik also applied to join the pilot, the sources added.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) started a pilot for e-rupee, a digital alternative to the physical currency, in Dec. 2022. After

an initial surge, e-rupee transactions have declined, reflecting the struggle central banks globally have faced in popularising digital currencies.

GooglePay and Amazon Pay are payments applications offered by Google and Amazon, respectively, that facilitate retail payments over unified payments interface (UPI).

Initially, the apex bank had permitted only banks to offer central bank digital currency (CBDC) via their mobile applications, but in April it said payment firms could also offer e-rupee transactions



via their platform once approved by the RBI.

Payment firms are working closely with the RBI and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and are expected to roll out access to e-rupee over the next three-to-four



seven of the 11 indicators moderated in the first quarter this fiscal, relative to fourth quarter of FY24, due to the impact of general elections on construction activity. These include the Centre's capex, capital outlay and net lending of 24 states, medium and heavy com-

mercial vehicle truck registrations, exports of engineering goods, infrastructure credit, and output of cement and capital goods. Notably, all the indicators, barring finished steel consumption, reported single-digit growth in this period, said Ica.

Further, housing activity slowed during the first quarter this fiscal as the area sold in the top seven cities fell by 14.6 per cent over the previous quarter to 168.2 mn sq.ft., partly owing to seasonality, the agency said.

● PAYMENT FIRMS are working closely with the RBI and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and are expected to roll out access to e-rupee over the next three-to-four months, the sources said.

While transactions using the digital currency had risen to over 1 million a day late last year, they have since declined to about 1,00,000-2,00,000 a day, the source said. Allowing payment firms

Lok Sabha applies guillotine to approve expenditure

FC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

After applying a guillotine, the Lok Sabha on Monday approved the budget estimates for expenditure contained in the demands for grants for different ministries. The guillotine was applied after the House discussed demands for grants of 4 ministries, namely railways, education, health and fisheries.

About a total of ₹140 lakh crore expenditure demands of different ministries of the central gov-

ernment was approved by the House, completing two-thirds of the legislative approvals needed for the full Budget for 2024-25.

Guillotine means that the demands for grants for the ministries, on which it is being applied, are approved without a discussion and demand for grants is a request for funds made by ministries.

The House also passed the Appropriation Bill 2024, which authorises the government to use certain sums from and out of the consolidated fund of India for services of FY25.



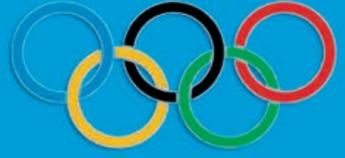
SFIO INVESTIGATING ISSUES OF SAHARA REFUNDS: NIRMALA

FC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, AUG. 5

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said that the serious fraud investigation office (SFIO) is carrying out a detailed probe into the matter related to the Sahara group of companies and it is also looking into the reason behind a sizeable number of investors not coming forward to claim the invested money in the company.

"The entire affairs of the Sahara group are being monitored by the Supreme Court and the government is acting according to the directives of the apex court. It is true that only small investors have come forward to claim the refunds. SFIO is also looking into why all the investors have not come forward to claim refunds and where they are," Sitharaman said.

"The SFIO is going into a detailed analysis of this. At the end of it more legitimate claimants come to take money. The whole picture will be clear and action can be taken after detailed analysis of SFIO," she added.



MEDAL TABLE

COUNTRY	G	S	B	T
China	21	17	14	52
USA	19	29	27	75
Australia	13	11	8	32
France	12	15	18	45
South Korea	11	8	7	26
Great Britain	10	13	17	40
Japan	10	5	11	26
Italy	9	10	6	25
Netherlands	6	5	4	15
Germany	6	5	3	14
India	0	0	3	3

short takes

Bhaker is flag bearer at closing ceremony

Star shooter Manu Bhaker, who created history by winning two bronze medals at the Paris Games, is set to be India's flag bearer at the Olympic closing ceremony on Sunday. Manu opened India's medal account at the ongoing Games by winning a bronze in individual 10m air pistol event, becoming the first marksman from the country to win an Olympic medal. She then joined forces with Sarabjot Singh to bag the 10m air pistol mixed team bronze. "Yes, Manu has been chosen to be the flag bearer. She has done exceptionally well and deserves the honour," an IOA official said. The 22-year-old shooter from Haryana had earlier said it would be an honour to be India's as flag bearer. "There are many in the contingent who are more deserving but it will be a real honour, if I am asked to," Manu had said. IOA has not named a male flag bearer yet but are likely announce one in the coming days.

Kiran finishes 7th, semis hopes alive

India's Kiran Pahal failed to book an automatic semifinal spot in women's 400m after finishing seventh in her heat race of the Paris Olympics on Monday and she will now run in repechage round. Kiran, who turned 24 on Monday, clocked 52.51 seconds which was well below her season's and personal best of 50.92 seconds. World champion Marileidy Paulino of Dominica won the heat with a time of 49.42, followed by Aaliyah Butler (50.52) of USA and Susanne Gogl-Walli (50.67) of Austria. Top three in each of the six heats advanced to semifinal. All the others — except for DNS (Did Not Start), DNF (Did Not Finish) and DQ (Disqualified)—moved to the repechage round to be held on Tuesday. Pahal had made direct qualification to Paris Olympics after clocking her personal best of 50.92 seconds in the National Inter-State Championships in June. A repechage round was introduced in Paris Olympics to all individual track events from 200m to 1,500m, including the hurdles events. The new format replaced the earlier one where some athletes advanced to the semifinals through fastest times in addition to the top placings in the first round heats.

Triathlon goes ahead with swims in Seine

Olympic triathletes plunged into the Seine River on Monday morning as the mixed relay event got underway after organisers said the bacteria levels in the long-polluted Paris waterway were at acceptable levels. The plan to hold the swimming portion of the triathlons and the marathon swimming events in the Seine was an ambitious one. Swimming in the river has, with some exceptions, been off-limits since 1923 because it has been too toxic. Representatives from World Triathlon and the International Olympic Committee along with Paris Games organizers and regional and weather authorities met Sunday night to review water tests. The results indicated the water quality at the triathlon site had improved over the preceding hours and would be within the limits mandated by World Triathlon by Monday morning, they said in a statement. In a very close sprint finish, the team from Germany won the gold medal, with the United States taking silver and Britain clinching bronze.

Paris, Aug. 5: Young Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen suffered an inexplicable meltdown and missed out on an Olympic medal, going down in three games to Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia in the bronze play-off at the Paris Games here Monday.

A fired-up Sen was unstoppable in the beginning but a nine-point streak from Lee in the second game changed the complexion of the match as the world number 7 Malaysian registered a 13-21, 21-16, 21-11 win in a 71-minute clash to secure the bronze.

"I had my chances in the second set and could have definitely done better. But credit to him, he played a really good game. I think at the moment I'm just not able to think right now," a crestfallen Sen said after the match.

"I came well prepared for this match as well. It has been quite a tough week overall. But yeah, the fatigue kept on building. But I mean, I was ready to give my 100 per cent in this match."

Sen, who needed medical attention multiple times for an injured right arm, looked indomitable in the first 30 minutes but once Lee gathered himself from a position where he was down by a game and trailing 3-8 in second, the Indian did not seem to have a plan 'B'.

His loss means that it would be the first time in 12 years that India will return without a badminton medal from the Olympics.

Only Saina Nehwal (2012) and P. V. Sindhu (2016, 2021) have won Olympic medals for India at the biggest sporting stage with the latter's silver in Rio being the best performance.

The medal-favourite men's doubles pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy had also returned empty-handed as India's badminton campaign ended on a disappointing note.

A key member of the Indian badminton team and a part of the historic Thomas Cup winning squad, Sen was gunning to become India's first male shuttler to win an Olympic medal.

The match began with a long rally but Sen hit top gear early. The Indian largely played on the backhand side of his rival, logging easy points as there was no fight at all.

The calculated drop shots set up easy points for Sen as he drew his rival on the forecourt. Even the Malaysian tried to play on backhand of Sen but the India was hardly perturbed, leading 11-6 at the break.

There was no sting or intent in Lee's shots as he just played very defensive and was catching up to erase the deficit which was increasing with each shot. The only smart play by the Malaysian was when he jumped for an overhead smash but dropped the shuttle forward.

— PTI

BAD DAY!

Sen falters again, bronze medal slips



Lakshya Sen returns to Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia during the men's singles bronze medal match in Paris on Monday. — PTI

Manika-led India edge past Romania to enter quarters

Paris, Aug. 5: Star player Manika Batra led from the front as India prevailed over higher-ranked Romania 3-2 in a thrilling tie and made a memorable entry into the quarterfinals of the women's table tennis team competition at the Paris Olympics here on Monday.

Leading 2-0, India saw Romania fight back to draw level at 2-2 but in the decider, Manika delivered for her side. Sreeja Akula and Archana Kamath started the proceedings with a 11-9, 12-10, 11-7 win over Adina Diaconu and Elizabeta Samara in a doubles match.

Manika made short work of higher-ranked Bernadette Szocs in a 11-5, 11-7, 11-7 victory as India took a comfortable 2-0 lead in the tie against their fourth-seeded opponents. India are seeded 11th in the competition. In the second singles match however, things did not go in India's favour as Sreeja went down 2-3 (11-8, 4-11, 11-7, 6-11, 8-11) to European champion



Manika Batra in action against Romania's Adina Diaconu during a women's teams Round of 16 match in Paris on Monday. — PTI

Samara after winning the first game. Sreeja's defeat paved the way for a face-off between Archana and Bernadette and the latter won the first game 11-5, but the Indian bagged the second 11-8 to restore parity. However, Bernadette won the next two games 11-7, 11-9 to clinch the match and send the tie to the decider. Manika then blanked Adina 3-0 (11-5, 11-9, 11-9)

to seal the tie in India's favour. India will be up against either the USA or Germany in the quarterfinals. Japan, Poland, France and Thailand are also on the same side of the draw. Last week, both Manika and Sreeja scripted table tennis history by becoming the first Indian players to reach the round of 16 in the individual event at the Olympics. — PTI

MAHESHWARI & NARUKA MISS SKEET BRONZE

Chateauroux (France), Aug. 5: 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 Jiang and Jianlin Lyu (44) in a thrilling match for the bronze medal. Earlier, the Indians finished fourth in the qualification 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. — PTI

India waits for golden boy Neeraj to shine

Paris, Aug. 5: A man of many firsts in Indian athletics, Neeraj Chopra would be eyeing another piece of history with his javelin when he takes aim at his second Olympics amid expectations of a golden finish yet again. His fabled consistency would be tested after a season that has seen him battle a nagging adductor niggle. He would begin his quest on Tuesday with the qualifications round from where the Haryana lad is expected to make the finals on August 8.

A top podium finish will make Chopra only the fifth man in Olympics history to defend his title and the first Indian to win two gold medals in an individual event in the multi-sporting spectacle. Eric Lemming (Sweden; 1908 and 1912), Jonni



Neeraj Chopra

Myyra (Finland; 1920 and 1924), Chopra's idol Jan Zelezny (Czech Republic; 1992, 1996 and 2000) and Andreas Thorkildsen (Norway; 2004 and 2008) are the only ones to have

defended the men's javelin gold medals in the Olympics. He has competed in just three events this year but the 26-year-old world champion is back in full

flow in a season where none of his global competitors have done exceptionally well. After finishing second in the Doha Diamond League in May with a throw of

88.36m, which is his season's best, Chopra withdrew from Ostrava Golden Spike on May 28 as a precautionary measure after he felt "something" in his adductor (group of muscles located on inner thighs). Chopra, who has a personal best of 89.94m, made a strong comeback by winning gold at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Finland on June 18 with a throw of 85.97m. He later opted out of the Paris Diamond League on July 7, insisting that the event was never a part of his competition calendar this year. His coach later dismissed concerns surrounding Chopra's fitness, telling that his adductor has no issues now and his ward has been in high intensity phase of training. — PTI

MEN'S | HOCKEY

India ready for German hurdle

Paris, Aug. 5: Having displayed nerves of steel to be within touching distance of a second successive Olympic medal, the Indian hockey team will fancy their chances against familiar foe and reigning world champion Germany in the semifinal of the ongoing Games, hoping to better the bronze that it claimed in the Tokyo edition.

India won last of their eight Olympic gold medals way back in the 1980 Moscow Games. Paris provides them a great opportunity to make history.

A semifinal win will ensure a silver for India, which they last won in the 1960 Rome edition. The Indians displayed a tenacious performance against Britain in the quarterfinal at the iconic Yves-du-Manoir Stadium on Sunday.

Playing with 10 men for close to 40 minutes after Amit Rohidas was shown a red card for unintentionally hitting rival forward Will Calnan on his face, the Harmanpreet Singh-led side defended stoutly to hold Britain 1-1 in regulation time and force a shoot-out, where it emerged 4-2 winner.

Veteran goalkeeper P. R. Sreejesh, playing his last international tournament, seemed to have saved his best for the last leg of his career as he made save after save, including two in the shoot-out, to seal India's second consecutive Olympic semifinal spot. It was one of the bravest performances from the Indians as in modern day

ROHIDAS GETS 1-MATCH BAN, TO MISS SEMIS

Paris, Aug. 5: India's key defender and first rusher Amit Rohidas will miss Tuesday's Olympic men's hockey semifinal against Germany after the country's appeal against his one-match suspension, for being red-carded in the quarterfinal, was rejected by the international body FIH. This means India will have only 15 players available for the key clash, which is a big setback for the eight-time Olympic champions.

"Amit Rohidas was suspended for one match for a breach of the FIH Code of Conduct which occurred during the India vs Great Britain match on August 4," a FIH statement read.

Hockey India had lodged an appeal against Rohidas' suspension but the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Jury Bench rejected it. — PTI

hockey, to play and win with a man down is a Herculean task.

And come Tuesday, Harmanpreet and his men would not only look to better the colour of their Tokyo medal but would also want to give a befitting farewell gift to the talismanic Sreejesh who will walk into the sunset after the Paris Games. — PTI



India's Nisha Dahiya receives medical attention during her women's freestyle 68kg wrestling quarterfinal bout against Sol Gum Pak of North Korea at the Champ-de-Mars Arena in Paris on Monday. — PTI

INJURED NISHA LOSES QUARTERFINAL BOUT

Paris, Aug. 5: Indian grappler Nisha Dahiya was left sobbing in acute pain after she lost her quarterfinal bout against North Korea's Pak Sol Gum 8-10 in the women's 68 kg freestyle category at the Paris Olympics here on Monday.

Leading 8-1 on one point in time with just over 90 seconds left, Nisha sustained a serious injury on her right hand, which left her in agonising pain as she wept inconsolably. Following a medical break, Nisha didn't have any strength left in her right hand and it became a cakewalk for the North Korean, who showed her ruthless streak to get a

leg-hold and nine straight points. In fact, with 10 seconds left, the scoreline was 8-8 but the writing was on the wall as the Haryana woman surrendered in the dying moments without a fight.

Nisha might have a shot at repechage if her North Korean opponent reaches final, but whether she will be in a position to even take the mat is a bigger question as wept inconsolably after the bout.

Earlier, Nisha had won her opening bout against Ukraine's Sova Rizhko 6-4 as the wrestling competition got underway at the Games. — PTI

INDIA TODAY

TABLE TENNIS

■ Men's Team (Pre-quarterfinal): India (Harmeet Desai, Sharath Kamal and Manav Thakkar) vs China — 1.30 pm.

ATHLETICS

■ Men's Javelin Throw (Qualification): Kishore Jena — 1.50 pm.
 ■ Men's Javelin Throw (Qualification): Neeraj Chopra — 3.20 pm.
 ■ Women's 400m (Repechage): Kiran Pahal — 2.50 pm.

HOCKEY

■ Men's semifinal: India vs Germany — 10.30 pm.

Published by K. Sudhakar for and on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited at Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110 002. And printed by him at BFL Infotech Limited, C - 9, Sector - III, Noida - 201301.
 Editor - Kaushik Mitter,
 RNI Registration number 57290/94
 Price in Nepal - Nep. Rs. 20.00 per copy.

matinee

The sky is the limit for me, says Pragya Jaiswal

16 >>



delhi THE AGE

TUESDAY | 6 AUGUST 2024

lifestyle

Vegan Beauty Boom

13 >>



HEARTBREAKING

Wayanad superhero, who saved many, now missing

Risking his own life, the young man drove the vehicle up the hill for a third time but lost himself midway in the gushing flood water and mud and the barrage of huge boulders that rolled down the mountains

Local lad Prajeesh drove his jeep up through the treacherous hill path twice and returned with many hapless people who were stranded atop after the deadly landslides hit Wayanad's high-range Mundakkai last week. Just before he could move to safety came a phone call for a third 'mission,' but the ever popular localite is now missing, his damaged jeep seen at Chooralmala, leading to both fears of the worst and hopes for good news.

Risking his own life, the young man drove the vehicle up the hill for a third time but lost himself midway in the gushing flood water and mud and the barrage of huge boulders that rolled down the mountains. That was the heartbreaking story of Prajeesh, who had plunged into a rescue mission and saved the lives of



File picture of Prajeesh

many people after the news about the devastating landslides broke out in the hamlets here in the wee hours of July 30.

With heavy heart and teary eyes, the people of Chooralmala village now call him their "super hero." Hailing from landslide-hit Chooralmala, Prajeesh was already popular among the villagers for his ever-ready-



to-help anyone attitude, local people said. A villager said that after hearing about the first series of landslides that hit Mundakkai hamlet, Prajeesh drove up the hill twice at his own risk and came back with many individuals who were stranded there.

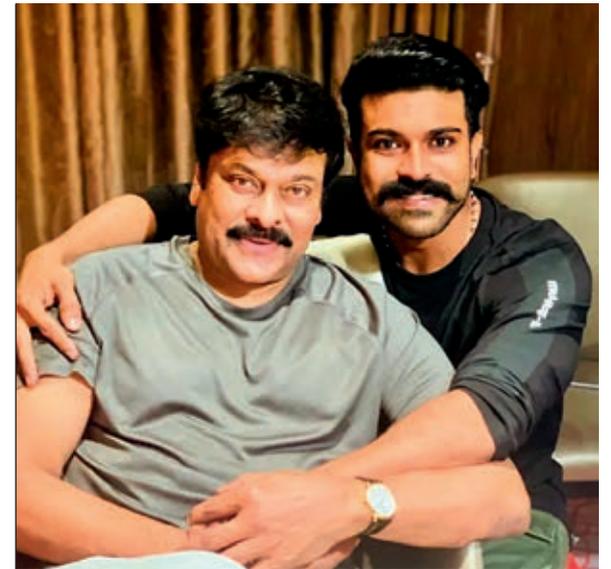
"After that, he was about to shift to a safer place with

AFTER HEARING ABOUT THE FIRST LANDSLIDES IN MUNDAKKAI HAMLET, PRAJEESH DROVE UP THE HILL TWICE AT HIS OWN RISK. AFTER THAT, HE WAS ABOUT TO SHIFT TO A SAFER PLACE WITH HIS FAMILY MEMBERS. SUDDENLY, HE GOT ANOTHER PHONE CALL, FOLLOWING WHICH HE AGAIN DROVE UP THE HILL... BUT THIS TIME, HE DID NOT RETURN.

his family members. Suddenly, he got another phone call, following which he again drove up the hill... but this time, he did not return," he said.

Prajeesh's damaged jeep was later found down in Chooralmala town, the man said, adding no one has seen him since then.

—PTI



Chiranjeevi and Ram Charan

Chiru, Ram Charan donate ₹1 cr for Wayanad tragedy

Actors Chiranjeevi and his son Ram Charan Teja have shown their heartfelt solidarity with the people of Wayanad, Kerala, who have recently faced devastating landslides. The father-son duo has together donated ₹1 crore to the Kerala Chief Distress Minister's Relief Fund (CMDRF) to help the ongoing relief efforts in the state.

Chiranjeevi took to X to share a heartfelt note about their contribution. "Deeply distressed by the devastation and loss of hundreds of precious lives in Kerala due to nature's fury in the last few days. My heart goes out to the victims of the Wayanad tragedy. Charan and I together are contributing ₹1 crore to the Kerala CM Relief Fund. My prayers for the recovery of all those in pain!"

NIGHT OWLS WISER THAN EARLY RISERS



A new study claims that late sleepers are cognitively sharper than early risers, sleep experts weigh in on these new findings vis-à-vis conventional wisdom

ANUSHREE CHAURASIA

In a world where "early to bed and early to rise" is a celebrated mantra for success, a groundbreaking study led by researchers at Imperial College London claims that late sleepers might actually be cognitively sharper than their early-rising counterparts. The researchers studied data from the UK Biobank on more than 26,000 people who had completed intelligence, reasoning, reaction time, and memory tests. The study has stirred the pot with its findings. This revelation has sparked a fresh debate among doctors, sleep experts, and the public about the true impact of sleep patterns on cognitive function.

THE STUDY

Researchers studied data from the UK biobank on more than 26,000 people who had complete intelligence, reasoning, reaction time, and memory tests just like someone who wakes up at 5am. They then examined how participants' sleep duration, quality, and chronotype (which determines what time of day we feel most alert and productive) affected brain performance.

TURN TO PAGE 10

NIGHT OWLS WISER THAN EARLY RISERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

They found that those who stayed up late and those classed as “intermediate” had “superior cognitive function”, while morning larks had the lowest scores.

INSIGHTS FROM EXPERTS

Dr Siddharth Srivastava a psychiatrist specialising in sleep disorders explains that the findings of the study are not entirely surprising. “Our society has long held the belief that early risers are more productive and efficient. However, this study suggests that cognitive sharpness is not solely determined by the time we wake up but rather by the quality and duration of sleep,” he notes.

He further explains that late sleepers often get a more consolidated sleep, which means they might reach deeper stages of sleep more effectively. “Deep sleep is crucial for cognitive functions such as memory consolidation and problem-solving skills. If late sleepers are achieving better quality sleep, it could explain their superior performance in cognitive tasks.”

EARLY RISER VIEWS

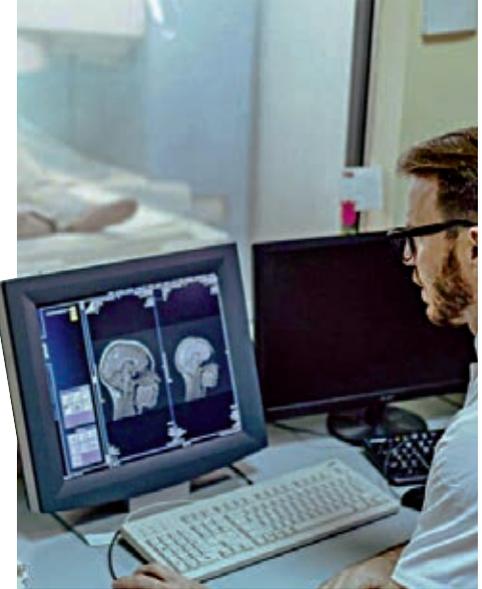
Andrea Martínez, an early riser and CEO of a home decor startup, finds the study intriguing but remains skeptical. “I’ve always believed that waking up early gives me a head start on the day, allowing me to plan and execute my tasks more efficiently. It’s hard to accept that this routine might not be the best for cognitive function,” Andrea says. Andrea’s sentiment is shared by many who argue that the early hours of the day are less prone to interruptions, providing a quiet and focused environment for work. This perceived advantage has been a cornerstone of the early riser philosophy, endorsed by numerous successful individuals across various fields.

LATE SLEEPERS VIEWS

Contrarily, Laavanya Bharadwaj, a freelance graphic designer and night owl, feels validated by the study’s findings. “I’ve always felt more creative and productive at night. My best ideas come to me when the world is quiet, and I’m not constrained by the clock,” she shares. Laavanya argues that societal norms and work schedules often force night owls to conform to early schedules, which can be detrimental to their cognitive performance. “If we can embrace more flexible work hours that accommodate different sleep patterns, I believe we’ll see a boost in productivity and creativity,” she adds.

MEDICAL INSIGHTS

Dr. Siddharth emphasises that individual variations in sleep patterns, known as chronotypes, play a significant role in determining optimal cognitive performance. “People have different biological clocks. Some are naturally inclined to wake up early, while others function better with a later schedule. It’s important to understand and respect these differences rather



SLEEP TALK

- Staying up late can be good for our brain power (Study).
- Kim Namjoon (BTS), Kanye West, Lady Gaga are all night owls who claim their creativity and brain are at their peak at night.
- Politicians like Former US President Barack Obama, PM Narendra Modi, the late Margaret Thatcher, and Winston Churchill thrive on very little sleep.

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM @BARACKOBAMA



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM

“If late sleepers are forced to wake up early, they often don’t get enough sleep, which can impair their cognitive functions. It’s crucial to align our schedules with our natural sleep patterns to optimise cognitive performance and overall health.”

SLEEP RESEARCH

The study has opened new avenues for research into the relationship between sleep patterns and cognitive function. Future studies are expected to explore the long-term impacts of different sleep schedules on various aspects of health and performance.

Dr. Srivastava says this study challenges traditional notions and encourages us to rethink our approach to sleep. He adds, “As we continue to learn more about sleep and its impact on our cognitive abilities, we can develop strategies to improve overall health and productivity for people with different sleep patterns.”

This study serves as a reminder that cognitive sharpness and productivity are not exclusively tied to the time we wake up but rather to how well we understand and cater to our unique sleep needs. As society evolves, there is a growing need to embrace flexibility in sleep schedules, recognizing that both early risers and late sleepers have their strengths.

“ THIS STUDY SUGGESTS THAT COGNITIVE SHARPNESS IS NOT SOLELY DETERMINED BY THE TIME WE WAKE UP BUT RATHER BY THE QUALITY AND DURATION OF SLEEP.”

— **Dr. SIDDHARTH SRIVASTAVA, psychiatrist, sleep disorders specialist**

than enforcing a one-size-fits-all approach,” he explains.

Dr. Srivastava also points out that the societal bias towards early risers might lead to sleep deprivation among night owls, negatively impacting their cogni-

“ I’VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT WAKING UP EARLY GIVES ME A HEAD START ON THE DAY, ALLOWING ME TO PLAN AND EXECUTE MY TASKS MORE EFFICIENTLY. IT’S HARD TO ACCEPT THAT THIS ROUTINE MIGHT NOT BE THE BEST FOR COGNITIVE FUNCTION.”

— **ANDREA MARTÍNEZ, early riser, CEO of a home decor startup**



KANGANA'S MUMBAI HOUSE FOR SALE

At ₹40 crore; The bungalow also serves as an office of her production house Manikarnika Films



BJP's MP from Himachal Pradesh, Kangana Ranaut, is reportedly selling her bungalow in Mumbai for ₹40 crores.

Situated in Mumbai's upscale Pali Hill, the property housed her production house Manikarnika Films. It was the very same bungalow which made headlines in 2020, when the Bombay Municipal Corporation demolished a wall, for illegal extensions. The actress had called out the Shiv Sena for unfair treatment being meted out to her. It was a big win for her when the Mumbai High Court gave her a clean chit, citing the demolition as wrongful.

Kangana had purchased the property for ₹20 crore in 2017 and had it lavishly decorated in vintage and avant-garde designs. The home which comes complete with an editor's room, and swanky office is up for sale.

Though the actor is yet to confirm the same, a realty estate team posted a video, stating it was up for sale.

On the work front, her film *Emergency* releases on September 6 with the actor reprising the late PM Indira Gandhi in the same.

TEARS OF JOY

Novak Djokovic hugs daughter Tara following Paris Olympics gold victory



Serbian tennis star shared a touching moment with his daughter after winning the gold medal

Novak Djokovic, the ace tennis player, lived his dream of clinching a gold in Men's Tennis Singles at the 2024 Paris Olympics by defeating Carlos Alcaraz on Sunday. The 37-year-old broke down moments after he won

the medal. A viral video showed an elated Djokovic sprinting towards his family. He hugged his daughter and broke down while his family and fans

cheered for him. Towards the end of the video, he flaunted the Serbian flag. "I was watching her the entire match. She showed me the fist pump. She is only six years old, and in

US swimmers perform 'Taal Se Taal'

A video of the US artistic swimming team performing A. R. Rahman's *Taal Se Taal* at the 2024 World Aquatics in Doha has gone viral.

Women swim in perfect coordination to the iconic song's instrumental as the video goes viral. Many online users called the August 4 video the biggest

crossover ever, and it went viral with over a million views.

Reacting to it, a user commented, "*Taal se taal* is perfect for any cultural event—it truly is the face of Indian music."

Another user wrote, "Felt happy for the song, but look at them, how can they do that? The balancing in the water is no joke."



What's cooking

Khan siblings — Aryan and Suhana — partied together with Larissa Bonesi

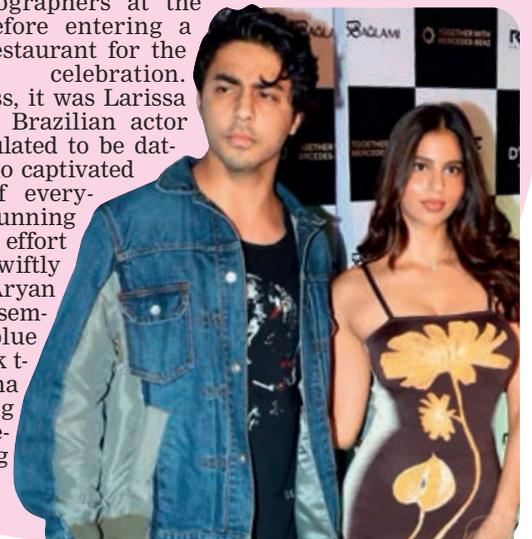


Larissa Bonesi

Aryan Khan and Suhana Khan attended a party in Mumbai on Sunday. The sibling pair posed for the photographers at the location before entering a high-end restaurant for the planned celebration.

Nevertheless, it was Larissa Bonesi, the Brazilian actor who is speculated to be dating Aryan, who captivated

the attention of everyone. She looked stunning in a black gown but made an effort to evade the paparazzi and swiftly entered the party. While Aryan opted for a minimalist ensemble consisting of a blue denim jacket and black t-shirt, Suhana appeared striking in her figure-hugging outfit.



exactly the moments when I needed to have this playfulness and this joy and to relax a little bit in high stress — particularly in the second set — she looked at me and she gave me this energy," he told *EuroSport*.

A user named @TommyBeer shared the video and commented, "Wow, I have never seen Djokovic this emotional. Incredible Sports."

The video got over six million views as sports enthu-

siasts gathered to congratulate the athlete. Reacting to the heartwarming video, a user wrote, "He waited for this moment for 16 years. Wow." Another user commented, "He stood for sovereign individuality for the whole world. He could not be bought!"

"Unbelievable, he played incredible today! He waited a long time for that gold, and to represent his country is HUGE!" a third user reacted.

DJOKOVIC IS NOW ONLY THE FIFTH PLAYER TO WIN THE SINGLES GOLDEN SLAM, AFTER RAFAEL NADAL, SERENA WILLIAMS, ANDRE AGASSI, AND STEFFI GRAF. THE VIDEO OF HIS GOLD MEDAL WIN WITH HIS FAMILY AND KISSING HIS DAUGHTER HAS SINCE GONE VIRAL ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

WISE WORDS | Never blame anyone in your life. Good people give you happiness. Bad people give you experience. Worst people give you a lesson. Best people give you memories.

Beauty hack



Remove your make-up stains with shaving foam

If you are among those who keep finding make-up where it doesn't really belong — like on your clothes or as a brown border around your collar — the online world of TikTok and Instagram are full of life hacks.

There is a treasure trove of simple tricks for almost any problem.

One such hack suggests using shaving foam to remove accidental stains from applying mascara, lipstick and foundation. But we know that the internet doesn't always tell the truth. That's why we tested the shaving foam tip in our hack check. Does it deliver what it promises — or is it a flop?

We tried out the straightforward process: Apply the foam to the stain, massage it in gently and let it sit for around 10 minutes. Then carefully work the stain with a clean cloth or brush and rinse the garment with cold water. Repeat if necessary — until the make-up stain is completely removed.

And the verdict? It works! In our hack check, the stain entirely disappeared. The shaving foam hack works particularly well for clothing made of cotton or polyester.

— dpa

LOVE BECOMES A STRANGER

It's challenging to comprehend the people we find attractive, let alone those we genuinely love. How can we control those genuine, sporadic, and overwhelming emotions if we are unable to foresee them?

CHOKITA PAUL

THE ASIAN AGE

A recent survey sought to uncover the most resonant relationship advice given or received. The message that stands out is: "Love doesn't require earning. You deserve it." The guidance implores individuals to seek reciprocity, not just love. Observe whether the person demonstrates presence. Do their behaviours align with their words? Are they reliable at keeping realistic promises? Do they return kindness swiftly? Do they share your happiness and feel remorse for causing you pain?

DIGITAL INTIMACY

Relationships intertwined with technology are nearly impossible to avoid. The current dating culture, infiltrated by commodification. Dating apps provide more choices, more relationships, and more social opportunities than would otherwise be possible.

"Text-centric communication has also altered how we interact, making conversations less personal and more prone to misinterpretation. Virtual

interactions have become the norm, setting new expectations and pacing for modern relationships. While technology has made dating more accessible, it has also reshaped it in ways that challenge traditional notions of intimacy and connection," says consultant psychiatrist Dr Ashish Bansal.

ONLINE DATING IS A CHORE

Dating apps feel more like a chore than they did when we first became single years ago, and yet we have no idea how to date without them. Alfie Bown's concept of 'desirevolution', particularly in his book *Dream Lovers: The Gamification of Relationships*, explores how technology is reshaping our romantic and sexual desires. Over time, various social factors have shaped the way we



HOWEVER, DESPITE THEIR WIDESPREAD USE, THERE'S A CONCERN ABOUT POTENTIAL OVERUSE. WHILE THESE PLATFORMS HELP PEOPLE CONNECT, AN INCREASING NUMBER OF USERS WORRY ABOUT THE RISK OF ADDICTION. A RECENT FORBES HEALTH SURVEY REVEALED THAT 79% OF GEN Z USERS IN THE US EXPERIENCE FATIGUE FROM USING THESE APPS. AROUND 40% OF USERS STRUGGLE TO FORM GENUINE CONNECTIONS, AND MANY FEEL DISAPPOINTED BY OTHERS. FEELINGS OF REJECTION ARE ALSO COMMON. THE CURRENT DATING TRENDS CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THIS EXHAUSTION.



approach love and relationships.

At this stage, it seems inevitable, as Brown clarifies that 'love is being absorbed into broader trends of growth.' These algorithms influence our choices in dating, entertainment, and food, shaping new desires that ultimately favour the privileged. These algorithms have adopted the societal prejudices of those who developed them.

DATING & HEDONISM

Hedonism values pleasure and desires over love, with various theories focusing on personal or holistic

delight.

However, choosing a hedonistic lifestyle may lead to endless cravings and unfulfillment, says Sohini Rohra, a counselling psychologist and mental health advocate.

Love involves giving, shared experiences, and contentment. "Most of us

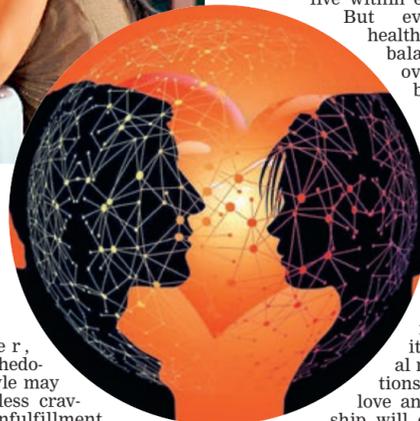
“ A RELATIONSHIP BASED ON LOVE AND COMPANIONSHIP WILL ENTAIL HEALTHY TRANSACTIONS, WHEREAS ONE BASED ON CHILDREN, MONEY, SECURITY, CITIZENSHIP, REVENGE, AND SO ON WILL ENTAIL UNHEALTHY TRANSACTIONS, AND THIS IS WHERE INTIMACY AND EMOTIONAL CONNECTIONS GET DETERRED. ”

SOHINI ROHRA, a counselling psychologist and mental health advocate

ON AVERAGE, USERS SPEND 51 MINUTES A DAY ON DATING APPS, WITH WOMEN AVERAGING 52 MINUTES AND MEN 49 MINUTES. EXPERTS RECOMMEND LIMITING USAGE TO 30 MINUTES A DAY AND TAKING BREAKS TO REDUCE FATIGUE.

even have a transactional relationship with ourselves. If we achieve certain goals, we deserve certain pleasures. Transactions are essential and unavoidable. They can motivate us, set boundaries, and allow us to live within ethical norms.

But everything is healthy when it is in balance and has overall well-being in mind. Having said that, these transactions are based on certain fundamentals that define the relationship's health, regardless of its transactional nature. A relationship based on love and companionship will entail healthy transactions, whereas one based on children, money, security, citizenship, revenge, and so on will entail unhealthy transactions, and this is where intimacy and emotional connections get deterred. When the intent of the relationship changes, it changes the nature of the transaction, percolating into the health of the relationship and therefore declining or enhancing the relationship," says Sohini.



Help, honey, it's shrinking!

A psychological disorder called Koro Syndrome makes people believe and panic about their private parts shrinking

The obese young man was distraught. "Doctor, please save me. My penis is shrinking. At this rate it will disappear altogether," he said tearfully.

The man was suffering from a psychological disorder called Koro Syndrome. The term Koro takes its origin from Malay and means 'Head of a turtle.' This condition is also known as Genital Retraction Syndrome (GRS), Penis Panic etc. In China (Cantonese) it is known as 'Suo-Yang,' meaning 'Shrinking Penis.'

This Syndrome is characterized by the belief that

- The penis is shrinking.
- It will eventually be absorbed into the body and disappear.
- It will cause death

Women too suffer from this syndrome. They believe that their breasts and vaginal lips are shrinking and being sucked inside the body. This psychological disorder is associated with occult beliefs, such as witchcraft, or with guilt stemming from false notions about masturbation.

This Vanishing Penis belief has a long history. It was first mentioned in the ancient Chinese text 'The Yellow Emperor's Classic of Internal Medicine' dating to 300 B.C.

Penis panic is sometimes even a mass hysteria event, in which a majority of the population is besieged by this fear. Such hysteria has occurred around the world, most notably in Africa and Asia. A well-documented episode occurred in Singapore in 1967. As the panic spread, hospitals were inundated with people worried that their penises were shrinking into their bodies. Many resorted to pegs, clamps and even getting concerned family members to keep a constant grip on the organ in an attempt to prevent it from 'vanishing' entirely! It took a while before normalcy was restored.

The fact is, men who are extremely obese may find it difficult to locate their penises buried under several layers of fat. Similarly, penises of those with huge hydroceles may be almost lost in the massive scrotal enlargement.

That is all there to it, nothing more.

Some physiological facts to calm the panic stricken:

- Once the penis has grown to its adult size, it will NOT shrink
- The penis has no bone. It has only spongy tissues. Its size depends on the amount of blood in the tissue spaces at any given moment. So the size tends to vary from time to time.
- The penis is like a coiled spring. It stretches when one is sexually aroused, but remains compressed otherwise. Also, it's good to remember that life depends on overall health, not just on penis length.

The writer is a sexologist. Mail him at dr.narayana@deccanmail.com

ROCHELLE CRASTO

Across the world, more and more people are turning to veganism, not just in terms of food, but also beauty products. Youngsters are becoming more savvy about their choices, pushing the beauty industry toward a greener, more ethical future. The beauty world is having a 'vegan makeover' with brands jumping on the vegan, cruelty-free, and eco-conscious bandwagon. According to Grand View Research, the global vegan cosmetics market was worth a whopping USD 15.1 billion in 2021 and is set to grow at a sprightly 6.3% annually through 2028.

GUILT-FREE MAKEOVER

Vegan beauty is more than just skipping the honey and ditching the beeswax. Think of it as a guilt-free makeover! Vegan means products free from animal ingredients like gelatin, silk, and even carmine (yes, that's what gives some lipsticks their red hue). Though they are not harmless, they are still not good for you either. Most of these ingredients are found in cosmetics, shampoos, lip balm, skincare, and moisturizers. True vegan brands go beyond just using plant-based ingredi-

ents. They dive into extensive research and innovative techniques to create nutrient-rich, effective products that are also safe and preservative-free.

ETHICAL CONCERNS

Most youngsters support vegan beauty brands for three main reasons: skincare, ethical concerns, and environmental benefits. One of the greatest outcomes of the "Veganism in Beauty" trend is that it encourages youngsters to evaluate their choices more thoughtfully. Divya Katna, content strategist and makeup artist at Juicy Chemistry says, "Gen-Z is well-informed and eager to use makeup and anti-aging products. While effective, serious products like retinol can be harmful," she says. Vegan beauty products are solely plant-based and made from natural ingredients, which makes them better in quality and potency to improve the health of your skin. "We go beyond just blending plant-based ingredients with technology. Through extensive research and innovative techniques, we craft nutrient-rich, effective products while ensuring they are safe and preservative-free

Vegan Beauty Boom

From lipsticks to eyeliners, and nail paint to moisturisers, youngsters are embracing vegan, cruelty-free eco-conscious beauty products

for everyone," says Katna. Natural ingredients such as chamomile, aloe vera, and tea tree have been tested and proven to have purification benefits. They are also rich in vitamins such as B, C, and E, which are great for sensitive skin and help with skin problems such as eczema and allergies, causing irritation, dryness, and skin inflammation, among many others. "Youngsters are highly attuned to social responsibility and sustainability. Our vegan and cruelty-free products perfectly align with these values. Their focus on 'inside out' beauty resonates with this generation seeking products that are good for them and the planet," states Mitali Naik, assistant man-



ager at Asa Beauty.

SOCIAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

Social media is like a backstage pass to the world of vegan beauty, revealing which products truly deliver, putting brands on blast if they fall short

of their promises. Through the ever-popular GRWM (Get Ready With Me) videos, influencers share their beauty secrets

and personal stories. Reena Kausar, a fashion and beauty content creator, says, "Transparency and instant feedback from youngsters make it critical for brands to keep their promises. Thanks to the information shared on these social media platforms. My followers can now find high-quality vegan products more easily than ever before." With 70% of Indian Gen-Z turning to social media influencers for recommendations on ethical and sustainable products, youngsters find a sense of community and identity in supporting brands that walk the talk. "Following like-minded influencers helps shape your understanding of ethical consumption," says Ayushree Sharma, a vegan beauty enthusiast. Influencers are the sparkle in this social media makeup bag, hosting live Q&As, sharing

GREEN GAMECHANGERS

- Global vegan cosmetics market was worth \$15.1 billion in 2021
- It is set to grow 6.3% annually through 2028 (Grand View Research)
- Chamomile, aloe vera, and tea tree have purification benefits
- 50% of Indian youngsters perceive eco-friendly products as more cost-effective (FICCI 2023 survey)



use synthetic pigments instead of carmine to keep our products cruelty-free and achieve the exact shade we want," explains Divya.

This wave of change isn't confined to beauty products — it's sweeping across food, fashion, and lifestyle sectors. Elina D'Souza, a BMS graduate, Mumbai, says, "When a brand provides detailed information about its ethical practices, it shows they genuinely care about their impact. That's why I prefer vegan and cruelty-free products." Organic and natural pigments often lack longevity and vibrancy. Previous brands failed to deliver the high quality promised, which led youngsters to think that vegan and plant-based products were too expensive. "Vegan beauty products can be pricier, but I think it's worth it for the quality and ethical commitment," says Priya Desai, a beauty enthusiast. According to a 2023 survey by FICCI, 50% of Indian youngsters perceive eco-friendly products as more cost-effective in the long run due to their durability and lower maintenance.

detailed product reviews, and spilling the tea on their beauty routines. They team up with brands and experts, spreading the word about vegan and cruelty-free products with genuine feedback.

TRANSPARENCY MEETS TRENDS

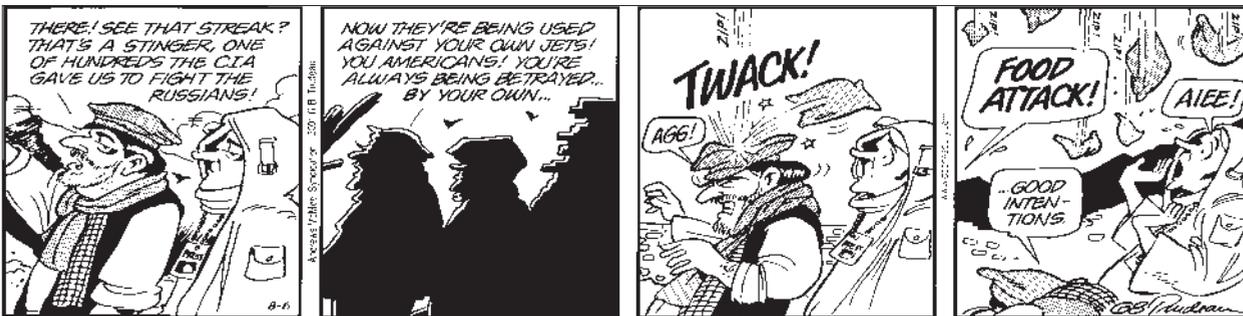
Youngsters look for brands that openly share their ingredient sourcing and ethical practices, proudly displaying cruelty-free and vegan certifications. "We're open with our customers about our choices. For colours like pinks and reds, we

coffee-break

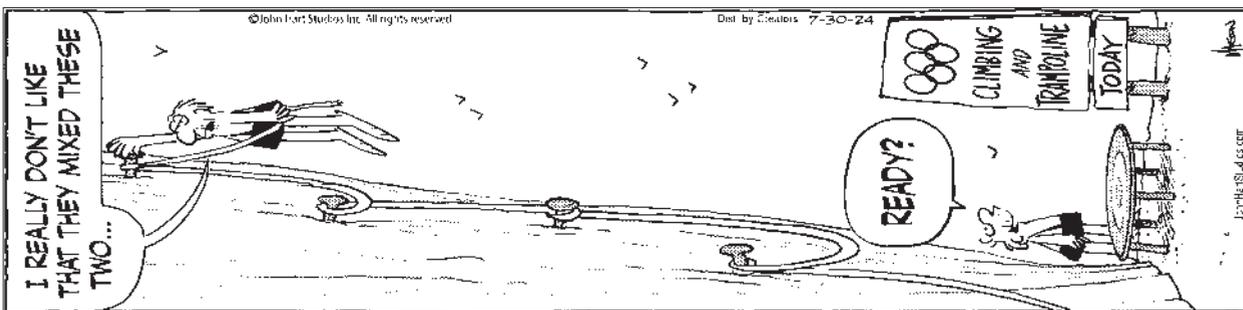
CALVIN AND HOBBS | Bill Watterson



DOONESBURY | Garry Trudeau



B.C. | Johnny Hart



UP AND RUNNING | Gray and Shack



BLONDIE | Dean Young and John Marshall



ANDY CAPP | Reg Smythe



Dennis the Menace



hocus focus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Light is moved. 2. Arm is longer. 3. Man has more hair. 4. Mouth is different. 5. Book is moved. 6. Glasses are missing.

jumble

SOKIK

PLEEO

TARREH

ZOBEAG

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app - Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Everyone will get to view the sky. What are you observing? I'm next!

The detail is amazing!

6/19

AFTER THE INVENTION OF THE TELESCOPE, PEOPLE WERE CURIOUS AND WANTED TO ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

© 2024 Tribune Content Agency LLC All Rights Reserved

Yesterday's Jumbles: PRAWN WAYER SUMMER WEIGHT Answer: Dracula was buying new clothing as part of his attempt to - REVAMP HIS IMAGE