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Last four of 26 crest gates of Nagarjuna Sagar Project lifted

Hyderabad: Gearing up to handle a further rise in flood inflows, the last four of the Nagarjuna Sagar Project's crest gates were opened on Thursday. The project is discharging a combined flood flow of 2.70 lakh cusecs through all its 26 crest gates.

The inflows into the project are in the range of 2.53 lakh cusecs. Four of the gates were lifted by 10 feet while 22 others were kept open by five feet. The water level in the project is maintained at 585 feet as against the full reservoir level (FRL) of 590. The present storage little over 298 tmc, only 14 tmc short of its gross storage capacity of 312 tmc.

Telangana govt promotes five senior IPS officers to DGP rank

Hyderabad: The State government has promoted five senior IPS officers working in Telangana to rank of Director General of Police (DGP) on Thursday. The officers are Kothakota Srinivas Reddy, B Shivdhar Reddy, Abhilasha Bisht, Soumya Mishra and Shikha Goel. The officials will now hold the rank of DGP Level 16 in the Pay Matrix of IPS (Pay) Rules, 2016. The officials on their promotion are retained in the same post – Kothakota Srinivas Reddy (Hyderabad Commissioner of Police), B Shivdhar Reddy (DG Intelligence), Abhilasha Bisht (Director RBVRR Telangana Police Academy), Soumya Mishra (Director General, Prisons and Correctional Services) and Shikha Goel, (Director General – Crime Investigation Department)

Skipper Harmanpreets brace helps India beat Spain 2-1 to clinch historic bronze at Paris Olympics



Paris, GNS News Agency, August 8: The Indian men's hockey team clinched its second successive bronze medal in the Olympic Games after beating Spain 2-1 in the third position playoff match here on Thursday.

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh (30th, 33rd minute) scored a brace for India, while Spain's only goal was scored by captain Marc Miralles in the 18th minute from a penalty stroke. The medal is fitting farewell for veteran India custodian PR Sreejesh, nicknamed 'The Great Indian Wall of Indian hockey', who drew curtains on his illustrious 18-year-old career with this match. He will be bowing out as the best ever goalkeeper India has produced. In the final later in the day, Germany will play Netherlands.

Charles Schwab plans Technology Development Centre in Hyderabad

GNS News Agency, August 8

Hyderabad: Charles Schwab, a global leader in financial services, has chosen Hyderabad as the prospective location for its first Technology Development Centre in India. This decision was announced after Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and IT Minister D Sridhar Babu held a meeting with senior Schwab executives Dennis Howard, Rama Bokka and others at Charles Schwab's world headquarters in Dallas. Charles Schwab is currently awaiting the final approvals for announcing detailed insights into the



upcoming center and to delegate a team to India for officially establishing the Schwab Technology Centre in Hyderabad, according to a press release.

Powerful earthquake hits off southern Japan; tsunami advisory issued

GNS News Agency, August 8

Tokyo: A powerful earthquake struck off Japan's southern coast on Thursday, triggering a tsunami advisory. Residents were urged to stay away from the coastline, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or serious damage. The Japan Meteorological Agency said the quake registered magnitude 7.1 and was centred in waters off the eastern coast of Japan's southern main island of Kyushu at a depth of about 30 kilometres (18.6 miles).

The quake most strongly shook Nichinan city and nearby areas in Miyazaki prefecture on Kyushu island. The agency said tsunami waves of up to 50 centimetres (1.6 feet) were detected along parts of Kyushu's southern coast and the nearby island of Shikoku about a half hour after the quake struck. Seismologists were holding an emergency meeting to analyse whether the quake had affected the nearby Nankai Trough, the source of past devastating earthquakes. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi said officials were assessing possible injuries or serious damage, though none were immediately reported. He urged residents of the affected region to stay away from the coastline. Japan's NHK public television said there were reports of broken windows at the Miyazaki airport near the epicentre. The Nuclear Regulation Authority said all 12 nuclear reactors, including three which are currently operating, on Kyushu and Shikoku remained safe. Earthquakes in areas with nuclear power plants have been a major concern since a massive earthquake and tsunami in March 2011 triggered the Fukushima nuclear disaster. Japan sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", the line of seismic faults encircling the Pacific Ocean, and is one of the world's most earthquake-prone countries. An earthquake on January 1 in Japan's north-central region of Noto left more than 240 people dead.

Aman Sehrawat enters semifinals of men's 57kg freestyle wrestling Paris

GNS News Agency, August 8

Paris: India's lone male wrestler in the 2024 Games, Aman Sehrawat progressed to the men's 57kg freestyle wrestling semifinal after beating 2022 world champion Albania's Zelimkhan Abakarov via technical superiority (12-0) at the Paris Olympics, here on Thursday. This was Aman's second successive win via technical superiority. Earlier, he defeated European Championships gold medalist Vladimir Egorov of North Macedonia to make it to the last-eight stage. Aman will take on the number one seed from Japan Rei Higuchi in the semifinal later, in the evening. Aman had a close start as he was searching for an opening in the initial minute. Meanwhile, Zelimkhan received a passivity warning for not engaging in any move.

Aman, then, secured the first point as Zelimkhan failed to score during the 30-second passivity warning. He then pinned Zelimkhan to gain two additional points via takedown. In the second period, Aman executed a double ankle-hold, and once both feet were locked in he turned Abakarov over for eight points in one move and extended his lead to 11-0 and swiftly sealed the bout via technical superiority.

The 20-year-old wrestler, who won the bronze medal at the Asian Games last year, has earned the Indian men's wrestling contingent its very first quota for the 2024 Paris Olympics in the 57 kg freestyle category at the World Olympic Games Qualifiers. In the world qualifiers, Aman



secured a dominant technical superiority (12-2) victory over Chongsong Han in the quota match. He put on an impressive showing throughout the qualifiers as he beat Olympian Georgi Vangelov of Bulgaria 10-4 to move into the quarterfinals where he prevailed with a 12-2 win over Andrii Yatsenko of Ukraine. Meanwhile, in the women's event, Anshu Malik, who is competing in her second Olympics, lost her opening bout 2-7 on points to Helen Louise Maroulis of the USA, a two-time Olympic medalist, in the 57kg pre-quarterfinal match. However, Anshu, who is the first Indian woman wrestler to win a silver medal at the World Championships (2021), still has a chance for a medal through repechage if the American wrestler makes the final.

Haryana announces Rs 2,000 per acre bonus for Kharif crops owing to rain deficit



GNS News Agency, August 8

Chandigarh: The Haryana Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday approved a bonus of Rs 2,000 per acre for farmers of all Kharif crops owing to a deficit in southwest monsoon this year. Talking to the media about the Cabinet's meeting, the Chief Minister said the state has received significantly less rainfall this year compared to the previous year, which has adversely affected crop production.

"To mitigate these challenges, the government has decided to grant a bonus of Rs 2,000 per acre to the farmers for all crops during the current Kharif season," he said. To ensure that all eligible farmers receive the bonus amount, Chief Minister Saini urged them to register on the 'Meri Fasal, Mera Byora Portal' by August 15. The bonus will apply to all types of crops, including fruits, flowers, and vegetables. This initiative is designed to support even the small farmers owning land measuring 1 acre or less. The government will also bring an Act for service security of contractual employees working for more than five years till retirement, the Chief Minister said. The employees completing five years in service by August 15 will get benefit from this decision, he said. All benefits like dearness allowance (DA), Chirayu Yojana cover etc. would be given to the employees twice a year. The decision will apply to all the employees of Outsourcing Policy Part I and II.

The Cabinet also approved an amendment in the monthly pension scheme for accredited mediapersons above 60 years of age in Haryana. Earlier, one member per family was eligible for the monthly pension. Now this rule has been removed by the Cabinet. The Cabinet also approved the implementation of the new LPG scheme for families who are registered under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY). The scheme will come into force from August 1. Under this scheme, all registered BPL families will be provided up to 12 cylinder refills per annum at the rate of Rs 500 per 14.2 kg domestic cylinder. Also, to promote women's empowerment, the LPG subsidy will be transferred into the bank account of the eldest woman member of the family. If there is no female member above the age of 18 years in the family, the LPG subsidy will be transferred into the bank account of the eldest male member of the family.

Waqf Act Amendment Bill: Congress to oppose introduction to Bill amending Waqf board law in the Lok Sabha



GNS News Agency, August 8

The Congress will oppose the introduction of the Bill to amend the law governing Waqf boards in the Lok Sabha, party leaders said. The issue also was discussed at a meeting of the party's Lok Sabha MPs that was chaired by Rahul Gandhi in the Parliament House Annexe. The Congress MPs have decided to oppose the Bill, a leader said after the meeting.

Congress MPs K.C. Venugopal and Hibi Eden have also given notices to oppose the introduction of the Bill in the Lok Sabha. Mr. Venugopal said the Congress will oppose the Bill and has also given a notice for the same. Mr. Eden has said in his notice that he opposes the presentation of the Bill as it is "unconstitutional" and cited that it is in conflict with the Right to Property (Article 300A), the sources said. The Bill can potentially infringe on the property rights of individuals and religious institutions without adequate legal safeguards, he argued. Mr. Eden also contended that the Bill is an infringement on the Fundamental Right of Religious Freedom under Article 25, the sources said. The Bill's imposition of new conditions for creating Waqfs and the requirement for existing Waqfs to register detailed information on a government portal might be perceived as undue interference in the administration of religious endowments, he said in his notice. Mr. Eden also argued that it is an encroachment on States' powers. The Bill, which seeks to amend the law governing waqf boards, has proposed far-reaching changes in the present Act, including ensuring the representation of Muslim women and non-Muslims in such bodies. The Waqf (Amendment) Bill also seeks to rename the Waqf Act, 1995, as the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act, 1995.

The Bill was circulated among Lok Sabha members on August 6 night ahead of its introduction. According to its statement of objects and reasons, the Bill seeks to omit Section 40 of the current law relating to the powers of the Board to decide if a property is Waqf property. It provides for a broad-based composition of the Central Waqf Council and the State Waqf Boards and ensures the representation of Muslim women and non-Muslims in such bodies. The Bill also proposes the establishment of a separate board of Auqaf for the Bohras and Aghakhans. The draft law provides for the representation of Shias, Sunnis, Bohras, Aghakhans and other backward classes among Muslim communities.

Local dental PG aspirants with BDS degrees from other States considered 'ineligible'



GNS News Agency, August 8

Hyderabad: Candidates, who are born in Telangana State but have completed their BDS degree in other States, are now losing the chance to pursue dental PG because they are considered as non-locals under the newly released GM Ms No-33. Despite securing qualification and a good rank in NEETMDS-2024, several dental doctors, who completed BDS in other States but are born in Telangana, are now not eligible to apply for MDS (Master

of Dental Surgery) seats in Telangana. A BDS completed dental doctor Dr K Kunal, born in Nirmal district and completed Intermediate in Telangana, completed his BDS in Kadapa under non-local category. "This year, I completed my BDS and have also qualified in NEET-MDS-2024. My name has also appeared in the merit list but the Kaloji Health University is not allowing me to attend the counselling. I have been trying to meet the Health Minister to flag this issue but he is not at all accessible," Dr Kunal said.

Dr Kunal completed his class 10 education in Nirmal and later moved to Hyderabad to complete his intermediate. "We have raised our concerns regarding the eligibility of students who have completed their schooling from Class 6 to intermediate in TS and pursued their UG education elsewhere. Does this rule mean that students from all over India, who have completed their BDS in Army Dental College, Secunderabad will now be considered local of Telangana and those who are born here will be considered as non-locals?," asks president and founder of All India Dental Students Association, Dr Manzur Ahmed.

Coordination Committee for Dalit Rights to conduct nationwide movement on Dalit issues from September 15 to 30

GNS News Agency, August 8

Hyderabad: Raising concern over increasing atrocities against dalits and injustice meted out to them under the BJP government at the Centre, the Coordination Committee for Dalit Rights has decided to conduct a nationwide movement on dalit issues from September 15 to 30, besides organizing marches to the Parliament, State Assemblies and Governors' offices. These decisions were taken during a meeting held in Delhi on Wednesday under the collaborative efforts of Dalit Soshan Mukthi Manch, Centre for Dalit Studies, All India Dalit Rights, Agriculture Labour organizations, along with other voluntary groups.

Right from the injustice to Dalits in budget allocations to atrocities against them under the BJP govern-

ment since 2014, the organizations raised concerns about the violation of Dalits and constitutional rights by the union government. Experts at the meeting demanded budget allocation based on population, with the implementation of the SCSIP Act, reservations for dalits in the private sector and an end to privatization, reservations in promotions for dalits, immediate cessation of atrocities and untouchability against dalits, provision of social, economic, and political rights to dalits as per the constitution and ensuring educational rights, land rights, and a favorable working environment for Dalits. They also recommended holding special Parliament sessions to address the above issues. Agricultural production in India heavily relies on dalits, who work in villages as agricultural labourers.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Far-right extremism

THE wave of far-right violence in the UK, marked by attacks on immigrants and Muslims, is a disturbing pointer to the persistent undercurrents of xenophobia and misinformation in society. The stabbing of three girls has been exploited by far-right agitators to fuel hatred and incite chaos. The violence has extended beyond mere protests, with shops looted, cars set on fire and mosques and Asian-owned businesses targeted. This alarming trend underscores a deeper malaise. The far-right's hostility towards immigrants is not merely a reaction to isolated events but a symptom of broader social anxieties and political failures. Misguided beliefs about immigration and cultural integration have been stoked by influencers like Tommy Robinson and politicians like Nigel Farage. They spread dangerous misinformation, such as the false claim that the attacker was a Muslim immigrant, to rally support for their divisive agendas.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer's condemnation of the riots as "organised illegal thuggery" is a necessary step, but more must be done. Even as nearly 400 people have been arrested in a week of violence, including clashes between rioters and the police, concerted efforts must be made to combat the spread of misinformation online, which has proven to be a powerful tool for radicalising individuals and inciting violence. The government must also address the underlying socio-economic issues that far-right groups exploit, such as unemployment and inadequate social services, which often breed resentment towards immigrants.

In this climate of fear, it is crucial to uphold the values of tolerance and unity. The UK needs to ensure the safety and inclusiveness of all its residents, regardless of their background, to prevent such violence from taking root again.

Bengal minister quits over remarks, not first such row for old-time TMC leader



The MLA from Ramnagar in Purba Medinipur district who has been with the TMC since it was formed in 1998, Giri claimed on a WhatsApp chat in November last year that he had "scandalous information" on why Governor C V Ananda Bose had gone to inaugurate a puja organised by TMC state general secretary Kunal Ghosh.

GNS News Agency, August 8

West Bengal's Minister for Correctional Administration or the Prison minister, Akhil Giri, who resigned Monday afternoon over a threat made to a woman forest officer, after he was told to do so by the Trinamool Congress (TMC) leadership, is no stranger to controversy. The MLA from Ramnagar in Purba Medinipur district who has been with the TMC since it was formed in 1998, Giri claimed on a WhatsApp chat in November last year that he had "scandalous information" on why Governor C V Ananda Bose had gone to inaugurate a puja organised by TMC state general secretary Kunal Ghosh.

In 2022, Giri courted controversy with remarks that were seen as derogatory towards President Droupadi Murmu. In a video clip that went viral, Giri was heard saying, "He (state Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari) said I am not good-looking. How handsome is he? We don't judge anyone by their appearance. We respect the office of the President (of India), irrespective of how our President looks." The BJP demanded Giri's arrest at the time and said he should be sacked from the state Cabinet. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had then offered an apology on behalf of the TMC for Giri's comment. In the latest controversial video featuring him, Giri is seen threatening an on-duty woman forest officer heading a team tasked with clearing encroachments in Tajpur, Purba Medinipur. Giri, accompanied by a group of local residents, is seen purportedly telling the woman forest officer, "You are a government employee, bow your head (in front of me) while speaking. See what happens to you within a week... These goons... will ensure that you aren't able to go home at night. Mend your ways, or else... I'll beat you with a danda (stick)."

Following the incident, the BJP again demanded Giri's removal, and sought action against him for repeatedly making derogatory remarks against women. After the TMC asked him to step down, Giri on Sunday night sent his resignation to the CM via email, but said he would not apologise to "any official". "I may apologise to the CM."

On his way to the state Assembly Monday morning, Giri remained unapologetic. "My party asked me to resign. I did. But I will not apologise to anyone. I will go to the Assembly as I am an MLA." However, he added: "I lost my cool that day upon seeing people's sufferings, and how the Forest Department officials were torturing them. I'm sorry for using a particular word, but not for whatever else I said. Whatever I have done is for the cause of the people." A senior TMC leader on condition of anonymity said that by removing Giri from her cabinet, Banerjee has sent a clear message to her party colleagues that she will not tolerate such acts by any leader, even by a Cabinet colleague. Akhil Giri is a four-time TMC MLA from Ramnagar. He first won in 2001, before losing to the CPI(M)'s Swadesh Ranjan Nayek in 2006. In 2011, he won the seat again, and retained it in 2016 and 2021. He had earlier served as the state fisheries minister.

Contractors' association to approach court as govt clubs multiple tenders



GNS News Agency, August 8

contractor, Maharashtra government, road work tenders, Chief Minister Gram Sadak Yojana, small contractors Bhosle also alleged that the consolidation of tenders is intended to simplify the management of a single large contractor at the district level. The recent decision of Maharashtra government to issue district-wise road work tenders under the Chief Minister Gram Sadak Yojana by combining multiple smaller tenders has sparked outrage among small contractors. They argue that this move effectively excludes them from bidding, favouring larger companies instead.

The Maharashtra State Contractors' Association has condemned this decision as a violation of a 2018 Bombay High Court order that had asked the state to refrain from clubbing small tenders. The group has informed the Chief Minister and both Deputy Chief Ministers that it plans to challenge the decision in court once again. "Traditionally, works under the CM Gram Sadak Yojana ranged between Rs 1 crore and Rs 1.5 crore, allowing small contractors and unemployed engineers to participate. How-

ever, the new tenders combine multiple projects, increasing the total cost to Rs 50 to 70 crore. This makes it nearly impossible for smaller players to compete, effectively sidelining them," Milind Bhosle, president of the Maharashtra State Contractors Association said.

Bhosle also alleged that the consolidation of tenders is intended to simplify the management of a single large contractor at the district level. "The government's goal is to manage the incoming funds more easily through the clubbing of tenders. We oppose this move and will take legal action," he added.

On September 19, 2017, the Maharashtra government issued a clarification regarding the Goods and Services Act, 2017, and contractors' concerns about contract processes and conditions. It stated, "Work should be clubbed only if it involves a continuous length of road. Clubbing should not occur if the works are distinctly apart or on different roads. For maintaining good quality, the minimum road length should be 10 km, and for building maintenance, a single estimate should cover the entire building."

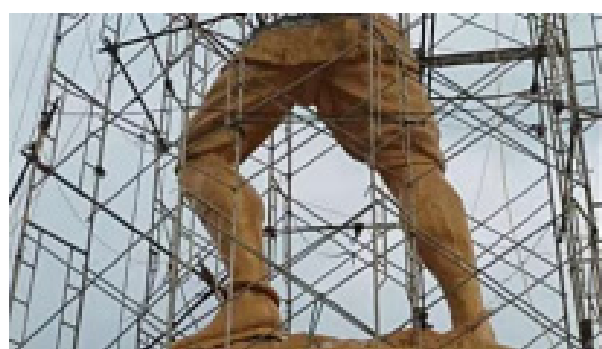
Following this, the Bombay High Court on September 21, 2018, directed the state government to consult with contractors and ordered the Public Works Department not to combine road tenders. The contractors' association plans to approach the Bombay High Court, arguing that the state government has disregarded this order. An official from the Rural Development Department defended the move, stating, "The clubbing of tenders is aimed at ensuring better quality of road work by avoiding fragmented projects. We are not opposed to small contractors, but quality can be better maintained when a single contractor is awarded the work."

'Fake' bronze Parashurama statue: Police seize materials from Bengaluru sculptor

GNS News Agency, August 8

Bronze statue According to the FIR, Krish Art World owner Krishna Naik had charged the state government Rs 1.25 crore to build the bronze statue but delivered a fake one. The Udupi district police on Sunday conducted a mahazar (spot inspection) in Bengaluru in connection with a 'fake' bronze statue of Parashurama that was unveiled at a theme park in Karkala ahead of last year's Assembly elections. The police team seized parts of the statue from the sculptor's workshop.

The 33-foot-bronze statue of Parashurama, believed to be an avatar of Lord Vishnu, went missing part by part soon after. After the incident came to light, it was claimed that the sculptor, Krishna Naik, had brought it back to his shop in Bengaluru to rectify the mistakes. The Justice Nagamohan Das Committee probing the '40 per cent commission' allegations against the erstwhile BJP government had taken up the case. Meanwhile, the Karkala police registered a case after one Krishna Shetty A filed a complaint on June 21. According to the FIR, Krish Art World owner Krishna Naik had charged the state government Rs 1.25 crore to build the bronze statue but delivered a fake one. It has been alleged that Krishna Naik removed



the statue to hide his crime.

The police registered a case under Sections 420 (cheating) and 409 (criminal breach of trust by public servants, bankers, merchants, factors, attorneys, or agents) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) against Krishna Naik. Krishna Naik has alleged that he was being harassed by the police and claimed that the police team that visited his workshop was accompanied by Congress leader Uday Muniyal. However, the police have refuted such allegations.

Congress leader who 'caused woman intelligence officer to fall' during press conference in Kutch sent to judicial custody



GNS News Agency, August 8

Hareesh Ahir arrest, Congress leader Bhuj incident, Intelligence Bureau officer injured. The incident had kicked off a political storm with Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Saghani alleging that Ahir's behaviour betrayed the "anti-women and anti-Dalit mentality" of Congress. Congress leader Hareesh Ahir, who was arrested on Thursday after he allegedly injured a woman officer of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) by causing her to fall on the floor during a press conference in the Bhuj town of Kutch, has been sent to judicial custody by a magistrate after police did not seek his remand.

Ahir was arrested by Kutch West police after he allegedly removed the chair of Reena Chauhan, an assistant intelligence officer with the Bhuj office of the Gujarat IB, while she tried to sit back after standing up to be photographed at a press conference organised by Congress MLA Jignesh Mevani. As per an FIR filed at the 'A' Division police station in Bhuj, the 34-year-old officer sus-

tained minor injuries in her spinal cord and waist and was admitted to a hospital in Bhuj. After she fell to the floor, Chauhan alleged in her FIR, Ahir "laughed aloud" and told her "she didn't deserve a chair and that there can't be any chair for her".

Late on Sunday afternoon, police produced Ahir before a magistrate in Bhuj. "We did not seek his remand as it was not required. The incident took place in an area under CCTV surveillance and given the nature of the case, no discovery or recovery is to be made in an investigation. Hence, the magistrate sent him to judicial custody," AR Zankar, deputy superintendent of police of Kutch East (Scheduled castes/Scheduled Tribe cell) told The Indian Express on Monday. He is the investigating officer of the case. The incident had kicked off a political storm with Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Saghani alleging that Ahir's behaviour betrayed the "anti-women and anti-Dalit mentality" of Congress. However, the conference organiser Mevani, who is also a Dalit, had hit back, saying Chauhan was not invited to his press conference about demanding the possession of land allotted to Dalits of Kutch, and that she had misused the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act to file a false complaint. Ahir, who is the coordinator of the Kisan Congress cell, was arrested within hours of the incident after he was booked under Bharatiya Nayaya Sanhita's Sections 121(1) (voluntarily causing hurt to a public servant discharging his/her official duty), 221 (obstructing a public servant from discharging his/her official duty) and 133 (assault or criminal force to a person, intending thereby to dishonour that person) and under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Maharashtra govt expands scope of state quota for BAMS graduates seeking PG seats

GNS News Agency, August 8

The state government has decided to permit students who have completed their Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) from outside of the state and are domiciled in Maharashtra to apply under the state quota for postgraduate studies within the state. This new provision is effective from this academic year onwards. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde approved the change and instructed the medical education department to amend the relevant rules. The decision was taken, following a meeting with Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) head Raj Thackeray on Saturday, during which the issue was discussed. Dinesh Waghmare, Principal Secretary of the Medical Education department, said, "Following the CM's approval, the proposal to include these students under the state quota has been prepared. The new rule is expected to be in effect from the academic year 2024-25. All such students will need to present bonafide certificates at the time of admission." Under the

current system, students who are bonafide residents of Maharashtra but completed their BAMS outside the state are ineligible to apply for MD courses under the 85 per cent state quota. They can only apply under the all-India quota, which constitutes 15 per cent of the total seats.

Many students have raised concerns about this regulation, arguing that it is unfair given the limited number of seats available. One parent said, "There are only 1,121 seats for MD in Ayurveda in Maharashtra. Competition is fierce given that just 15 per cent seats are allocated to the all-India quota. This situation undermines the purpose of the state quota, which is intended to benefit students from Maharashtra and encourage them to serve the state." Currently, students who complete their BAMS in Maharashtra are eligible for MD admissions under the state quota, but not all of them are original residents of the state. "This dilutes the objective of the state quota, which is to ensure that qualified MDs in Ayurveda stay and serve within Maharashtra," the parent added.

Tiss, ParZor launch first-of-its-kind academic course on Parsi culture, heritage



GNS News Agency, August 8

Tata Institute of Social Sciences and ParZor have launched a first-of-its-kind course on culture and heritage studies. "We have been working with the prestigious Tata Institute of Social Sciences, TISS, Mumbai on the programme structure and the online certificate course will have 20 credits on Parsi Zoroastrian Cultural and Heritage Studies. Admissions have commenced for the course that is structured to provide a holistic understanding of various aspects of Parsi Zoroastrian culture, heritage, and tradition," Dr Shernaz Cama, director, ParZor foundation told ParZor Foundation, set up under the aegis of UNESCO, is an international repository of information on the vulnerable culture and heritage of Parsi Zoroastrians. "The aim of our collaboration with TISS is to share this knowledge with the next generation and keep academic research into Bronze Age traditions still relevant in a post-modern world," Dr Cama said.

As per Census 2011, there were 57,264 Parsis in India and 1.2 lakh around the world, as per the World Population Review. "Parsis are an excellent example of a migrant, minuscule group succeeding against all odds in a multicultural world," Dr Cama said and pointed out that their story is one of resilience and can become inspirational in a world, where thousands of people are finding themselves uprooted from their traditional environment.

When contacted, professor Shankar Das, pro-vice chancellor, TISS, told The Indian Express that the Indian education sector was constantly evolving into a global hub, embracing new perspectives and challenges. "Culture and heritage are fundamental to the ancient civilisation of India, and both South Asia and the Persian Gulf share strong commercial energy, cultural and people-to-people links. A multicultural interpretation of this relationship is what will make the first ever TISS-ParZor Academic Programme on Parsi Cultural and Heritage Studies an exciting one," he said.

There is no age limit for participants applying for the course, which is about an intercultural community whose geographical spread was large in the Achaemenid empire 500 BC from the Mediterranean to China. The community today is spread out from Canada to New Zealand. Explaining why the course is unique, Dr Cama said, "Parsi culture is a combination of Persian, Chinese, Indian and European cultures. It is reflected in their clothing, cuisine, history, lifestyle, and literature. They have to adapt. However, despite their prosperity, they are dying demographically. Hence these contrasts make them an interesting study for sociologists and cultural groups."

'Nothing done so far, people left to suffer': CM Shinde faces anger of frustrated citizens in flood-hit areas



GNS News Agency, August 8

Facing the wrath of flood affected people in the city, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said that the state government will give special status to those houses that have been affected by floods as well as push to redevelop houses that frequently face flooding during the monsoons as a permanent solution to the issue. "The houses and buildings that frequently face flood problems in the city during monsoons will be given a special status for rehabilitation. There are many buildings, so redevelopment will be planned in such a manner that citizens will not have to face the flood situation again," Shinde said after hearing grievances of citizens living in flood affected areas. The Chief Minister visited Sangvi and Sinhad road areas to interact with people affected by the floods. He later stood up on a vehicle at a junction in Ekta Colony at Sinhad road to address the public.

He said citizens who bought flats in buildings that fall in flood prone areas were suffering for no mistake of theirs. "The construction had taken place in a flood prone area when it was not part of Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC). A detailed project report will be prepared to redevelop all buildings in the cluster, but it will be done in phases," Shinde said. He said the citizens were facing the problem for decades, he said the immediate measure was to construct a retaining wall. He said the wall was a demand from citizens and that children personally had requested him to take it up. He said it will be taken up soon once legal hurdles were overcome. Shinde also discussed reasons for the floods at the affected sites, but this irked citizens, who had gathered there in large numbers, and demanded he should listen to them and not officers.

"We have witnessed these flood situations for over a decade every monsoon. The ministers come and go but nothing has been done so far. The citizens are left to suffer," said Surendra Miskar of Radhakrishna Residency in Ektanagari. The women insisted on an interaction with the Chief Minister and shared their grievances with the hope of a permanent solution. "I am your brother who has come to resolve your issues. I will do everything that is possible for a permanent solution," Shinde said.

BJP to launch 'Har Ghar Tiranga' from August 9 to 15



GNS News Agency, August 8

The Maharashtra BJP will launch 'Har ghar tiranga' campaign from August 9 to 15, through which it aims to reach out to one crore people across the state and evoke cultural nationalism, which is high on the party's agenda.

Programme coordinator Uma Khapre on Monday said, "Under the leadership of national president J P Nadda, BJP Maharashtra president Chandrashekhar Bawankule and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will extensively implement the programme."

The plan is to ensure maximum people across the state host tricolour on their residences, commercial establishments and public places to celebrate Independence Day on August 15. During the broadcast of 'Mann ki Baat' on July 28, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to the party to launch Har Ghar Tiranga to celebrate Independence Day with great fervour across the country. According to Khapre, "All the BJP leaders, ministers and office-bearers, along with karyakartas, will proactively participate in the campaign. They will interact with people in their respective constituencies and areas. They will impress upon people to put up a tricolour in their houses."

Apart from conveying the message, the party has provided tricolour at booth levels, Shakti Kendras, and district units which would be distributed among people. From August 12 to 14, the BJP will engage in Swachhta Abhiyan, which includes cleaning premises where statues of freedom fighters and prominent persons have been installed across the state. It will conclude with offering floral tributes and obeisance to the freedom fighters and martyrs, who laid down their lives for the country's freedom.

Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee appeals to political leaders to not comment on Bangladesh crisis

GNS News Agency, August 8

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Monday appealed to political leaders to not make any provocative statements on the Bangladesh crisis and instead jeopardise peace in the state. She said the Centre will decide India's stand on the crisis in the neighbouring country. Banerjee further said, "I appeal to people of all communities with folded hands to remain calm and not engage in any communal behaviour or take the law into their own hands. If our brothers and sisters who are there (in Bangladesh) face some trouble, the Government of India and the Government of Bangladesh will look into it. We will do what the Gol asks. I urge leaders of all political parties and everyone else to not post anything that will disrupt peace here." She claimed that some BJP leaders have already started making 'inappropriate' comments on the situation in Bangladesh. The West Bengal Police also asked people to not share "provocative videos".

"Given the current situation in neighbouring Bangladesh, we have noticed a few posts and videos on social media that may create discord and unrest. Please do not pay attention to rumours, do not share provocative videos, do not step into a fake news trap. The state administration is alert and vigilant. Keep calm and maintain peace," the police posted on X. Meanwhile, Daljit Singh Chaudhary, Director General, BSF, and other officers visited the India-Bangladesh border in Dhamakhali under the North 24 Parganas district on Monday.

"The purpose of this visit is to review the operational preparedness and strategic deployment of BSF in these important border areas," the BSF said in a statement. "Commandant of 118th Battalion briefed DG BSF on the battalion's water border responsibilities along Bangladesh en route to the Floating BOP deployed at T-junction, highlighting the unique challenges of the rainforest and water-rich terrain and the effective mea-



sures implemented to tackle border crimes including smuggling and illegal crossings. The visit concluded with a visit to the outpost located in the dense rainforest Sundarbans," the statement added. Daljit Singh Chaudhary, DG, SSB, took over the additional charge of DG BSF on Saturday and this was his first official visit to the eastern state. "The ongoing efforts of BSF in Sundarbans and North 24 Parganas are vital in preventing international crimes and maintaining the sovereignty of the nation considering the current situation in Bangladesh," said a BSF official. In view of the law-and-order situation in Bangladesh, the BSF has already issued a high alert along the 4,096 km-long India-Bangladesh border. Sheikh Hasina resigned from the post of prime minister on Monday amid the recent unrest in Bangladesh. She left Bangladesh in a helicopter with her sister. After Hasina left Bangladesh, chaotic scenes were witnessed in several places in Bangladesh including the capital Dhaka. Thousands of people ransacked Ganabhaban, the official residence of the prime minister of Bangladesh. A statue of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh's Independence hero and Sheikh Hasina's father, was also toppled by a mob in Dhaka.

Entry of tourists banned at Bhimashankar waterfalls

GNS News Agency, August 8

The Pune district administration has banned tourists and trekkers from entering the four waterfalls in Bhimashankar region to prevent accidents. Sanjay Nagtilak, tehsildar of Ambegaon, said the decision was taken in an inter-departmental meeting. The ban comes after five members of a family in Pune were swept away in a waterfall in Lonavala last month.

Bhimashankar range has four major water falls, namely in Nigdale and Kondhawal. Local residents said that after the Covid lockdown, the number of visitors doubled in the area and this year the waterfalls have a lot of water flowing through them due to the heavy rains. "Dimbhe dam is also full with water being discharged from all five gates," Nagtilak said. As part of the ban, police and fire department will barricade access to the water fall and other approach areas of water bodies. With the holy month of Shraavan commencing on Monday, an increased number of devotees is expected at Bhimashankar temple. Incessant rains in and around Pune had caused landslides along the road to the temple and traffic was suspended from the Khed side approach



last month. Bhimashankar's protected forests is home to the giant flying squirrel, which is the state animal of Maharashtra. The forests also have many trekking trails that are frequented by people in large numbers. Incessant rains have also brought risks, when last month five members of a family from Pune were swept away in a water fall in Lonavala. District collector Suhas Diwase had banned the entry of tourists to such places in view of the forecast of heavy rainfall. The ban was lifted subsequently.

250-300 Indian trucks stuck on Bangladesh side amid unrest, movement of goods through Petrapole land port stopped

GNS News Agency, August 8

Movement of goods through the Petrapole land port on the India-Bangladesh border has stopped on Monday, and the train service between Kolkata and Dhaka remained suspended, as the latest spurt of violence in Bangladesh claimed at least 300 lives and forced Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign and flee the country.

There are 250-300 Indian trucks stuck on the Bangladesh side, said Kartik Chakraborty, secretary, Clearing Agents Staff Welfare Association of Petrapole – the land port on the Indian side of the border with Bangladesh. "At 3.30 pm today, all movement of trucks and goods – import and export – stopped. The situation is volatile in Bangladesh. There is fear and panic here too. There are about 250-300 Indian trucks at Benapole (the Bangladesh side of the land port). They are yet to unload the goods," he said. "We request the new Bangladesh administration to ensure the safety of the trucks, goods and drivers," Chakraborty said. He also said that there was little movement of goods from Benapole to other parts of Bangladesh in the last few days, leading to trucks being stuck there with their cargo.

As protests in Bangladesh had turned violent last month, movement of goods through Petrapole had stopped on July 20, before resuming on July 24. On aver-

age, 450-500 trucks move from India to Bangladesh through Petrapole – the largest land port in South Asia – every day. About 150-200 trucks come the other way. Yearly, about 22 lakh people cross the broder through the Petrapole checkpoint.

The goods exported by India through Petrapole include cotton fabrics, chassis of motor vehicles, non-alloy steel, yarn, synthetic fibers, two-wheelers, machinery parts, papers, cereals, and other food products. Jute, readymade garments, betel nut, and rice bran are among goods that India exports from Bangladesh. Petrapole is located at Bongaon, in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, along the International Border between India and Bangladesh, at a distance of about 80 km from Kolkata. The Indo-Bangladesh Maitree Express, the train service that connects Kolkata and Dhaka, has remained suspended since July 19, when the student protests in the Bangladesh capital had turned violent. Eastern Railway confirmed on Sunday that the service would remain shut at least until Tuesday. The train service had started in April 14, 2008 – on the occasion of the Bengali New Year – and was a milestone in India-Bangladesh relations. It covers the 400 km between Dhaka and Kolkata in around 8 hours and 50 minutes. It had previously been suspended in March 2020 due to the pandemic, but was resumed on May 29, 2022.

How to ease traffic congestion in Sector 17? Rail body's alternatives analysis has a solution



GNS News Agency, August 8

The Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) has proposed four multilevel car parking lots to ease congestion in Chandigarh's Sector 17. The RITES made the proposal in the Alternatives Analysis Report (ARR) for Chandigarh Metro. Sector 17, the city's main commercial hub, sees immense traffic chaos, with vehicles parked bumper to bumper in the absence of parking space. This sector comprises commercial shops and eating outlets as well as several government offices, exacerbating traffic congestion. The proposed parking lots, which are also part of the Chandigarh masterplan 2031, look at the possible traffic problems at Sector 17.

The AAR report suggests that the construction of four multilevel car parking lots will help alleviate the area's parking demands. Additionally, the proposal includes plans to improve public transport connectivity to Sector 17 to further optimise parking demand. The first proposed two-level parking lot is 3,900 square metres and is next to Anand Cinema. The proposed parking area (35 square metres/car) can accommodate 334 cars. The second parking lot, which is also 3,900 square metres in area, has been proposed adjacent to K C Cinema. It can also park 334 cars.

Another automated parking lot has been planned near the electric substation. The area for the multilevel space with lifts will be 16 square metres per car, allowing parking of 1,500 cars. The proposal includes a fourth multilevel car park with three basement levels. The car park will be 21,000 square metres and can accommodate 1,480 cars. Chandigarh's Sector 17 already has a multilevel car parking facility that is not in demand for various reasons. During the inauguration years ago, civic body councillors alleged that its location was not feasible and that people would not park so far away and walk to Sector 17 plaza. People in Chandigarh prefer to park in the open surface parking area because the civic body's multilevel parking lot lacks proper security arrangements.

Delhi HC rejects Olympian Samarsh Jung's plea to stay eviction notice

GNS News Agency, August 8

In a setback for Samarsh Jung, who has returned to India after coaching bronze medallist shooters Manu Bhakar and Sarabjot Singh at the Paris Olympics, the Delhi High Court on Monday refused to stay the Union housing and urban affairs ministry's eviction notice for 32 acres of land at Khyber Pass in Civil Lines. The notice was issued on March 1 by the ministry's Land and Development Office directing the occupants in the 32 acres to vacate "all unauthorised occupation and remove illegal constructions from the land immediately" by March 4.

With Jung present in the courtroom, his lawyer Rahul Sharma argued before Justice Sanjeev Narula that he was the "highest medal winner in Commonwealth Games", but the court held that in light of the decisions already taken in the matter by the high court in an earlier round of litigation, it cannot carve out an exception for him. The government counsel said that while Jung "may have done some great service for the country, unfortunately it is public land".

While advocate Sharma submitted that the March 1 notice was liable to be struck down and that it was arbi-



trary and in violation of principles of natural justice, with no showcause notice served, the court held that the matter had already been decided on various legal aspects in an earlier batch of petitions. The court held that Jung would not be "put to a pedestal of lessee" in the absence of documentary proof and with no agreement to this effect having been executed between him and the respondents. It added that the payment of property tax did not give him any legal right over the property.

Chhattisgarh CM showers flower petals on Kanwariyas from helicopter, serves them food

GNS News Agency, August 8

"This marks the first time in the history of Chhattisgarh that a Chief Minister has personally welcomed Shiva devotees by showering flowers from a helicopter," a government official said. (Express) "This marks the first time in the history of Chhattisgarh that a Chief Minister has personally welcomed Shiva devotees by showering flowers from a helicopter," a government official said. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma on Monday showered rose petals from helicopters on participants of the Kanwar yatra, and later personnel served food to the pilgrims.

The Kanwariyas had walked around 140 kilometres from Amarkantak, in Madhya Pradesh's Anuppur district, to the Baba Bhramdev Temple in Chhattisgarh's Kabirdham district. They were carrying water from the Narmada river in small containers on their shoulders to bring it to the temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. CM Sai greeted the Kanwariyas and devotees with chants of "Har Har Mahadev" and "Bol Bam". "This marks the first time in the history of Chhattisgarh that a Chief Minister has personally welcomed Shiva devotees by showering flowers



from a helicopter," a government official said. Sai also performed the customary rituals at Boramdeo. Both the CM and the Deputy CM interacted with devotees at the temple premises and personally served them food. At Boramdeo Temple, as well as at historical and religious sites like Budha Mahadev and Jaleshwar Mahadev in Dongariya, thousands of Kanwariyas perform the "jalabishek" ritual annually.

Waqf Act Amendments, ST reservation in Goa: Here's what happened in Parliament

GNS News Agency, August 8

Lawmakers confronted pressing issues, from the political upheaval in Bangladesh – where its Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled the country – to significant amendments to the Waqf Act in Parliament on Monday. The session saw heated debates, critical discussions on renewable energy, and urgent calls for enhanced support for the agricultural sector.

Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal introduced a groundbreaking bill to reserve seats for Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the Goa Legislative Assembly. Currently, the ST community lacks representation despite its significant presence. This bill aims to amend the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, ensuring their voices are heard. The government is preparing to amend the Waqf Act of 1995, aiming to enhance accountability and transparency within Waqf boards. If passed, the amendments will require Waqf boards to register their properties with district collectors to ensure accurate valuations. Additionally, the proposed changes include mandatory representation of women in these governing bodies, responding to long-standing demands from within the Muslim community. However, several leaders have voiced strong opposition, alleging that the BJP-led government intends to use this amendment to create divisions within society. Akhilesh Yadav from the Samajwadi Party stated that his party will resist any attempts to pass the bill, accusing the BJP of infringing on the rights of Muslims. ET Mohammed Basheer from the Indian Union Muslim League characterized the government's actions as ill-intentioned, asserting that they seek control over Waqf properties. Other opposition figures, including Asaduddin Owaisi and representatives from CPI and Shiv Sena, echoed concerns about the potential politicisation of Waqf resources and the undermining of community autonomy. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board has also condemned the proposed amendments, warning of legal and democratic measures

to counter any such legislative moves. The political storm in Bangladesh took center stage in the Lok Sabha, with MPs expressing deep concern over the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. TMC MP Sougata Roy called for immediate clarity on the situation, urging the government to respond. However, Chair Jagdambika Pal reminded members to keep their focus on national matters. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman took the floor to address concerns surrounding the Sahara group, revealing that the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) is conducting an in-depth probe. She assured MPs that further action would follow the SFIO's findings. Responding to queries about the low number of investors claiming refunds, Sitharaman noted that only 19,650 out of 3.7 crore investors had come forward, with 17,250 claims already settled. She stressed that the entire situation is under the Supreme Court's watch, leaving the government with limited direct intervention. Sitharaman pointed out that probes into three Sahara group companies were initiated by the SFIO in October 2018, with investigations expanding to six additional companies in late 2020. She promised that once the SFIO completes its thorough analysis, a clearer picture will emerge, paving the way for necessary actions. In the Rajya Sabha, discussions reignited around the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's performance. SP MP Javed Ali Khan emphasized the urgent need to ramp up solar energy production to 60 gigawatts annually, questioning the ministry's readiness to meet India's ambitious clean energy targets by 2030. The Lok Sabha buzzed with discussions on the budget for the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying. Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh proudly declared India as the global leader in dairy production, citing a remarkable 58% growth under the Modi administration. Opposition members, including Congress MP Benny Behanan, criticized the government for falling short in supporting the fishing community, calling for timely compensation to protect their livelihoods.

Budget allocation up, States urged to spend more on improving health infrastructure



GNS News Agency, August 8

The Lok Sabha, on August 5, approved by voice vote the Demands for Grants, for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (2024-25) after discussion. Replying to the discussion Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare J.P. Nadda said that the budgetary allocations for the health sector had gone up from ₹33,278 crore in 2013-14 to ₹90,958 crores in 2024-25 registering an increase of 164%. The Minister also urged State governments to spend more on improving healthcare infrastructure and dismissed Opposition allegations on reduction of allocations under the PM-Ayushman Bharat Healthcare Infrastructure Mission.

Refuting claims by the Opposition on reduction of funds for the health infrastructure mission, the Health Minister said States were able to spend just ₹1,806 crore out of the budgetary allocation of ₹4,200 crore in last year's budget. "We are giving money, but it is not spent. You spend the money, we will allocate more funds if the existing funds are spent," said the Minister, adding that

₹3,200 crore have been earmarked for PM-ABHIM this year. "We don't believe in just making announcements. We believe in effective planning, ensuring last mile delivery, identifying bottlenecks in last mile delivery and taking steps to remove them," the Minister said. He further noted that of the total budget, 55% of the amount is spent through the National Health Mission. "Also the Central Government is gradually increasing the health budget and at present it has touched 1.9% of GDP. Also out-of-pocket expenditure has come down from 62% to 47.1%," he said. The Minister noted that a total of 22 AIIMS were sanctioned out of which 18 are operational and four are under construction. Additionally a total 13,000 outlets of Janaushadhi Kendras are operational with the plan to open 25,000 more such Kendras in the next five years, added the Minister.

He said that the health sector has been prioritised in the budget allocation. Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), Rs 13,900 crore has been spent to strengthen tertiary health care. The number of medical colleges has also increased from 387 to 731, and undergraduate seats have risen from 51,348 to 1,12,112, with a 118 percent increase in postgraduate seats. Mr. Nadda also said that due to the implementation of Ayushman Bharat, free drugs and Diagnostics services and free screening, out-of-pocket expenditure has come down from 62 per cent to 47.1%. He said, under NHM, the Centre provides financial and technical support to States for strengthening District Hospitals, Primary Health Centres, and Ayushman Arogya Mandir. The Health Minister also noted that the Central Government is ready to give more funds where required. He questioned why West Bengal hasn't submitted the dengue records.

Allies divided over Supreme Court ruling on Scheduled Caste sub-categorisation leave BJP in a tough spot

GNS News Agency, August 8

Two key allies in the ruling coalition — the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) and Telugu Desam Party — have taken opposing positions on the Supreme Court judgement in favour of sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes, leaving the BJP in a tight spot. LJP (Ram Vilas) president Chirag Paswan has announced that his party will file a review petition against the judgement. On the other hand, TDP chief and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, an early champion of sub-categorisation, has wholeheartedly welcomed the verdict. SC verdict on SC/ST reservation: What are the political implications?

On Thursday, a seven-judge Constitutional bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, in a majority judgement, held that States have the right to sub-classify Scheduled Castes notified in the Presidential List, with the objective of providing less advanced communities with the grouping with preferential treatment in public employment and education. "Pushback from northern voters"

The BJP is yet to come up with a clear response to the judgement. In order for sub-categorisation to take place, the government would also need to conduct a caste census, which the Opposition has been demanding, and the BJP has been resisting. "The BJP cannot outrightly reject or accept the judgement, since in the south, it stands to gain from it, and in the north, it expects a pushback not only from allies but from the voters too. The Opposition's campaign that the BJP government will end reservation had its largest impact in the northern States. The BJP will have to tread carefully on the subject," a top NDA leader said. The Congress has not taken a definitive stance on the verdict either, though Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy both welcomed it. Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati, however, spoke against the judgement on Sunday, and also criticised the BJP-led Union government for not properly advocating for the Dalit cause.

'No creamy layer for Dalits'

Mr. Paswan insisted that "creamy-layer" criteria cannot be applied to Dalits for reservation purposes. "Reservation as an affirmative action was included in the Constitution because the Dalits for centuries have suffered social exclusion in the form of untouchability. Creamy



layers are determined by their educational and financial position. But no matter how well educated or affluent, their position in social structures has not really changed," the LJP (Ram Vilas) chief said, giving instances of Dalit youth not being allowed to ride horses in wedding processions and temples being "purified" after the visits of well-known Dalit leaders. Mr. Paswan clarified that the decision to seek a review petition has been taken solely by his party, without any consultation with the BJP.

Poll promises On the other hand, the TDP welcomed the verdict. In Andhra Pradesh, the more "advanced" Mala caste, whose members have cornered most of the benefits of the SC quota, largely supports the Congress. During Mr. Naidu's second term as Chief Minister, the TDP sought to reach out to the Madiga community, who had felt left out from reservation benefits, by creating four categories within the SCs in 1997. "We welcome the Supreme Court verdict on SC classification issue. Chandra Babu Garu implemented social justice 30 years ago," Mr. Naidu's son and Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh said in a post on X, adding that TDP is committed to the sub-categorisation promise that was part of its election campaign. The BJP itself has been advocating for such sub-quotas in Telangana, where it won eight seats out of 17 in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, at par with the Congress. Ahead of the 2023 Assembly polls in the State, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the constitution of a committee to look into the Madiga community's long-standing demand for a sub-quota. Manda Krishna Madiga, the leader of the Madiga Reservation Porata Samithi, had also thrown his lot in with the BJP.

expanded the e-Visa facility with Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA), now accessible to nationals of 167 countries. This e-Visa permits entry through 30 designated international airports and six major seaports, significantly broadening the scope for international travellers to visit India with ease. The Ministry of Tourism actively conducts need-based tourism surveys, research, and feasibility studies. These initiatives are pivotal in forming the foundation for policy development and assessing the effectiveness of existing programs. The data gathered through these studies is crucial for identifying areas of improvement and ensuring that tourism policies align with intended objectives. To bolster tourist safety and provide immediate assistance, 15 State Governments and Union Territory (UT) Administrations have deployed tourist police. Furthermore, the Ministry has established a 24x7 Multi-Lingual Tourist Info-Helpline, available toll-free at 1800111363 or short code 1363. This service supports domestic and foreign tourists, offering guidance and information in 12 languages, including 10 international languages. Launched in 2014-15, the Swadesh Darshan scheme aims to develop tourism infrastructure across India. Financial assistance is provided to States, UT Administrations, and Central Agencies. Since its inception, 76 projects under various thematic circuits have been sanctioned with a revised total amount of ₹5287.90 crore, of which ₹4944.47 crore have been released. The scheme has been revamped as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) to promote sustainable and responsible tourism destinations with a tourist-centric approach.

The Ministry also introduced the National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) as a Central Sector Scheme. This initiative focuses on the integrated development of identified pilgrimage destinations. Under the PRASHAD scheme, ₹1621.14 crore have been sanctioned, with ₹1024.18 crore already released.

Any change in Wakf Act will not be tolerated, says Muslim Personal Law Board



GNS News Agency, August 8

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board has hit out at any proposed changes to the Wakf Act, 2013. "Any change in the Wakf Act which alters the nature of wakf properties or makes it easier for the government or any individual to usurp them will not be acceptable," said AIMPLB spokesman SQR Ilyas. The board is contemplating legal redress if the government makes any "sweeping changes" to the Act.

He said: "According to media reports, the Government of India wants to change the status and nature of the Wakf properties through about 40 amendments to the Wakf Act, 2013, so that their possession becomes easier. A Bill may be introduced in the Parliament next week. The Muslim Personal Law Board considers it important

to clarify that wakf properties are donations made by Muslim philanthropists dedicated to religious and charitable purposes — the government has only enacted the Wakf Act to regulate them." Incidentally, the Wakf properties have been mired in controversy in recent months with more than 20 mosques, dargahs and cemeteries in the Capital falling under the care of the Centre after being maintained by the Wakf Board for long. There have been allegations too of the Wakf properties being rented out or even sold for non-Wakf purposes. The Wakf properties are protected by the Constitution of India and Shariat Application Act, 1937.

"The government cannot make any amendment that would alter the nature and status of these properties," Mr. Ilyas said. "In all the decisions taken by the Modi government regarding Muslims, something has been taken away from them and nothing has been given, whether it is the closure of Maulana Azad Foundation or restricting minority scholarship or triple talaq." He said this issue would not be restricted to Muslims only. "After wielding the axe on Wakf properties, it is feared that the next number may be the endowments of Sikhs and Christians and then on the Maths and other religious properties of Hindus," Mr. Ilyas feared. He said Muslims would never accept any amendment to the Wakf Act. He appealed to the allies of the NDA and Opposition parties to reject any proposed changes and make sure the Bill is not passed by Parliament. He asked the Muslim community too "to unite against this malicious act of the government".

'Stay safe, Hasina Aunty': Pranab Mukherjee's daughter as Bangladeshi leader faces exile for second time

GNS News Agency, August 8

"Stay safe and strong, Hasina Aunty. Tomorrow is another day. My prayers are with you" — this post on "X" by Sharmishtha Mukherjee, daughter of the former President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, not only recalled the close ties between the Mukherjee family and that of Sheikh Hasina but also the last time the latter was in exile, in New Delhi.

While Ms. Hasina is said to be heading to London to seek asylum this time around, the years she spent in India, and the close personal embrace of the Mukherjee family, are brought to mind in the light of the events unfolding in Bangladesh. Between 1975 and 1981, Ms. Hasina stayed in New Delhi after the brutal assassination of her father Sheikh Mujibur Rehman and several other members of her family. At that time, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had sheltered the surviving members of the clan in New Delhi and tasked Pranab Mukherjee with their welfare, a task he and his wife Suvra undertook with diligence and care. Ms. Hasina referred to Suvra as "boudi" (the Bangla term for sister-in-law) and the two bonded over music, poetry and other interests. Reeling from grief, Ms. Hasina was brought into the family circle of the Mukherjees, something she held onto much after.

In 2010, on a state visit to India, Ms. Hasina broke



protocol to visit Suvra at the Mukherjee residence; it was said to have made Pranab, the then Finance Minister and a stickler for protocol, uncomfortable. In 2015, Ms. Hasina met with the Mukherjee family to condole the death of Suvra. Ms. Sharmishtha Mukherjee referred to Ms. Hasina as her "guardian" after the demise of her mother. For Ms. Hasina, twice exiled now, the situation is more political than the personal trauma of losing more than half her family to an assassin's bullets in the 1970s. Ms. Hasina's flight from Dhaka this time is due to the buffeting of the strong winds of popular street protests against her. In New Delhi, however, among the members of the Mukherjee family, personal ties still stand.

Delhi coaching centre deaths: Supreme Court takes suo motu cognisance, issues notice to Centre and Delhi government



GNS News Agency, August 8

The Supreme Court on August 5 took suo motu cognisance of the drowning of three civil services aspirants trapped in the flooded basement of their Rajinder Nagar coaching centre during a heavy bout of rain in Delhi. "We are not sure as to what effective measures have been taken so far by the NCT of Delhi or the Union of India. The recent unfortunate incidents taking away lives of some of

the young ones who joined coaching centres for their career pursuits are an eye opener for one and all," a Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan remarked. The Bench issued for notice to the Centre through the Ministry of Urban Affairs and the Delhi government.

The authorities have been asked to bring on record the safety mechanism in place to prevent such deaths and to ensure that coaching centres in the national capital do not expose young lives to danger. "Students come from all over the country to Delhi to study, and now they lose their lives?" Justice Kant asked, emphasising the seriousness of the issue at hand. A few days ago, the Delhi High Court had transferred the probe into the three deaths to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The High Court had castigated the police and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) over the drowning incident, saying it was unable to fathom how the students could not come out. It has asked why MCD officials did not inform the commissioner about non-functioning stormwater drains in the area.

Visa-on-Arrival facility available for nationals of Japan, South Korea, UAE



GNS News Agency, August 8

Union Minister for Tourism and Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat provided an update that the Visa-on-Arrival facility would be available for nationals of Japan, South Korea, UAE, in a written reply to the Lok Sabha on August 5.

According to a press release, this facility is applicable for tourism, business, conference, and medical purposes, allowing a stay of up to 60 days with double entry. The Visa-on-Arrival can be utilised at six designated airports across India, simplifying the process for visitors from these countries and enhancing the convenience of travel.

In addition to the Visa-on-Arrival, the Ministry has

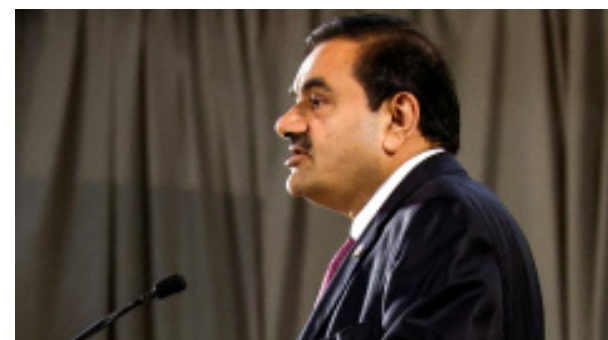
Adani plans to cede control to family by early 2030s: Report

GNS News Agency, August 8

Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani, 62, plans to step down at the age of 70 and shift control to his sons and their cousins in the early 2030s, he told Bloomberg News. When Mr. Gautam retires, his four heirs - sons Karan and Jeet, and their cousins Pranav and Sagar - will become equal beneficiaries of the family trust, according to the scions, the report said.

A confidential agreement will dictate the transition of stakes in the conglomerate's firms to the heirs, the Bloomberg report said, citing people familiar with the matter. Adani Group did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. Mr. Gautam's elder son Karan Adani is the managing director of Adani Ports, while his younger son Jeet Adani is the director of Adani Airports, according to the Adani Group website.

Pranav Adani is the director of Adani Enterprises and Sagar Adani is the executive director of Adani Green Energy, the website shows. Mr. Pranav and Mr. Karan are the most obvious candidates to eventually take over as chairman, the Bloomberg report said. "Succession is very, very important for the business sustainability. I left the choice to the second generation as the transition must be organic, gradual and very systematic," Mr. Gautam said. When Mr. Gautam does step back, the joint decision-making will continue even in the event of a crisis or a major strategic call, the Adani children told Bloomberg in separate interviews. The report comes at a time when



When Mr. Gautam does step back, the joint decision-making will continue even in the event of a crisis or a major strategic call

Adani Enterprises, the flagship firm of the Adani Group, saw its first quarter profit more than double, as the conglomerate expanded its new energy business through more investments in renewable energy.

Sheikh Hasina won't make political comeback, says son Joy



Newshour programme that Hasina had been deliberating about stepping down as the Prime Minister since Sunday.

At least 98 people were killed in a single day's violence on Sunday as protesters clashed with Awami League supporters. They burnt down Awami League offices and attacked the party's leaders. Thirteen policemen were also beaten to death. "You've had policemen beaten to death, 13 just yesterday. So what do you expect the police to do when mobs are beating people to death?" Joy said, defending the use of force against the protesters. He was an official adviser to the prime minister of Bangladesh. "She [Hasina] has turned Bangladesh around. When she took over power, it was considered a failing state. It was a poor country. Until today, it was considered one of the rising tigers of Asia," he said, adding, "She's very disappointed." The garment industry saw tremendous growth under Hasina, and it boosted the overall economy. Since 2009, when Hasina came to power, Bangladesh's economy has grown by an average of over 6% annually and pulled millions out of poverty.

Despite the economic progress, there was latent discontent among people over her strict rule. There were questions regarding the fairness of the elections that made her return to power. That is what turned the quota protests, leveraged by the opposition, into an agitation to end her rule. Joy told the BBC there would be no political comeback for his mother because she was "so disappointed that, after all her hard work, for a minority to rise up against her". However, experts always advise politicians to never use the word "never".

Following Sheikh Hasina's resignation and as Bangladesh's Prime Minister, her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy said that her mother wouldn't be returning to politics. Joy, who was an adviser to the PM, claimed that she had been pondering if she would step down since Sunday.

Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy said that the former Bangladesh PM had been deliberating about stepping down since Sunday. Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy said that the former Bangladesh PM was extremely disappointed with the developments despite having turned country's economy around.

Sheikh Hasina, who resigned as Bangladesh Prime Minister on Monday and left the country for her safety, was retiring from politics, her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy told BBC News. Joy said that Hasina was extremely disappointed with the developments despite having turned Bangladesh's economy around. Joy told the BBC's

Hindu temples damaged amid Bangladesh unrest, Indian cultural centre vandalised

GNS News Agency, August 8

An Indian cultural centre in Dhaka was vandalised, and four Hindu temples across Bangladesh suffered minor damage amid soaring tensions following Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ouster. 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. However, some Hindu community leaders are afraid in the wake of the tense situation after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ouster.

The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre located in Dhaka's Dhanmondi area was damaged by the unruly mob, according to eyewitnesses. The protesters also set fire to several key locations in Dhaka, including Bangabandhu Bhaban, also known as the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, at Dhanmondi 32, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported. The museum was dedicated to Hasina's father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who was assassinated while serving as president in 1975. The development comes as a massive protest forced Prime Minister Hasina to resign and leave Bangladesh. Army Chief General



Waqar-uz-Zaman announced that an interim government was being formed and urged protesters to end the violence. The Centre, formally inaugurated in March 2010, promotes bilateral cultural linkages between India and Bangladesh by organising cultural programmes, cultural seminars, workshops and engaging India based Gurus professionals and trainers for Yoga, Hindi, Indian classical Vocal Music and Indian Dances such as Kathak and Manipuri. It also engages high class professionals from Bangladesh who had their training from Indian Gurus or in Indian Universities. The Centre, a Cultural Centre of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations of India, has a library with over 21,000 books in the fields of Indian art, culture, politics, economics and fiction.

'We failed to understand pulse of people': Awami League MP on Bangladesh crisis



GNS News Agency, August 8

Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government failed to understand the people's dissatisfaction, which was exacerbated by issues like rising commodity prices and corruption, party MP Asaduzzaman Noor said. Bangladeshi actor-politician Asaduzzaman Noor, who served as the Cultural Affairs Minister from 2014 to 2019 under Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government, said on Monday that the government and party failed to understand the people's sentiments and that citizens were unhappy.

The Awami League MP argued that there were several underlying reasons, besides the quota protests, that fueled the anti-government sentiment, leading to some of the worst violence in the country. "...Actually, the people were not happy. I mean, quite unhappy about many things, and possibly we failed to understand the pulse of the people and didn't take it seriously," Noor told India Today. He observed that people were "under huge pressure" due to the price hike of daily commodities.

"I mean, the middle class or working class were under a lot of pressure, financial pressure, because of the rise in prices and also I think corruption is a very important factor," he noted. Asaduzzaman Noor's residence was also vandalised and set on fire by protesters, who targeted the residences and offices of Awami League leaders across the country on Sunday and Monday. "I urged them to maintain peace and avoid conflict. That was my message to everyone, including my party. But today, I found that it's not working. First, they vandalised my home, and now I'm hearing that they have set it on fire," he said. Asaduzzaman Noor, an MP representing the Nilphamari-2 constituency since 2001, further said, "That was my home, my parental home, where I actually lived. It is in my constituency. When I go to my constituency, I live there." He alleged that the enforcement authorities are not "taking care of Dhaka." Bangladesh Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina resigned on Monday amid the violent protests that swept the country in the past few weeks. The country witnessed extreme violence on Sunday, with 97 deaths, as protesters marched to Dhaka. Amid this, Hasina resigned from her post and left the country. The angry protesters stormed the Prime Minister's residence as well as the parliament. The streets were filled with thousands of agitators, as the army announced that an interim government would take over.

Protesters vandalize Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's statue in Dhaka

GNS News Agency, August 8

New Delhi: With Sheikh Hasina reportedly resigning as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and fleeing the country amid an unprecedented protest led by the students, jubilant crowds were seen waving flags on the streets of Dhaka, even as scores of agitators stormed 'Ganabhaban', the official residence of the PM. A section of the crowd also vandalised a statue of former Bangladesh President and the country's independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of Sheikh Hasina, in Dhaka.

According to the local media, as many as 4 lakh protesters were on the streets of Dhaka, though the exact numbers were yet to be ascertained. Earlier in an address to the nation, Bangladesh Army Chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman announced that Sheikh Hasina has resigned as the Prime Minister, and an interim government will be formed soon to run the country. General Waker-Uz-Zaman also urged the citizens to keep their trust in the Bangladesh Army, asserting that the defence forces will ensure peace in the coming days. The Army chief also said that he will be meeting President Mohammed Shahabuddin soon.

The developments followed after over 100 people were killed and more than 1,000 injured in the clashes that took place between police and protesters on Sunday. "With yesterday's count, the death toll in anti-government protests crossed 300 in just three weeks, making it the bloodiest period in the history of Bangladesh's civil movement," Bangladesh's leading daily 'The Daily Star' reported. The student-led non-cooperation movement put immense pressure on the government led by Prime Minister Hasina over the past many weeks.

The students had been protesting against a 30 per cent reservation in government jobs for relatives of freedom fighters who wrested independence for Bangladesh from Pakistan in a bloody civil war in 1971 in which, according to Dhaka officials, 3 million people were killed in the genocide by Pakistani troops and their supporters.

Who is Bangladesh army chief who announced Sheikh Hasina's resignation?



GNS News Agency, August 8

Who is Waker-Uz-Zaman: A month after he became the chief of the Bangladesh army, General Waker-Uz-Zaman, on Monday announced the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who fled the country 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.

Zaman said in a televised address that after discussions with "all political parties", it was decided that an interim government would be formed. It was not clear if the army would play a role, but Zaman said: "We will now go to the president of the country, where we will discuss the formation of the interim government, form the interim government, and manage the nation," he

said. Bangladesh has been engulfed by protests and violence that began last month after student groups demanded scrapping of a controversial quota system in government jobs. That escalated into a campaign to seek the ouster of Hasina, who has been in power for 15 years and most recently swept to a fourth straight term in January. Zaman, 58, assumed the duties of army chief on June 23 for a period of three years - the normal tenure for the position. Born in Dhaka in 1966, he is married to Sarahnaz Kamalika Zaman, the daughter of General Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, who was army chief from 1997 to 2000.

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, according to the Bangladesh Army website. Prior to becoming the army chief, he served as the Chief of General Staff for little over six months - a role in which he oversaw, among other things, military operations and intelligence, Bangladesh's role in UN peacekeeping operations, and budget. In a career spanning three-and-a-half decades, he has also worked closely with Hasina, serving as the principal staff officer at the Armed Forces Division under the Prime Minister's Office. Zaman has also been associated with the modernization of the army, the army website said. As protests rocked the country once again this month, Zaman called upon army personnel to ensure security of people's lives, properties, and important state installations.

All about flight AJAX1431 that flew Sheikh Hasina to India after escape from Dhaka

GNS News Agency, August 8

A Bangladesh-registered C-130J Hercules jet became the most tracked flight on Flightradar24.com amid reports of Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina quitting and leaving her country. The jet -- with callsign AJAX1431 -- is believed to be carrying Sheikh Hasina. Bangladesh was pushed into political turmoil on Monday with the country's Army chief announcing that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had resigned and left the country. The developments follow unending violent job quota protests that have roiled the country for weeks.

Soon after reports of Sheikh Hasina leaving the country emerged, a flight with the callsign AJAX1431 quickly became the most observed flight on the online tracker, Flightradar24.com. The flight is believed to be carrying Sheikh Hasina and her sister, both of whom were reported to have left Dhaka on Monday amid growing unrest in the country. According to the details on Flightradar24.com, flight AJAX1431 is a Lockheed C-130J Hercules military transport jet operated by the Bangladesh Air Force. The portal's flight path showed the C-130J Hercules departing Bangladesh this afternoon and flying towards Kolkata before settling on a course towards New Delhi.

Around 5 pm, when the transport jet was somewhere over Lucknow, the flight disappeared from Flightradar24.com. Soon after, at 5:36 pm, the aircraft landed at the Hindon Indian Air Force base near Delhi, sources told India Today TV. Sheikh Hasina's next moves remain unknown, but it is widely speculated that she may fly to a European country after a brief stop in India. The Lockheed C-130J Hercules is a four-engine turboprop military transport aircraft, known for its versatility and reliability. It is widely used for various missions, including tactical airlift, search and rescue, and special operations. The C-130J is an updated version of the classic C-130 Hercules, featuring new engines, a modern flight deck, and advanced systems, making it a robust choice for critical missions. The Bangladesh Air Force had recently upgraded its fleet of C-130J Super Hercules aircraft by ac-



quiring the aircraft from the UK Ministry of Defence.

Meanwhile, in Dhaka, the Bangladesh Army chief addressed the country to announce that Sheikh Hasina had quit. General Waker-Uz-Zaman said he had held "fruitful" talks with leaders of all major political parties he had "invited" and would soon meet President Mohammed Shahabuddin to discuss the way ahead. "I promise you all, we will bring justice to all the murders and injustice. We request you to have faith in the army of the country. I take full responsibility and I assure you to not get disheartened," he said while indicating that the Army would help form an interim government to rule the country. The developments in Bangladesh follow weeks of violent and deadly protests in the country over a government jobs quota scheme. The protests -- mainly spearheaded by students -- have been going on since June. The Sheikh Hasina government's attempts to quell the demonstrations with force, curfews and internet shutdowns backfired, prompting further outrage as nearly 300 people were killed. The government's actions led to demands for her resignation just months after her Awami League returned to power in elections that were marked by allegations of rigging. Sheikh Hasina's ouster and her subsequent flight from Bangladesh marks the end of a 15-year reign during which she was seen to have ruled the country with an iron fist.

U.K. leader Starmer condemns attack on asylum-seeker hotel as far-right violence spreads

GNS News Agency, August 8

U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer strongly condemned an attack on August 4 on a hotel housing asylum seekers, describing it as "far-right thuggery" as more violence broke out in several towns and cities across the country in the wake of a stabbing rampage at a dance class that left three girls dead and many more wounded. In a statement from 10 Downing Street on August 4 afternoon, the Prime Minister vowed that the authorities will "do whatever it takes to bring these thugs to justice."

"I guarantee you will regret taking part in this disorder, whether directly or those whipping up this action online and then running away themselves," he said. "This is not a protest, it is organized, violent thuggery and it has no place on our streets or online." Mr. Starmer was speaking after another day of far-right violence, which was particularly acute in the north of England town of Rotherham where police struggled to hold back a mob of hundreds of rioters who sought to break into a Holiday Inn Express hotel being used as accommodation for asylum-seekers. Before bringing the riot under some sort of control, police officers with shields had faced a barrage of missiles, including bits of wood, chairs and fire extinguishers. A small fire in a wheelie bin was also visible while windows in the hotel were smashed. "Right now, there are attacks happening on a hotel in Rotherham," Mr. Starmer said. "Marauding gangs intent on law-breaking, or worse. Windows smashed. Fires set ablaze. Residents and staff in absolute fear. There is no justification -- none -- for taking this action." Far-right agitators have sought to take advantage of last week's stabbing attack by tapping into concerns about the scale of immigration in the U.K., in particular the tens of thousands of migrants arriving in small boats from France across the English Channel. Tensions were running high Sunday in the northeastern town of Middlesbrough, where some protesters broke free of a police guard. One group walked through a residential area smashing the windows of houses and cars. When asked by a resident why they were breaking windows, one man replied, "Because we're English." Hundreds of others squared up to police with shields at the town's cenotaph, throwing bricks, cans and pots at officers. On Saturday, far-right activists faced off with anti-racism protesters across the U.K., with violent scenes playing out in locations from Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland, to Liverpool in the northwest of England

and Bristol in the west. Further arrests are likely as police scour CCTV, social media and body-worn camera footage. Police have also warned that widespread security measures, with thousands of officers deployed, mean that other crimes may not be investigated fully. The violence began after false rumours spread online that the suspect in the dance class stabbing attack was a Muslim and an immigrant, fueling anger among far-right supporters. Suspects under 18 are usually not named in the U.K., but Judge Andrew Menary ordered Axel Rudakubana, born in Wales to Rwandan parents, to be identified, in part to stop the spread of misinformation. Rudakubana has been charged with three counts of murder, and 10 counts of attempted murder. Police said many of the week-end actions were organized online by shadowy far-right groups, who mobilize support with phrases like "enough is enough," "save our kids" and "stop the boats."

Mr. Starmer said anyone targeting people for the colour of their skin is far-right. "People in this country have a right to be safe, and yet we've seen Muslim communities targeted, attacks on mosques, other minority communities singled out, Nazi salutes in the street, attacks on the police, wanton violence alongside racist rhetoric, so no, I won't shy away from calling it what it is: far-right thuggery," he said. Rallying cries have come from a diffuse group of social media accounts, but a key player in amplifying them is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, a longtime far-right agitator who uses the name Tommy Robinson. He led the English Defense League, which Merseyside Police has linked to the violent protest in Southport on Tuesday, a day after the stabbing attack. The group first appeared around 2009, leading a series of protests against what it described as militant Islam that often devolved into violence. Yaxley-Lennon was banned from Twitter in 2018 but allowed back after it was bought by Elon Musk and rebranded as X. He has more than 800,000 followers. The group's membership and impact declined after a few years, and Yaxley-Lennon, 41, has faced myriad legal issues. He has been jailed for assault, contempt of court and mortgage fraud and currently faces an arrest warrant after leaving the U.K. last week before a scheduled hearing in contempt-of-court proceedings against him. Nigel Farage, who was elected to parliament in July for the first time as leader of Reform U.K., has also been blamed by many for encouraging -- indirectly -- the anti-immigration sentiment that has been evident over the past few days.

Markets around the world are rattled by fears of slowing US growth



The drops followed a US jobs report Friday that indicated that employers had slowed hiring significantly in July, with unemployment rising to its highest level in nearly three years. This deepened fears that the economy was cooling and that the Federal Reserve may have waited too long on cutting interest rates. Nomura, the Japanese investment bank, said in a research note Monday that the "slowing US data causes a growth scare for markets," and that it has "reignited fears of a faster-than-expected US slowdown."

Based on the weakness in the jobs report, Goldman Sachs said in a note that it now expects the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates at its next three meetings — a more aggressive timetable for cuts than the investment bank had previously expected. In Japan, the soft US data only added to the uneasiness of investors.

The Topix is down more than 18% from last Wednesday, when the Bank of Japan raised interest rates for only the second time in nearly two decades. A circuit breaker was also triggered for trading in long-term Japanese government bonds and the Nikkei 225. Japanese stocks have been on a tear for more than a year, fueled by a weak Japanese yen. The yen's depreciation had helped to inflate the earnings of Japanese exporters, but the currency has strengthened considerably over the past week. Adding to the pressure, foreign investors have started selling off positions in Japanese stocks over the last few weeks. In the most recent data from the Tokyo Stock Exchange, foreign investors sold nearly \$4 billion more in Japanese equities than they purchased during the week ending July 26. In the week prior, they were net sellers of \$1.5 billion of equities.

A sell-off in markets around the world quickened pace Monday as investors grew uneasy about signs of a slowing US economy, with stocks tumbling across Asia.

The declines were especially pronounced in Japan, where the Topix index, which includes companies that represent a broad swath of the country's economy, fell more than 10%. The decline at one point triggered a "circuit breaker" mechanism that halts trading to let markets digest large fluctuations. The Nikkei 225 index, considered the benchmark in Japan, fell as much as 9%. South Korea's benchmark Kospi index fell more than 5%. Equity markets in Taiwan, Singapore, Australia and Hong Kong were all lower. The declines were expected to continue Monday in Europe and the United States. In the market for stock futures, the S&P 500 was down 1.5% and the Nasdaq was more than 2% lower. Stock futures for key indexes in Europe, including Germany's, pointed to declines of about 1%. Bitcoin, a main cryptocurrency, fell more than 10% in another apparent sign of investor anxiety.

EV industry needs another 2-3 years of FAME subsidy for fast-paced growth: Ather Energy co-founder

India's e-scooter market has grown nearly 29 per cent year-on-year since FY19. Ather Energy, in which Hero MotoCorp owns a 38 per cent stake, is the third-largest player after Ola Electric and TVS Motor with almost 12 per cent market share, according to an industry report by JMK Research. In a conversation with Aggam Walia, Swapnil Jain, co-founder and CTO of Ather, discussed the tapering down of electric vehicle (EV) subsidies, importance of "inorganic growth", ways to boost charging infrastructure, and Ather's supply chain strategy.

In the recent Union Budget, allocation for scheme for Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) was reduced to Rs 2,671 crore for FY25 from Rs 4,807 crore revised estimate for FY24. At the same time, allocation for the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for automobiles and auto components went up to Rs 3,500 crore from Rs 484 crore. Will the benefits of incentivising auto components manufacturing trickle down to OEMs like Ather? Incentivising auto components definitely helps the industry because the auto component players also have to do a fair amount of investments for the EV industry to grow and with them getting the incentives indirectly helps us as well. They would be able to spend more because there are uncertainties in any new industry and you need some sort of incentivisation for the industry to jump in.

Evidently, the FAME scheme is tapering down. How do you see this development?

Any sort of a support system has to taper and industry has to take control on its own. Tapering is definitely something we were expecting as well. But having some amount of subsidy is important, not necessarily from a monetary perspective, but also from the message it gives that EVs are important for the government. It helps in general keeping some sort of a motivation in the industry that the sector is critical.

How many more years of FAME would be needed to make the EV industry more self-sustaining?

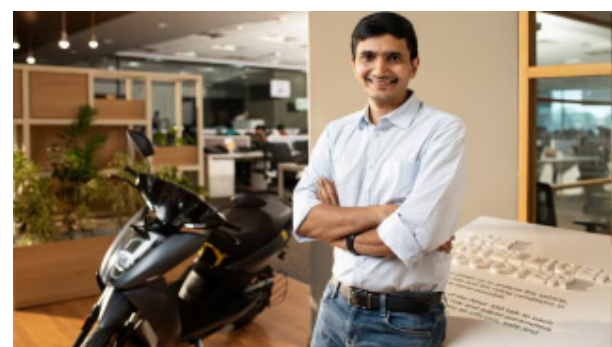
It's not about self-sustainability. I would add that the more important thing is that you have to grow the industry. I would say at least two to three years (of FAME) is required for the industry to continue to keep growing. The subsidies have to be there from that perspective... Basically, you're trying to put the industry on steroids. You want them to grow faster than how the natural growth would happen to be able to meet your carbon emission targets. At least two to three years is important so that the entire ecosystem can grow to a certain level, post which probably organic growth might suffice, but right now you need some amount of inorganic growth.

Some of your competitors are looking at entering the full EV supply chain, be it cell manufacturing or mining of critical minerals. Is that a strategy Ather is considering as well?

We're big fans of having the right focus and capital efficiency as an organisation—we don't want to be doing multiple things. What we are good at is understanding cell design, chemistries, and the supply chain. However, we'd rather have someone else handle the cell manufacturing for us. This approach gives us advantages of scale and better risk mitigation compared to building our own cells. The bigger advantages come from controlling the cell design. We want to focus on partnering with existing cell manufacturers and potentially new ones within the country who can design to our requirements rather than us setting up cell manufacturing.

Recently, there have been some concerns around low utilisation of charging stations. Is that a trend you have noticed too?

We see a fair amount of utilisation of our Ather grids also because we have placed them in locations which are very accessible for customers. You don't have to go off your route to get the vehicle charged. The expectation is to ease out on range anxiety and not necessary for daily usage. You are not expecting the usage to be 80-90 per cent because it is meant for a rainy day. But having said that, we have still seen a fair amount of utilisation. The big advantage that we have is that it is not too expensive for us to install a charging station and hence it's okay for us. But again, coming back to the same point, do you want the industry to grow organically or inorganically? If you want the industry to inorganically grow, like what's happening in China, then you need two things. One is that you need standardisation — all two-wheeler players using the same charging network will definitely improve the utilisation. Second, some sort of subsidy to set up charging infra will also really help because, again, it will give us the ability to do inorganic growth until you have enough critical mass.



Do you think mandating a charging standard is the way to go or should the industry generate some consensus on its own?

I'm not a big fan of mandating requirements. Mandates become unnecessary trouble for everyone, irrespective of benefits. The industry has to mature by itself and understand the need for a common charging standard. We've open-sourced the Ather charging standard, made designs publicly available, and worked with BIS to make it an India charging standard. We're trying to create a consortium where OEMs, charge point operators, and tier one guys can come together. We have no interest in keeping these standards proprietary. In the US, the Tesla standard was superior, so people moved to it despite CCS being more widespread. We believe the same will happen here — the superiority of the technology will prevail. At some point, the industry will have to come to peace with agreeing on a charging standard.

In terms of evolving consumer expectations around product features and connectivity, what will an e-scooter of the future look like?

I think Indian two-wheeler customers have been deprived of good features for a long time. Before 2017, there wasn't much innovation. Indian consumers are cost-conscious but definitely desire value. Since Ather launched its 450, people's expectations have changed significantly. Now everyone's coming up with touchscreens and connectivity. Consumers have learned they can demand more, like in four-wheelers where people are moving from small cars to SUVs. The scooter segment is changing from utilitarian to something people can show off. They want car-like features in two-wheelers. We've been pushing the industry to give features not thought of before. Companies providing differentiated experiences will win the market. We're leveraging connectivity with features like WhatsApp and Alexa integration, Google Maps navigation. We're changing how people interact with vehicles— touch, voice, mobile app. You get notifications from the vehicle too. With EV powertrains, we get more control. We launched skid control, which is a big deal for ICE vehicles. You'll see more premium features like speed control and emergency brakes coming to mass-market e-scooters.

Japan's Nikkei sinks 12.4% in worst losses since 1987



Tokyo: Japan's Nikkei 225 share index plunged more than 12 per cent on Monday as investors, worried that the US economy may be in worse shape than had been expected, dumped a wide range of shares. The Nikkei index shed 4,451.28 to 31,458.42. It dropped 5.8 per cent on Friday and has now logged its worst two-day decline ever, dropping 18.2 per cent in the last two trading sessions. At its lowest the Nikkei plunged as much as 13.4 per cent. Its biggest single-day rout was a drop of 3,836 points, or 14.9 per cent, on the day dubbed "Black Monday" in October 1987. It suffered an 11.4 per cent drop in October 2008 during the global financial crisis and fell 10.6 per cent during the aftermath of massive earthquakes and nuclear meltdowns in northeastern Japan in March 2011.

Byju Raveendran files caveat before Supreme Court against US creditor



New Delhi: Byju Raveendran has filed a caveat before the Supreme Court against its US-based creditor Glas Trust Company LLC over the order passed by the insolvency appellate tribunal NCLAT. The caveat was filed before the apex court on August 3, a day after the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) passed an order restoring the board of edtech major after setting aside insolvency proceedings against it. Glas Trust has opposed the Rs 158.9 crore dues settlement with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) alleging the money paid by Riju Raveendran (brother of Byju Raveendran) was tainted and was a case of "round-tripping". Anticipating the US-based creditor would challenge the NCLAT order before the Supreme Court, Byju Raveendran had filed a caveat requesting to be heard before the apex court passes any order on a plea filed by the US-based creditors. A caveat application is filed by a litigant to ensure that no order is passed against them without being heard.

Last Friday, a two-member NCLAT bench had approved the Rs 158.9 crore dues settlement with BCCI and set aside insolvency proceedings against the edtech major, initiated over a claim filed by the cricket body. The NCLAT had observed that the settlement arrived between the parties before the Committee of Creditors (CoC) could have been constituted and that the source of the pay-

ment being made "is not in dispute" nor related to the foreign funds as alleged by the US-based creditors. "In view of the undertaking given and affidavit filed, the settlement between the parties is hereby approved and as a result, the appeal succeeds and impugned order (passed by the NCLT) is set aside," a two-member Chennai bench of NCLAT had said.

The tribunal further said the money was paid by Riju Raveendran (brother of Byju Raveendran) through the sale of his shares, taxes have been duly paid and payment is coming through proper banking channels. As per the undertaking, Riju Raveendran made a payment of Rs 50 crore on July 31, 2024, against the outstanding dues owed by Byju's to BCCI. Another Rs 25 crore will be submitted on Friday, and the remaining Rs 83 crore on August 9 through RTGS. The appellate tribunal also dismissed the allegation of 'round-tripping' levelled by Byju's US-based lenders, saying they failed to provide any evidence in support of their claims.

On July 16, the Bengaluru bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) directed the initiation of Corporate Insolvency Resolution Proceedings (CIRP) against Byju's, admitting the plea filed by the BCCI. The BCCI had approached the NCLT under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) over a default of Rs 158.9 crore by Think & Learn. This NCLT order was challenged by Byju Raveendran before NCLAT.

A storied edtech startup, Byju's was once valued at USD 22 billion but the reopening of schools after the easing of pandemic restrictions led to its unravelling. BlackRock recently slashed its valuation of USD 1 billion. The company's troubles began when it missed financial reporting deadlines two years ago and fell short of revenue projections by more than 50 per cent. In February, a group of investors in Byju's parent firm Think & Learn, including Prosus and Peak XV, voted to remove Raveendran as CEO during an extraordinary general meeting, citing allegations of "mismanagement and failures". Raveendran had denied all allegations.

Here's how long it took to plan the grant Ambani wedding



Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's wedding wasn't just a union of two families; it was a global phenomenon. The streets of Mumbai transformed into a spectator gallery as thousands watched the lavish baraat procession carrying the groom from his palatial residence, Antilia, to the Jio World Convention Center. Social media became a virtual guest list, exploding with updates from celebrities like Kim and Khloe Kardashian, their glamorous Indian attire hinting at a possible Keeping Up With the Kardashians episode. News outlets, from the prestigious New York Times to the BBC, sent representatives to capture the event, while tabloids dissected every detail with relentless fascination.

The Ambanis entrusted the monumental task to renowned designer Manish Malhotra, a name already synonymous with the family's grand celebrations. Malhotra's past creations for the Ambanis include dazzling fashion shows at Antilia and the unforgettable pre-wedding festivities for Isha Ambani, which even featured a show-stopping performance by Beyoncé. He also designed over 1,300 costumes for "Civilization to Nation," a grand musical that marked the much-anticipated opening of the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre.

"[Planning the wedding] has taken over a year of dedicated meetings, countless brainstorming sessions, and endless attention to detail," Manish told Vanity Fair. For the Ambani-Merchant wedding, Malhotra aimed to translate the Ambani matriarch, Nita Ambani's vision of "essence of India", he revealed. The theme was a masterful fusion of cultural heritage and modern elegance, designed to create immersive experiences that resonated deeply with Indian tradition while showcasing its grandeur on a global stage. The bride, Radhika Merchant, became a captivating centerpiece adorned in a bespoke collection curated by Malhotra himself. Imagine a luxurious orange and rani pink lehenga, meticulously crafted with real gold zari embroidery, or a glamorous chainmail saree designed to turn heads at a post-wedding party. Each outfit, Malhotra explains, was meticulously designed to reflect Radhika's unique personality. Traditional elements were woven seamlessly with contemporary aesthetics, resulting in breathtaking creations. Exquisite fabrics, intricate embellishments, and dramatic silhouettes all came together in a symphony of design, celebrating the bride's grace and elegance with every step she took.

Expert recommends these foods to add more zinc to your daily diet

Zinc is an unsung hero, when it comes to maintaining good health. This essential mineral plays a crucial role in supporting our immune system and promoting efficient healing. Yet, many people may not be getting enough zinc in their daily diet. Understanding the importance of zinc and learning how to incorporate more of it into your meals can be a simple yet effective way to boost your body's natural defenses and recovery processes. Akshita Reddy, senior nutritionist at Athreya Hospital, says, "Zinc is a crucial trace mineral that plays a pivotal role in maintaining a robust immune system. It actively participates in the production and activation of immune cells, such as T-lymphocytes and natural killer cells, which are essential for defending against infections." Additionally, she informs, zinc is involved in the synthesis of proteins and DNA, both of which are critical for cell growth, repair, and overall immune response. "Its role in wound healing is equally significant, as zinc aids in the production of collagen, a protein essential for tissue regeneration and repair." Boosting your zinc intake can be both delicious and nutritious. Here are some excellent sources and creative ways to incorporate them into your diet, according to Reddy: Oysters: Renowned for their exceptional zinc content, just a few oysters provide a substantial portion of your daily requirement. Enjoy them grilled, curried, or incorporated into various dishes for a flavorful experience. Legumes (Chickpeas, Lentils, Kidney Beans): These versatile legumes are not only rich in zinc but also offer protein and fiber. Include them in traditional Indian dishes like dal,



chana masala, or rajma for a healthy and satisfying meal. Pumpkin Seeds: These small seeds are a powerhouse of zinc and other nutrients. Sprinkle them on salads, yogurt, or oatmeal, or enjoy them as a convenient snack. Nuts (Cashews, Almonds): These nuts offer a convenient and tasty way to boost your zinc intake. Add them to curries, desserts, or enjoy them as a satisfying snack. Dairy (Yogurt, Paneer): In addition to zinc, dairy products offer calcium and protein, essential for overall health. Enjoy yogurt with fruits or granola, or incorporate paneer into various Indian dishes. Groups at risk of zinc deficiency and symptoms: While zinc deficiency is relatively uncommon in India, certain groups may be at higher risk," says Reddy. They are: Vegetarians and Vegans: Plant-based diets may contain less bioavailable zinc due to the presence of phytates, which can inhibit absorption. Prioritise zinc-rich plant sources like legumes, nuts, and seeds, and consider supplementation if necessary. Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women:

Rimi Sen addresses rumours about 'plastic surgery making her look unrecognisable': 'Abhi inn sab se kaam chal raha hai'



Recently, former actor Rimi Sen's name and photos reappeared in the public eye due to rumours on social media claiming she had "undergone plastic surgery" and now "looked unrecognisable". Rimi Sen herself has now come forward to clear the air around such speculations. A prominent figure in Bollywood during the 2000s with a promising career ahead, Rimi Sen has been out of the spotlight and nearly forgotten for years now. Recently, however, her name and photos reappeared in the public eye due to rumours on social media claiming she had "undergone plastic surgery" and now "looked unrecognisable".

Now, Rimi Sen herself has come forward to clear the air around such unfounded speculations. "Agar logon ko aisa lag raha hai ki maine plastic surgery karvai hai

(If people feel like I have had plastic surgery), if it's in a good way, it's very good for me. Bina plastic surgery karaye bina hi log bol rahe hain (Without undergoing plastic surgery, people are still talking). I have only got fillers, botox and PRP treatment done; nothing else," she told Hindustan Times. "One shouldn't need to get plastic surgery done unless someone is on the run after committing any crime! There are so many good doctors outside India, who are very good at facelifts. I too want to get it done, but I will think about it after I cross the age of 50. Abhi inn sab se kaam chal raha hai (I am able to manage with the existing features for now). "Shayad logon ko meri latest pics mein skin achha lag raha hoga mera (Maybe people saw my latest pics and felt that my skin was looking good). Anyone can look good by using these things and having discipline. But if you are calling what I have done bad, then tell me how can I correct it, so I can tell my doctors where they are going wrong," the 42-year-old former actor added.

After debuting as a lead actor in the Telugu movie Nee Thodu Kavali (2002), Rimi Sen gained fame through films like Hungama (2003), Baghban (2003), Dhoom (2004), Garam Masala (2005), Kyon Ki (2005), Phir Hera Pheri (2006) and Golmaal: Fun Unlimited (2006). Rimi Sen's last film appearance was in 2011 in director Tigamshu Dhulia's action movie Shagird. She also participated in the reality TV series Bigg Boss Season 9 (2015) and the dance reality show Jhalak Dikhlaa Jaa Season 9 (2016).

Raghav Juyal on partying with Shah Rukh Khan, MS Dhoni and Rani Mukerji: 'Ek sapna pura hogaya Mumbai aake'

Raghav Juyal says partying with Shah Rukh Khan was a dream come true for him (Photos: Instagram/raghavjuyal/poojadadlani). Raghav Juyal says partying with Shah Rukh Khan was a dream come true for him. Actor-dancer Raghav Juyal may have started his journey with a dancing reality show, but he gradually transitioned to acting in films like the ABCD franchise, Nawabzaade and Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan. Once called the 'King of Slow Motion' for his surreal dance moves, he is now winning accolades for his portrayal of the deadly villain in the recently released film Kill. While Raghav keeps a low profile as far as Bollywood social gatherings and parties are concerned, the actor recently spoke about partying with Shah Rukh Khan.

Raghav said that when he partied with King Khan on his birthday, he wanted to be the one to see off SRK, so he made sure that he did not leave before Shah Rukh. Speaking to Jist, he shared that the superstar invited him to his birthday party and attending it was like a dream come true for the Gyaarah Gyaarah actor. "I attended Shah Rukh Khan sir's birthday. Unhone ne bulaya main kaise nahin jaunga? Wahan toh main subah 6 baje tak ruka hoon. Mera ek sapna tha aur kyunki maine dekha hai sirf Shah Rukh sir sabko gadi tak chorne aate hain. Mera sapna tha ki main Shah Rukh sir ko gaadi tak choodoon. 6 baje tak ruka main.. main aur mera dost Ishaan. Woh hamari zindagi ka sabse yaadgar moment hai. Main end tak ruka aur sir ko choda. Ek sapna pura hogaya Mumbai aake. Mujhe laga, 'Aaj apun raja hai!' (How could I not go when he invited me? I stayed there until 6 in the morning. I had a dream, and since I've seen that only Shah Rukh Khan drops everyone off at their cars, my dream was to drop Shah Rukh Khan off at his car. I stayed until 6, along with my friend Ishaan. It was the most memorable moment of our lives. I stayed until the end and saw him off. A dream came true by coming to Mumbai. I felt, "Today, I am the king!")," he shared. The actor joked that he felt like the king of Mumbai just like Bhiku Mhatre in



Satya. Raghav Juyal also spoke about meeting MS Dhoni and learning life's valuable lessons at the party. "I also bumped into Dhoni Bhaiya (MS Dhoni). I don't follow cricket but I am his huge fan and I just watch his Reels. He teaches you thehro, patience and leadership qualities which are attributes I need in life. Since his wife is also from Dehradun, toh Dehradun wala vibe mila gaya tha. He had a lot of fun. We danced together," he recalled.

The actor revealed that he got lucky as he met actor Rani Mukherji at the party who obliged his request of dancing to a Kuch Kuch Hota Hai song. During one of the recent post-release interviews after Kill hit theatres, Raghav spoke about spending time with SRK and Aryan Khan, whom he lauded for having the same manners as his father. "Aryan is very cultured. He also has the same habit as his father that if you are at his house, he will come and drop you till the gate," he shared with Instant Bollywood. Raghav said that both he and Laksh Lalwani, who plays the protagonist in Kill, got a chance to party with Shah Rukh on his birthday, and this is a memory that he will continue to cherish for a long time. "Shah Rukh sir will make sure that he makes you feel special. If there are 100 people in the room, he can make them feel that they are all special, such is his aura," he said.

Anirudh Ravichander's romantic melody explores NTR Jr, Janhvi Kapoor's dance skills, sizzling chemistry

Devara song Chuttamalle: Unlike the first song, this track is a romantic melody that emphasises the adorable chemistry between NTR Jr and Janhvi Kapoor. Devara song Chuttamalle: The track is presented from the perspective of Janhvi Kapoor, capturing the intense emotions she experiences in the presence of NTR Jr. Devara song Chuttamalle: The highly anticipated second track from director Koratala Siva's upcoming action drama Devara: Part 1 has finally been released. Unlike the first song, which highlights the protagonist's bravery and strength, this new track is a romantic melody that emphasises the adorable chemistry between the lead characters. Titled "Chuttamalle," the song, set against picturesque landscapes of wilderness and beaches, is presented from the perspective of the female lead (Janhvi Kapoor). It captures the intense emotions she experiences in the presence of her love interest (NTR Jr), or even when she simply thinks



about him. She describes him as having a gaze powerful enough to ignite passion, illustrating how deeply she is affected by his mesmerising look. With sensual visuals of the characters embracing and exploring each other's physicality, "Chuttamalle" also provides a glimpse of NTR Jr and Janhvi's impressive

dance skills and physical appeal. Composed by Anirudh Ravichander and penned by Ramajogayya Sastry, the track is currently available in a lyrical video format, with the full video yet to be released. Shilpa Rao provided the vocals and Bosco Martis choreographed the song. The track has also been re-

leased in Tamil, Hindi, Kannada and Malayalam versions. Devara, devara song, Chuttamalle, Chuttamalle song, ntr, ntr devara, janhvi Kapoor, ntr jr, ntr jr movies, ntr new movie, janhvi Kapoor devara, janhvi Kapoor movies, janhvi Kapoor new movie, Chuttamalle song devara, devara part 1,

Kangana Ranaut's controversial bungalow up for grabs at a staggering Rs 40 crore: report



Actor-politician Kangana Ranaut's plush bungalow, which also serves as the office for her production company Manikarnika Films, is located in the upscale Pali Hill neighbourhood in Mumbai. Actor-politician Kangana Ranaut's property previously made headlines in 2020 when the BMC demolished a part of it over "illegal alterations." While speculations had been swirling for the past few days that actor-politician Kangana Ranaut is selling her luxurious bungalow in Mumbai's Pali Hill area for a whopping Rs 40 crore, a new report has confirmed these rumours, citing brokers who have verified the information. Though there had been talks regarding the same for quite a few days now, the initial speculations were further fuelled by a video that appeared on the Code Estate YouTube channel recently that gave a virtual tour of a property, which many quickly recognised as Kangana's, especially since she had shared pictures of the bungalow's interiors on Instagram in May 2020. The video, however, has since been removed for unknown reasons.

On Monday, Times of India reported that the property is indeed on the market. While Kangana's team has not yet commented, Simran Gupta of the Code Estate

agency confirmed to the publication that the property is listed for sale and priced at Rs 40 crore. Gupta also mentioned that many have already come forward expressing significant interest in the property.

The plush bungalow, which also serves as the office for her production company Manikarnika Films, is located in the upscale Pali Hill neighbourhood in Mumbai. According to the now-deleted Code Estate video, the structure spans a plot size of 285 sqm with a construction area of 3,042 sq ft, as reported by the Hindustan Times. The ground-plus-two property includes a 500 sq ft parking space and offers ample space and elegant design across its three levels. The property previously made headlines in 2020 when the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) demolished part of it on September 9. This occurred during a period when Kangana Ranaut was publicly critical of then Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and engaged in a dispute with Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut over actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death. The BMC, however, maintained that it acted against the building due to "illegal alterations". The actor soon obtained a stay order on the demolition and demanded Rs 2 crore in compensatory damages, which she later retracted. While appearing on The Himachali Podcast earlier this year, Kangana Ranaut, who is also the BJP parliamentarian from Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, said that it felt like a personal attack. "I felt quite violated, it felt like a lot of violence was unleashed on me. A house is an extension of you, but mine was violently broken, it felt like a personal attack at that time. My takeaway from that incident was how many people supported me in Maharashtra, and to what extent India supported me. Everybody knows the Shiv Sena incident, and people have told me I am courageous. There is a certain fan following of that incident," she claimed.

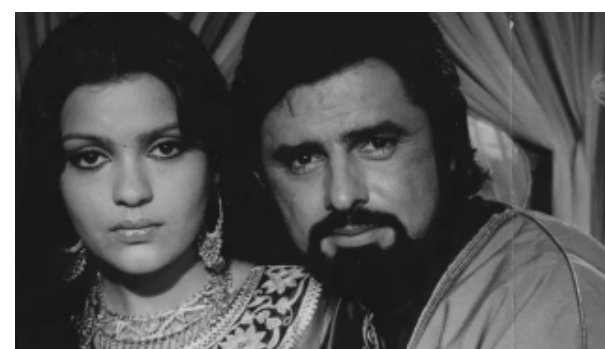
Zayed Khan opens up about his father Sanjay Khan and Zeenat Aman's alleged affair: 'Industry was Wild Wild West at that time'

Veteran actor Zeenat Aman has made many unconventional choices and been unapologetic about them. One of these was her alleged tumultuous relationship with actor-filmmaker Sanjay Khan, who was already married to Zarin Khan and had children when they started dating. Their alleged affair was an open secret, highly publicised in gossip magazines. According to reports, the Sword of Tipu Sultan actor physically abused Zeenat during an altercation at a hotel lobby, which left her eye injured. Zayed Khan, Sanjay's son, during an interview with Zoom, opened up about the time when his father made headlines for dating Zeenat and the lifestyle he led, calling the care-free period of the '70s and '80s in Bollywood, the "Wild Wild West".

When asked if the reports of his father's extramarital affair with the Hare Rama Hare Krishna actress caused turmoil in their home, Zayed responded, "It wasn't just at my dad's house but was happening in every actor's house. Every person was highly eccentric except one or two oddballs who were really sincere and grounded; the rest of them... phew! When I was young, I used to see these guys partying and dressing up in those jazzy Versace shirts and their things. It was a whole different era back then. They were real personalities."

Zeenat Aman, known for her adeptness on social media and for sharing her thoughts on Instagram, addressed an incident that caused her difficulty in vision last year. She opened up about an injury she suffered 40 years ago that damaged the muscles around her right eye. Zeenat shared that this injury caused her eyelid to droop and obstructed her vision. She said that 40 years later, medical advancements have made it possible for her to regain her vision. Zeenat has previously discussed her experiences with physical abuse and violence and stated that to move forward in life, she has chosen to block out the memories of that time.

However, Sanjay Khan, who allegedly hit Zeenat in a public gathering, told Hrishikesh Kannan on his podcast that he "never slapped her," calling Zeenat's accusations a "PR attack against him which came like a blitzkrieg." Addressing the accusations of injuring her eye, he claimed that in Zeenat's case, it was "hereditary" and that the "facts were totally, radically opposite." He added, "If you see '81, '82, '83, '84, she did several films. There is evidence that she had perfect eyes. Later in life, she became a little squint because her mother was a bit squint. It was a hereditary thing that was labelled on me. I never slapped



her, and this was blasphemy." During a 1999 appearance on Simi Garewal's show, Rendezvous with Simi Garewal, Zeenat Aman spoke about the physical abuse. "For many years, in my mind, it's been obliterated because I think that's what the human mind does. When there is something distinctly unpleasant, you just close your mind to it and pretend that it never happened and you promise yourself that it will never happen again. And that's how you cope," she said.

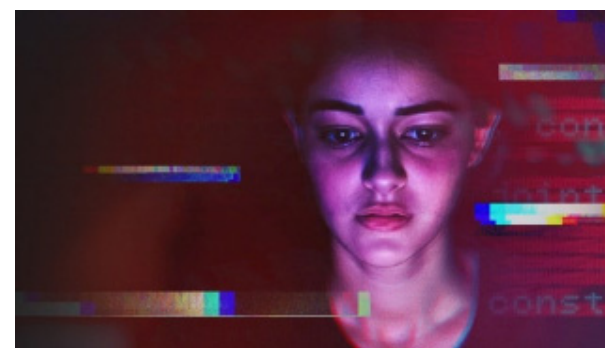
On the same show, Sanjay Khan's wife Zarin Khan opened up about her husband's extramarital affair without naming Zeenat. "There was a time when my marriage seemed to be under threat to a lot of people, but not to me," Sanjay, who admitted to being unfaithful to his wife when she was pregnant with their son Zayed, added, "It was never under threat; I loved my wife and children deeply, and if it was taken for granted by someone, then that was another story, because there was no such thing from my side." Sanjay and Zarin have been married since 1966, having tied the knot when Zarin was only 20 and Sanjay Khan was 25. They have four children — Farah Khan Ali, Simone Arora, Sussanne Khan, and Zayed Khan. Zarin emphasised that despite his infidelity and the actor "faltering a bit," she had faith in him. "Being an actor's wife, you have to have that much patience, strength, and conviction to know that he is going to come back to you. The children were too young to know what was going on. I assure you, I was not the first woman to have fallen for him; there were lots of women, but he was always mine," she asserted. When releasing his autobiography The Best Mistakes of My Life in 2018, Sanjay Khan did not address the incident in his book. Instead, he wrote about an alternate timeline and referred to himself and Zeenat as 'prince' and 'princess,' the names of their characters in Abdullah.

Ananya Panday's CTRL gets OTT release date, Vikramaditya Motwane says film explores if we are 'in control of all digital extensions of our life'

Vikramaditya Motwane's cyber thriller CTRL, fronted by Ananya Panday, is set to arrive on Netflix, the streamer announced on Monday. Produced by Saffron and Andolan Films and also featuring Vihaan Samat, the film will start streaming on the platform from October 4. According to the makers, CTRL is a cutting-edge thriller that will make you rethink your dependency on technology. In the movie, Panday and Samat play Nella Awasthi and Joe Mascarenhas, respectively, a romantic couple who create content together and are loved by their Internet audience.

"But what happens when they break up? In a world where data is power, how much sharing is too much? How much of your life are you willing to share, and do you slowly lose control in the process?" read the official synopsis. Vikramaditya Motwane, known for Udaan, Lootera, and Trapped, said with the amount of time people spend on their devices, screen time is now redefined as screen life. "The question is, are we actually in control of all the digital extensions of our life, or are we being controlled? That's the answer CTRL tries to explore. For a concept as new-age as this, we not only needed a cast who lives such a life, but a medium like Netflix that's relevant," Motwane said in a statement.

"I truly believe that this film is for everyone, given the exponential advancement in tech and our rising dependency on it. What better platform to reach the audience



with a narrative as compelling as CTRL than Netflix?" the Kho Gaye Hum Kahan actor said. Producer Nikhil Dwivedi said the film brings a "thought-provoking narrative" to the fore in a unique format which will reflect in every frame of this film.

"CTRL is a testament to our promise of telling genre-bending stories that thrill and entertain. Vikramaditya Motwane has brilliantly crafted this new age thriller that shocks and captivates in equal measure. Ananya Panday's honest portrayal intensifies the drama. We can't wait for the audience to log into this riveting ride," added Ruchikaa Kapoor Sheikh, Director - Original Films, Netflix India.

Gallant India fall short of hockey final in scintillating defeat to Germany



GNS News Agency, August 8

Before they gave themselves a chance to etch their names in the annals of Indian hockey, they played as if playing an ode to the legends of yore. This one will hurt. Not so much because India lost, but for the kind of hockey they played — scintillating at times, dazzling always, but peppered with costly mistakes — the Harmanpreet Singh-led side would feel they deserved more.

Alas, it wasn't to be. And the 44-year wait to reach the final of the Olympic Games was extended by four more. India lost 3-2 to Germany in a thrilling semifinal of the Paris Olympics, despite taking an early lead. India, however, will have another shot at the podium and at least match the Tokyo bronze medal when they face Spain in the playoff match on Thursday. For the core of the team that ensured India's return to the podium for the first time since 1980 — there are 11 of them in Paris — and hoped to take another giant stride in the team's evolution, it was a case of falling agonisingly short yet again. This is an anti-climatic end to India's surging fortunes, which they hoped would lead them to their first Olympic final since 1980.

India had to work extra hard, run more and strategically use the players given they had one player less in the playing squad, 15, than Germany. The suspended Amit Rohidas was missed at both ends, with his first rushing in penalty corner defence and as a back-up drag-flicker for Harmanpreet. In a way, they 'out-Germanied' Germany — the world champions are one of the few teams with the discipline and doggedness to overcome such odds, as they have done many times in the past. And this was a German team that had been on a roll. Coming into Tuesday's game, they had scored 19 goals at an average of a little more than 3 per game; a majority of them coming from open play.

Even in defeat, India were sparking to watch when in full flow. Hardik Singh drew intricate patterns on the field, using his supple wrists to hypnotise the German defence and make them dance to his tunes. This one time, early in the first quarter, he showed the defender one way, went the other and found a foot inside the 'D'. Seconds later, he dribbled past three defenders to draw another penalty corner. Both times, he punched the air as if celebrating a goal. The tiny Vivek Sagar Prasad, too,

joined the party. A 5'2" Indian was boxed into a corner by two six-foot-plus German defenders, who did everything in their capacity to intimidate him. Far from fearing them, Vivek skillfully nutmegged Niklas Wellen, and changed the direction of the attack to the right flank, where there were plenty of unmarked Indian bodies. He casually looked back at Wellen, and smirked. That one image neatly summed up India's dominance in the first quarter. India set such high standards in the opening exchanges that it was always going to be tough to sustain that level, especially against a German side that thrives on making comebacks. (PTI) India set such high standards in the opening exchanges that it was always going to be tough to sustain that level, especially against a German side that thrives on making comebacks. (PTI) They were rewarded with a goal, with Harmanpreet Singh — who else — giving India the lead by scoring his eighth goal of the Games to become the top scorer.

This was Fulton's India showing another version of themselves. After being ultra-defensive against Britain, they went full-throttle from the first pass. The strategy rattled Germany, who held an emergency mid-quarter team huddle on the top of their 'D'. India set such high standards in the opening exchanges that it was always going to be tough to sustain that level, especially against a German side that thrives on making comebacks. It's a little dejected feeling but our boys will get up again and will go all out against Spain in the Bronze medal match on Thursday.

En route to becoming world champions last year, the Germans came back from early deficits three times in the knockout stages — against England in the quarterfinals, Australia in the semis and Belgium in the final. They clawed their way back into the match once again by keeping possession, making India move from one side of the pitch to another, and exploiting their weaknesses on the pitch. The Germans drew two mistakes from defender Harmanpreet Singh — finding his foot to win penalty corners and a penalty stroke — which allowed them to overturn the first-quarter deficit into a half-time lead, with Gonzalo Peillat and Christopher Ruhr scoring to make it 2-1. India levelled through an unlikely penalty corner variation. Harmanpreet played it wide towards the right of the German goalkeeper, where an unmarked Sukhjeet Singh reacted in time to deflect it into the net. Germany didn't see the variation coming, they charged their rushers to block the India captain from unleashing one of his feared flicks. Harmanpreet celebrated by pointing a finger to his head. But in the key moment, late in the fourth quarter, that's what India did not use. A slight lapse in concentration allowed Germany to sneak into the Indian 'D' from the right flank through the baseline and a cross played in front of goal was deflected in by Marco Miltkau in the 54th minute. When the final hooter sounded, Indian players exited the field with their shoulders dropped and a feeling of resignation. When they reflect, they'll realise that they were gallant even in defeat.

On the brink, India need to dust up old habits



A tie and a loss in the ODI leg of the series in Sri Lanka, India find themselves looking into the mirror. They have learnt a few hard lessons, a crack has been exposed, the incompetence of batsmen against spinners on low, spinning tracks. If they nurture any ambition to level the series on Wednesday, they need to find quick solutions, even revert to the pre-The conditions at the Premadasa will likely remain the same. The only question is whether it would be slower than the previous outing on Sunday. On these conditions, despite getting a head-start in their chase on successive nights, India crumbled in the middle overs. Hence, it's not a bad idea to keep off the intent-driven game that made them an enterprising side in the World Cup, and embrace a more circumspect approach.

Even over here, captain Rohit Sharma has followed the same pattern, showing the aggressive intent straightaway. A 47-ball 58 and 44-ball 64 from Rohit has allowed India to breeze at seven-plus runs per over in the first powerplay. Thereafter, despite needing only 4.25 runs per over, the middle-order has faltered and were unable to get the better of Lankan spinners. However in these conditions, Sri Lanka — who have not even qualified for next year's Champions Trophy — have outsmarted India. In both these matches, India's spinners have been as economical, if not better, as their Lankan counterparts. But where Sri Lanka have done better is how they have gone after the Indian quicks in the last 10 overs, even spinners to an extent. The 65 and 79 runs that they accumulated in the last powerplay had been the big difference.

Hence, going back to the method they had abandoned a year back won't be bad idea. In these conditions, having a settled batsman who can accumulate runs without taking risks has been hard to find for India. With Lankan spinners asserting their domination, India haven't been able to show the intent at all times, making them tentative and prone to mistakes. The middle-order has

looked so rusty that after Rohit's tally of 122 runs, the next best by their No 3, 4, 5 and 6 is Virat Kohli's 38. Rohit Sharma India vs Sri Lanka Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma addresses a press conference on the eve of the first one-day international (ODI) cricket match between India and Sri Lanka at the R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Thursday, Aug. 1, 2024. (PTI Photo) Given his form, Rohit abandoning the aggressive approach and returning to the old formula, just temporarily, won't be a bad fit. If India do succeed in playing their Champions Trophy matches away from Pakistan, they would mostly encounter similar conditions in the UAE or Sri Lanka. But whatever it is, India's problems against spinners in slow conditions continue to be a problem. India's all-rounder Washington Sundar blamed it on the tough conditions. "We're quality players of spin. We've always played on these kinds of pitches, even at home, even in Test matches. In domestic cricket we play a lot of games on such wickets. A lot of our players have done really well, especially in the middle order, especially batting against spin," Washington said.

But in both these matches, every single Indian batsman has paid the price for indecisiveness and have been guilty of playing the wrong lines. India have even reshuffled their batting-order to keep the left-right combination going in the middle-overs, but it hasn't always worked, chiefly due to Sri Lanka's spin depth. Washington said the batsmen have to find their own way. "It's just a matter of finding a way in their individual way and trying to get the job done. Everyone knows it's a challenging wicket. The Indian team has always been one where everyone puts their hands up, especially when the challenge arises," he said. Their game-plan against spinners would be head coach Gautam Gambhir's primary concerns. A prolific player of spin bowling in his days, he must have observed that India's batsmen seldom use the depth of the crease or their feet. Instead, they have stood rooted to the crease, giving them negligible survival chances when the ball turns and keeps low. On Wednesday, India will get a chance to level the series. It didn't even look like a possibility before the ODI series began. But the funny game has shown them the mirror. Their game-plan against spinners would be head coach Gautam Gambhir's primary concerns. A prolific player of spin bowling in his days, he must have observed that India's batsmen seldom use the depth of the crease or their feet. Instead, they have stood rooted to the crease, giving them negligible survival chances when the ball turns and keeps low. On Wednesday, India will get a chance to level the series. It didn't even look like a possibility before the ODI series began. But the funny game has shown them the mirror.

Meet Armand Duplantis — who is taking pole vault to unprecedented heights

GNS News Agency, August 8

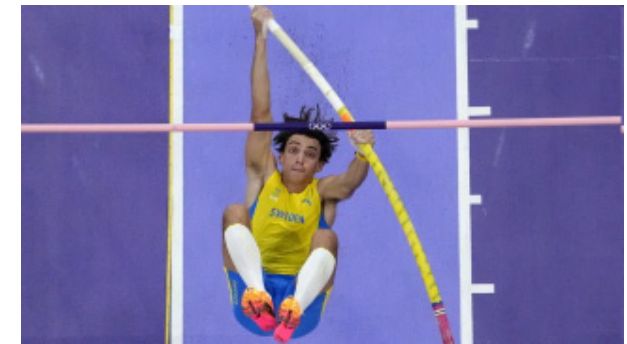
At the top of his run-up, waiting for take-off, Armand Duplantis inhaled a burst of breath, blew out the air, ran his hands over a malleable stick that weighs five pounds, and stared into the beatific Parisian skies. Nearly 15 seconds later, he blended into the skies so much so that he could see the stars closer than any human without space jackets and parachutes could, and sniff the heavens closer than any of his race could. It was the ninth time he had rewritten the world record. But the most startling feature of the moment was how ridiculously simple a manoeuvre he made it look, without a violent eruption of energy, without a wicked stretching of his sinews, without even breaking into a storm of sweat.

Just like that, as though he were plucking a fruit from his back garden, as though it were merely an instinct. Perhaps it really is, a memory his muscle had ingrained since he was three, the first time he tried pole-vaulting, under the shocked gaze of his father Greg, an elite pole vaulter in the 1990s, and mother Helena, a heptathlete. The 24-year-old Swede, though, was oversimplifying the most complex synthesis of human movements in athletics, a burning obsession of biomechanics scientists. He reels down the runway like a sprinter, straight-backed and still-headed, his shock of blonde hair bouncing and flapping in the wind of energy he generates, and completes 20 strides in a fraction over 10 seconds. He has an immediate advantage of speed over his rivals—it's not a surprise that he set a school record in Louisiana when he ran the 100m in 10.57s. "He's just so fast down the runway. He's faster than all of us by quite a bit. Speed equals height in pole vault," KC Lightfoot, one of his American competitors, would enviously observe about his toughest adversary. Duplantis has long-jumped 7.15m at school, and could have set records had he tried his luck on the gymnastics floor or the high jump pit too.

Then comes the subtle art of transferring his weight onto the vault. He uses a slightly heavier pole that generates more recoil force, and grips the pole much higher than the average vaulter to get more leverage, a technique made famous by the godfather of pole vault, Sergei Bubka. The Swede holds the pole on a vertical plane with soft hands, letting the force of gravity pull it down, in his run-up. He then raises his arms to slide (rather than plant) the pole tip in the metal vault box, bends it to the limits, before it begins to wince in pain.

When he is almost under the bar, he flips his body backwards, upside down for maximising the recoil effect, clinging like a sloth on the branch of a tree, lets the grip off the pole, setting off vigorous vibrations of the fibreglass staff, catapults his body skywards and curls it over the bar. If one pauses the footage at the exact moment when he crossed 6.25m, when he is suspended weightlessly in the air like a spaceship, one would notice the enormous space between his body and the bar, which is the scale of his athleticism, the all-encompassing mastery of his art. A whistle escapes his lips as he plunges to the mat, the landing as smooth as the take-off, before, certain of the record he has set, rips off his shirt like a goalscorer in a big game would. At that moment, he could have reproduced the immortal lines of Bubka: "I want to be an artist of the pole vault. I want to create something new and unusual, I want to break barriers. I pole-vault from the bottom of the heart." Like Bubka, Duplantis has redesigned the complex sport into a melody, into a dance form. He jumps from the bottom of the heart too.

Duplantis has already created something new, broken several barriers to the extent that he himself is his biggest barrier, toughest competitor and hardest challenger. Fathom this: nine of the top 10 jumps in history



are in his name, the sequence breaker being Renaud Lavillenie, now part of his coaching staff. The first time he broke the world record was in February 2020, he would shatter that eight times in the next four years, that is at least twice a year. He owns one third of the jumps — 61 out of 189 — over six metres ever. Eight of them have arrived this year alone. He became only the second pole-vaulter to defend his Olympic gold, a feat that eluded even Bubka, besides defending world outdoor and indoor titles. Such superiority is rare in any sport — Usain Bolt in his pomp, Bubka last century, or Rafael Nadal at Roland Garros. Duplantis — monikered Mondo which means "world" in Italian, given by an Italian family friend — himself is at a loss to explain his superiority, monopoly rather: "What can I say? I just broke a world record at the Olympics, the biggest possible stage for a pole vaulter. [My] biggest dream since I was a kid was to break the world record at the Olympics, and I've been able to do that in front of the most ridiculous crowd I've ever competed in front of." To think that he is just 24, yet to hit his peak years, and has many vaults left in the tank, baffles the mind about the summits he could still conquer, about the ceiling of human ambition and athleticism he could set. Each time he breaks a record, he becomes richer by \$100,000, but that's just the garnishing to the extraordinary stretching of human limits by a near-supernatural force, who leaves the stage not only with a fresh record but a feeling that the best is yet to be.

Vinesh Phogat disqualified from 2024 Paris Olympics for being overweight by 100 grams

GNS News Agency, August 8

Paris: In a shocking turn of events, Vinesh Phogat was on Wednesday disqualified from the Olympics after being found overweight ahead of her women's 50kg final here. Vinesh had scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to reach the gold medal bout in the event on Tuesday night.

"She was found overweight by 100 gm this morning. The rules do not allow this and she has been disqualified," said an Indian coach. The Indian Olympic Association later confirmed the development and requested privacy for the wrestler, who was competing in her third Olympics. "It is with regret that the Indian contingent shares news of the disqualification of Vinesh Phogat from the Women's Wrestling 50 kg class. Despite the best efforts by the team through the night, she weighed in a few grams over 50 kg this morning," the IOA stated. "No further comments will be made by the contingent at this time.

Vinesh Phogat's setbacks: 2 ACL injuries, 2 elbow surgeries, 2 Olympics heartbreaks and now Paris 2024 disqualification

GNS News Agency, August 8

Vinesh Phogat was handed the heartbreaking news that she has been disqualified from the Paris Olympics wrestling competition after she did not make weight ahead of the 50kg final against USA's Sarah Hildebrandt. It is learnt that Vinesh Phogat missed the weight by a few grams. This means that she will not end with any medal at the Paris Olympics. Vinesh Phogat's path to the Olympics medal at Paris 2024 has not been easy. While a lot of attention has been given to Vinesh and the other wrestlers' fight against the former Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, she has had to leap over her fair share of other hurdles as well on her long journey to an Olympics medal. Vinesh Phogat's tryst with the Olympics began with pain and tears. Vinesh was tipped to be a medal favourite at the Rio Olympics. Her Rio 2016 Olympics journey started on a promising note as she had a win by technical superiority, scoring 11-0. But competing against China's Sun Yanan in the quarterfinals, she suffered a devastating injury as her opponent unintentionally fell on her leg causing her severe injury. A sobbing Vinesh Phogat was carried off the mat in a stretcher. Not only was Vinesh forced to withdraw from Rio 2016, but she also needed to undergo surgery because she had suffered an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tear in her right knee.

After her surgery, Vinesh's right ACL tear took five months of rehabilitation before she was back in training. Vinesh Phogat only made a competitive comeback after the surgery in 2018.

Heartbreak at Tokyo 2021 for Vinesh Phogat Vinesh Phogat went into the deferred Tokyo Olympics as the top seed in the women's 53kg. She started her campaign with a victory over Sweden's Sofia Mattsson, a bronze medalist from Rio 2016, in the round of 16. But she bowed out in the quarter-finals after being pinned by Belarus' Vanesa Kaladzinskaya. In the aftermath of the defeat, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) initiated disciplinary action against Vinesh for her conduct at Tokyo. The WFI did revoke her suspension. Vinesh Phogat forced to undergo twin elbow surgeries

While competing at the national trials to pick the wrestling team to compete at the world championships in 2021, Vinesh Phogat pulled out mid-way. In a few days' time, she underwent surgery on her elbow. Vinesh posted a message on her social media after the surgery: "Elbow surgery done! No matter how many times I fall, I will still rise." She made a comeback from that blow in 2022 and won a bronze medal at the World Wrestling Championships in Belgrade and a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. But she had to undergo another elbow surgery in June 2023. Vinesh Phogat forced to undergo second knee surgery Vinesh Phogat was getting ready to compete at the deferred Asian Games in Hangzhou, when disaster struck! She suffered a knee injury on her left leg in a training session in August. It turned out to be a 'complete tear' of the anterior cruciate ligament and a 'partial tear' of the lateral collateral ligament. "Doctor said that unfortunately, surgery is the only option for me to recover... It was my dream to retain



my Asian Games gold medal for India which I won in 2018 at Jakarta. But unfortunately, this injury has ruled out my participation now," Vinesh Phogat had said.

Israeli athletes face heat in Paris as tensions simmer over Gaza

GNS News Agency, August 8

Paris: Israel's Olympic team said some athletes have received threats as they compete in Paris amid larger tensions over Palestinian deaths during the war in Gaza and the threat of a wider regional conflict in the Middle East. Yael Arad, president of the Israeli National Olympic Committee, said the team members had received "centralised" threats meant to generate "psychological terror" in athletes, without giving further details.

Last week, Paris prosecutors opened an investigation into emailed death threats to Israeli athletes, and the national cybercrime agency is looking into the leak of some Israeli athletes' personal data online, which has since been taken down. Prosecutors also launched an inquiry into inciting racial hatred after Israeli athletes received 'discriminatory gestures' during an Israel-Paraguay match. Tom Reuveny, a 24-year-old Israeli athlete who won a gold in wind surfing over the weekend, was among those who said he's received threats. Politics "should be put aside" during the Games, he said during a memorial Tuesday for 11 Israeli athletes killed during the 1972 Olympics in Munich, Germany.

"I don't think any politics should be involved in sport, especially in the Olympic Games," Reuveny said. "Unfortunately, there is a lot of politics involved — not in the Games — of the people who don't want us to compete and don't want us to be here. I've gotten quite a few messages and threats." While Israel has called for the Olympics to remain a neutral space, the Palestinian delegation has used the Games as a way to generate conversation about the day-to-day struggles of those in Gaza. The Israel-Hamas war has claimed more than 39,000 Palestinian lives.