













## Centre's overbearing presence bodes ill for J&K

UNLIKE the more constitutionally defined role of a Governor, the responsibilities and powers of the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) are relatively ambiguous, situational and dependent on the Centre. There are union territories (UTs) of various shades when it comes to defining an L-G's role. There are 'half states' like Puducherry, which has a CM and a Cabinet, and Delhi with its unique national capital dynamics. There are strategic 'outposts' like the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. Relatively smaller UTs like Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu warrant a simpler bureaucratic 'administrator'. Then there is Chandigarh, a two-state capital with both Punjab and Haryana making competing claims over it. And five years ago, the state of Jammu and Kashmir was split into two UTs — Ladakh and J&K — with the abrogation of Article 370. Unlike the more constitutionally defined role of a Governor, the responsibilities and powers of the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) are relatively ambiguous, situational and dependent on the Centre.

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## A catch-up flight in run-up to Gaganyaan

ISRO hopeful that the International Space Station experience will benefit India's grand mission

THE Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has nominated one of its four newly trained astronauts, Shubhanshu Shukla, to fly to the International Space Station (ISS). Shukla is in the first batch of four Indians trained in Bengaluru and Russia for India's maiden human space flight, Gaganyaan. While announcing the decision to send Shukla, the space agency used the word Gaganyatri for astronaut, suggesting a possible connection with the Gaganyaan mission. However, Shukla's flight to ISS is an altogether different activity, though ISRO says the experience gained from it would help in the Gaganyaan mission. Ever since humans first landed on the Moon in 1969, most of the human space flights have been to orbiting space stations. Humans fly in spacecraft launched by powerful rockets, dock the spacecraft to a space station, remain there for a few days or weeks, and return to the Earth. The space station era began with the Soviet Salyut and American Skylab in the 1970s. Then came the larger Soviet station, Mir, and finally the ISS jointly built by America, Russia and Europe. China's Tiangong Space Station has been in the making for a decade now (it takes a long time to assemble a station in space), and India has announced its intention to build its space station by 2035. To reach a station orbiting around Earth, one needs powerful rockets and robust spacecraft that can transport humans there and bring them back safely. For this, the Soviets developed the Soyuz spacecraft and the Americans the Space Shuttle for almost 30 years. The Shuttle could lift off vertically like a rocket, glide in space like a spacecraft and land horizontally on the earth like an aeroplane. After the Columbia disaster in 2003 — in which Kalpana Chawla perished — the shuttle programme faltered and was ended in 2011. For a few years after this, NASA used the services of the Russian Soyuz for sending supplies to the ISS and rotate the crew there. For the long term, NASA supported American companies with funds and technology to help them build durable space transportation systems so that it could fully delegate the job of sending cargo and crew missions to ISS to certified private companies. This policy resulted in the emergence of private space players like SpaceX and United Launch Alliance (ULA). After several cargo missions using its Falcon 9 rockets to ISS since 2012, SpaceX launched its first crewed mission in 2020. ULA, too, made several cargo trips to the ISS using its Atlas V rocket. It launched its first crewed module, Starliner, which transported Sunita Williams to ISS in June. It has, however, not been found fit for the return journey due to problems with its thrusters and continues to be docked with the ISS.



For Shukla's flight to ISS, ISRO has signed a contract with a private company, Axiom Space, which has been categorised by NASA as a 'full-service mission provider

to carry out end-to-end commercial astronaut missions.' Axiom does not have a rocket or spacecraft and depends on SpaceX for transportation to and from the ISS. Since May 2021, Axiom has executed three commercial missions to ISS. The one with Shukla will be its fourth mission. It is unclear till now if Shukla is going to fly under a commercial agreement between ISRO and Axiom or under a bilateral deal (with or without service charges) with NASA. Rakesh Sharma's flight to the Salyut station in 1984 was a gesture of friendship from the Soviet Union; India did not have to pay for the ride or the cosmonaut training. Salyut's successor was the Mir on which Russia hosted 104 cosmonauts and astronauts from 13 countries till it was deorbited in 2001, and many of them were paid rides. India missed the ISS bus and did not participate in its assembly or send an Indian astronaut to the space station while it was taking shape in the 1990s and 2000s with the participation of leading space agencies. In the 1990s, the relations between ISRO and NASA were at a low ebb because of the cryogenic controversy and the restrictions imposed by the American government due to fear of knowledge transfer. Second, ISRO was more focused on stabilising its operational satellite programmes and lacked additional resources to join an international venture.

By the time a human flight popped up on ISRO's agenda, the list of visitors to the ISS had considerably grown. In the past 25 years, 280 astronauts from 23 countries have been

to ISS with some of them visiting the station two to four times. For instance, the ongoing visit of Sunita Williams is her third to ISS. The US and Russia account for 220 astronauts to ISS, while the rest came from Japan, Canada, Italy, France, Germany, Denmark, the UK, Belgium, Spain, Sweden, Netherlands, Brazil, Israel, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Malaysia, South Africa, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the UAE. The list includes 13 'private visitors' or space tourists. Axiom's first mission to ISS included four private visitors.

Even when ISRO formally started working on the Gaganyaan mission in 2018, sending an Indian to the ISS was not on the cards. The four astronaut candidates were sent for training at the Yuri Gagarin Space Centre and agreements were signed with Russian agencies for developing other essentials needed for a human space flight. However, the launch deadline set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi — coinciding with the 75th anniversary of Independence in 2022 — was too short to be achieved. A year later, the ISS plan figured in the India-US joint statement during the Prime Minister's visit to America. It would appear the ISS trip of Shukla is not a necessary building block for Gaganyaan, but more of a catch-up step to gain real-time experience of a space flight in preparation for Gaganyaan. To see an Indian on a space station four decades after Rakesh Sharma's space journey would indeed be a moment of national pride.

## Far-right extremism

UK must protect vulnerable communities

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. The media and political leaders must act responsibly, avoiding inflammatory rhetoric that can incite hatred.

## This is not the Bangladesh we stood for in the line of fire

AT 2 pm on August 5, 2024, Bangladesh was freed from an autocrat. It baffles me that I can finally use the word 'autocrat' to describe the fallen Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina because our law made sure we couldn't since 2018. My brother and I rushed to the streets, unable to contain our excitement. The atmosphere was electric. I had never seen so many people on the streets, waving flags. Families carried their children on their shoulders, chanting slogans of victory. Rickshaw pullers saluted students, who stood on rickshaws giving speeches about refusing to live under tyranny, goons, or chandabaa (extortionists). We could breathe a sigh of relief. Hasina's flight from the country meant the end of enforced disappearances of students, journalists and activists, police raids on student protesters and the brutalities of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL). Bangladesh was, for now, a country free of censorship. But our joy soon turned to horror as we walked from Motijheel to Shahbagh. At Motijheel, crowds gathered in front of Sonali Bank, ripping off posters of Hasina. We cheered until someone suggested tearing down everything built under the Awami League regime. We dismissed it as extreme views surfacing due to newfound freedom. As we walked towards Shahbagh, our smiles faded. People were carrying army officials on their shoulders, believing they had brought this freedom. They climbed onto armoured vehicles, raised flags and danced. Some in the crowd looked uncomfortable but shrugged it off, thinking it was all part of the celebration. When we crossed Suhrawardy Uddyan, we saw a thick cloud of smoke. Inside, vandals had set large stages on fire, which had been set up for commemorating mourning day by the Awami League. A statue replicating Bangabandhu's historic March 7 speech was also ablaze. We tried to stop the fires, but people gave us looks of disgust. We stumbled upon a crowd beating a BCL-affiliated student with rods. The mob claimed he had weapons. Some students tried to protect him, shouting for him to be handed over to the army. But we were called Chhatra League or Razakar, accused of siding with the enemy. We had seen enough people shot, maimed and killed



during protests. It was ironic how we now took hits from a mob to save someone we were supposed to hate. The mob eventually outnumbered us, and the person was beaten to death. We couldn't verify his identity, fearing for our lives. We asked Army officials at the Shahbagh intersection to intervene and clear the crowd, but they refused. We knew the anarchy we were witnessing was just the beginning. We hadn't yet heard of the communal violence on Hindu communities, temples being torched, and attacks on Awami League-affiliated members and their families, alongside policemen and their families. At the TSC, we saw minibuses set on fire. Vandals warned people not to take videos or photos. Chairs were stolen from the halls and looters from Gono Bhaban, the Prime Minister's residence, were cheered as they brought in the chairs. At 5 pm, I walked from Shahbagh to The Daily Star building. On the way, men on bikes were honking and catcalling women. Mobs targeted TV

news offices which hadn't covered the student protests due to pressure from the authorities. A witchhunt was underway, and I feared for my safety. I felt numb witnessing the horror. What was the point of Abu Sayeed, Mir Mugdho, Farhan Faiyaz, and the deaths of over 200 others if this was the picture of freedom we painted in the first hours of independence? Are we truly free if we ignore the concerns of our minority communities? We are now so vulnerable and afraid that rational people have started believing in endless disinformation. If we find the hanging Hasina's undergarments on fans and displaying them in front of the media funny, then we are setting a dangerous precedent. This rhetoric could be used by religious bigots and radical groups to attack women's empowerment, arguing that empowering women leads to tyrants like Hasina. The politics of the AL regime could be used to justify their hidden agendas. As a nation,

we need to be far more vigilant than we have been during these dark days of lawlessness. I was horrified that the mob justified their vandalism by saying, "They did this to us, so we will do the same to them." No. Students did not sacrifice their lives for vigilante justice. They did it so people, regardless of background, have the right to speak up, claim justice and call out injustice. The movement is called the 'Anti-Discrimination Movement' and we cannot let that rhetoric be politicised or diluted. Many have noticed how the BNP has bandwagoned on the student's right to justice as a movement they always supported. I am proud that the student leaders I trust have called out this violence and set up watch parties. They constantly distinguish that these acts of vandalism are not what we support. I hope they continue this stance. Because when I saw vandals parading with their motorbikes on Manik Mia Avenue, it seemed we had just replaced the Chhatra League with the Chhatra Dal, allowing history to repeat itself. We are at a monumental time in Bangladesh's history to create change. We have an opportunity to redefine the Bangladesh we want without being deterred by the thought that "we will simply never see this in Bangladesh." Civic society has the biggest role to play now. Amidst the vandalism, civic groups made human chains to stop vandals from destroying police stations, helped return stolen items from Gono Bhaban and imams, along with students, joined watch parties outside temples to protect them. This is the Bangladesh I dreamt of, my grandfather dreamt of during the Liberation War and the countless other freedom fighters who took a bullet. This is the time to call out all injustices that hindered our society under an autocracy—not just politicians, but also businessmen who supported the Awami League and now pretend to support our students. It is time for us to be vigilant on all fronts. It is so much harder to protect freedom than to achieve it. If nothing else, what this protest proved is that students have the power to take down an autocrat that everyone feared. We can again take down anyone who stands in the way of building a free Bangladesh for all.

## HDFC Bank UPI services to be down today. Details here

**NEW DELHI.** HDFC Bank has announced that its UPI services will be unavailable for three hours tomorrow due to scheduled maintenance. This will affect transactions through its mobile banking app, as well as third-party platforms like GPay, Paytm, and WhatsApp Pay.

The maintenance is set to occur on August 10 from 2:30 am to 5:30 am, a total of three hours. During this period, HDFC Bank's UPI services will be temporarily inaccessible. HDFC Bank has announced that its UPI services will be unavailable for three hours tomorrow due to scheduled maintenance. This will affect transactions through its mobile banking app, as well as third-party platforms like GPay, Paytm, and WhatsApp Pay. The maintenance is set to occur on August 10 from 2:30 am to 5:30 am, a total of three hours. During this period, HDFC Bank's UPI services will be temporarily inaccessible.

## Trent shares zoom 9% after Q1 net profit jumps to Rs 391 crore

**NEW DELHI.** Shares of Tata Group's Trent Ltd., the operator of Westside and Zudio outlets, soared 9% today. At around 1 pm, shares of the company were trading 8.66% higher at Rs 6,131.20. The company's market capitalisation has once again crossed the Rs 2 lakh crore mark, a milestone it first achieved in July. The strong jump in share price came on the back of the company's impressive Q1 results, which exceeded market expectations. Middle East Tensions Wayanad Landslides Trent reported a net profit of Rs 391.2 crore for the June quarter, a jump from Rs 166.7 crore in the same period last year.

The company's revenue grew by 56.2% year-on-year to Rs 4,104.4 crore, outperforming analysts' expectations of Rs 3,810 crore. Additionally, Trent's EBITDA for the quarter rose by 66.7% to Rs 612.6 crore, slightly above the expected Rs 588 crore. Despite the strong financial performance, the EBITDA margin expanded to 15%, up from 14% last year, though it was marginally below the anticipated 15.4%. The positive results are largely attributed to the expansion of Zudio stores, with the company planning to add 200 more outlets in the current financial year.

## RVNL shares extend losses after Q1 results. Should you buy or sell

**For the quarter ending June 2024, RVNL reported a 34.7% drop in consolidated net profit, falling to Rs 223.92 crore from Rs 343.09 crore in the same quarter last year.**

**NEW DELHI.** Shares of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) continued to decline on Friday, falling nearly 3.5% on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

The development comes after shares of the company fell nearly 5% on Thursday after the company reported disappointing earnings for the June 2024 quarter.

In contrast, the broader market saw significant gains, with the BSE Sensex surging almost 1,100 points to 79,980 at the opening bell. For the quarter ending June 2024, RVNL reported a 34.7% drop in consolidated net profit, falling to Rs 223.92 crore from Rs 343.09 crore in the same quarter last year. The company's revenue from operations also took a hit, dropping 26.9% year-on-year to Rs 4,073.80 crore, down from Rs 5,571.57 crore in Q1 FY24. RVNL's stock has had a remarkable run since the start of the financial year 2023-24, soaring to an all-time high of Rs 647 in July 2024, a massive



873% increase from its March 2023 close of Rs 68.60. However, the stock has since experienced some profit-taking and is now trading around 17% lower than its peak. Even then, RVNL shares are still up 341% from their 52-week low of Rs 122.

Buy, hold or sell RVNL?

Despite the recent dip, some market experts believe this could be a buying opportunity for long-term investors. Stock market analysts view RVNL as a company that is likely to benefit from the government's strong focus on infrastructure development. Seema Srivastava, a Research Analyst at SMC Global Securities, who was quoted in a livemint.com report, expects the company to make a strong recovery. She has advised shareholders to buy the stock on the dips, accumulating shares on every 5-7% dip from current levels.

Analysts have also asked retail investors to avoid buying the stock immediately and wait till it stabilises. Retail investors should note that the stock has been on a losing run since the beginning of this week.

Therefore, once the stock price stabilises, investors can buy-on-dips for long-term gains. Analysts have also pointed out that while RVNL's recent performance has been underwhelming, the company's long-term prospects remain promising.

# Food prices can't be overlooked for inflation targeting, says Das

**The Economic Survey, released prior to the Budget, advocated for a revision of the central bank's inflation targeting framework by excluding food inflation.**

**NEW DELHI.** Contrary to the views expressed in the Economic Survey regarding the exclusion of food from retail inflation calculations, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday emphasised that food inflation cannot be overlooked due to its significant contribution to the overall consumption basket. According to Das, at the forefront of RBI's focus is headline

inflation, with food inflation accounting for approximately 46% of the consumer price index (CPI). "...Further, the public at large understands inflation more in terms of food inflation than the other components of headline inflation. Therefore, we cannot and should not become complacent merely because core inflation has fallen considerably," he said.

Das clarified that while the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) might overlook elevated food inflation if it is deemed temporary, the current situation of sustained high food inflation requires the committee to take it seriously. He said that the MPC must stay alert to prevent spillover effects or second-round impacts from ongoing



food inflation to maintain the credibility achieved through the monetary policy efforts. The Economic Survey, released prior to the Budget, advocated for a revision of the central bank's inflation targeting framework by excluding food

inflation. It argued that India's inflation targeting should focus on overall inflation minus food prices, as fluctuations in food prices are frequently driven by supply factors rather than demand. The Survey suggested that it may be beneficial to reconsider whether India's inflation targeting framework should exclude food inflation.

Regarding the weight of food in the CPI, Das said the existing CPI basket and the weight assigned to core, fuel, and food were based on data from 2011.

NSO survey is underway

Shaktikanta Das noted that the NSO survey is currently underway, and a decision will be made in due course based on the data collected, in collaboration with the government and the RBI.

## Government to introduce Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill in LS, seeks to raise nominees per a/c to 4

**Another proposed change relates to redefining 'substantial interest' for directorships, which could increase to Rs 2 crore instead of the current limit of Rs 5 lakh, which was fixed almost six decades ago.**

**NEW DELHI.** The government is scheduled to introduce the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 which seeks to increase the option for nominees per bank account to four, from existing one, among others.

Another proposed change relates to redefining 'substantial interest' for directorships, which could increase to



Rs 2 crore instead of the current limit of Rs 5 lakh, which was fixed almost six decades ago. As per the revised list of business of Lok Sabha, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to introduce the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 later in the day. Besides, sources said there are some changes with respect to cooperative banks. In addition, the Bill also seeks to give greater freedom to banks in deciding the remuneration to

be paid to statutory auditors. The Bill also seeks to redefine the reporting dates for banks for regulatory compliance to the 15th and last day of every month instead of the second and fourth Fridays. The Bill, which was approved by the Union Cabinet last Friday, proposes to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the State Bank of India Act, 1955, the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980.

The announcement about this was made by the Finance Minister in her 2023-24 Budget speech. "To improve bank governance and enhance investors' protection, certain amendments to the Banking Regulation Act, the Banking Companies Act and the Reserve Bank of India Act are proposed," she had said.

## Bhavish Aggarwal enters billionaire club as Ola Electric shares surge on market debut

**NEW DELHI.** Bhavish Aggarwal entered the billionaire club on Friday after shares of Ola Electric Mobility Ltd surged 20%, marking a huge shift in fortunes for its founder. The stock's performance followed a muted debut on the stock market. As a result, Aggarwal, who held 36.94% of the company's shares, saw his net worth reach Rs 12,104 crore (approximately \$1.44 billion), elevating him into India's billionaire ranks. Aggarwal, aged 38, sold 37,915,211 shares of Ola Electric at Rs 76 each, raising Rs 288 crore. Post-IPO, he retained 1,32,39,60,029 shares, which, at the peak intraday price of Rs 89.25 per share, are valued at Rs 11,816 crore. The Indian billionaire list is led by Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani, with net worths of \$109 billion

and \$105 billion, respectively. Globally, other notable Indian billionaires in the Bloomberg Billionaire Index include Mahendra Choksi and family, Rakesh Gangwal, Benu Bangur, Samir Mehta, and Sudhir Mehta. Despite the upbeat stock performance, Prashanth Tapse, Senior Vice President (Research) at Mehta Equities Ltd, cautioned investors.

He said that the IPO's initial success did not necessarily reflect long-term prospects. Tapse pointed out potential risks due to the company's weak financials and possible negative cash flows in the future. He advised that only those willing to take risks should hold onto their shares for a minimum of 2-3 years. Earlier in the day, Ola Electric made a flat listing, debuting at Rs 76, the same as the issue price.

There were initial concerns about a potential discount listing, but the stock listed at a minimal discount of 0.01% on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). The IPO, which took place from August 2 to August 6, was priced between Rs 72 and Rs 76 per share. It successfully raised Rs 6,145.56 crore, including a fresh share sale of Rs 5,500 crore and an offer-for-sale (OFS) of up to 8,49,41,997 shares. The issue was 4.27 times subscribed overall. Qualified institutional bidders (QIBs) subscribed 5.31 times, non-institutional investors 2.40 times, and retail investors and employees 3.92 times and 11.99 times, respectively. Founded in 2017, Ola Electric Mobility is based in Bengaluru and focuses on manufacturing electric vehicles and key components such as battery packs.



position by keeping a stop loss below 70," she added.

Tapse said that post listing the short term view remains the same due to weak financials and the risk of negative cash flows in future and allotted investors should understand the risk before holding which could adversely impact its consolidated financial condition post listing.

"Considering all the factors, we advise only risk taking investors to continue to hold with a minimum holding period of 2-3 years. What if the stock is available well below its issue price, we recommend risk taking investors to accumulate on every dip to be part of 2-3 years of journey. The long term story is intact but we may see a lot of ups and downs in the short term," he added.

## Rupee rises 8 paise to 83.89 against US dollar in early trade

**Forex traders said post the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy announcement, markets now await for US CPI data, India CPI, WPI and IIP data and India's trade data all scheduled to be released next week.**

**MUMBAI.** Rupee appreciated 8 paise to 83.89 against US dollar in early trade on Friday, supported by a positive trend in domestic equities and a decline in the US dollar index. Forex traders said post the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy announcement, markets now await for US CPI data, India CPI, WPI and IIP data and India's trade data all scheduled to be released next week. The Jackson Holes Symposium to be held after next week will also remain in focus, traders said. At



the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 83.95 against the greenback, then touched 83.89, registering a rise of 8 paise over its previous closing price. On Thursday, the rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled for the day lower by 2 paise at 83.97 against US dollar. Rupee was protected by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at 83.96 for this week and the local unit is likely to trade in a narrow range of 83.90/84.00 for the day after the

RBI kept key benchmark rates on hold, said Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.03 per cent lower at 103.17. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.15 per cent to USD 79.28 per barrel. Brent oil prices rose to USD 79.22, a 3 per cent weekly

gain, on rising Middle East tensions and better than expected US jobless claims data giving a better outlook on the US economy," Bhansali added. Market analysts said while the rupee seems to be tilting towards a negative bias, but sharp fluctuations are not anticipated. Meanwhile, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank kept the benchmark repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent. Announcing the bi-monthly monetary policy review RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said Indian rupee remained largely range-bound so far this financial year. Das further noted that the country's forex reserves touched a record high of USD 675 billion as on August 2. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex surged 958.63 points, or 1.22 per cent, to 79,844.85 points. The Nifty advanced 280.70 points, or 1.16 per cent, to 24,397.70 points. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Thursday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 2,626.73 crore, according to exchange data.



# Over 7,200 Indian students have returned home from crisis-hit Bangladesh: Centre

**New Delhi.** More than 7,200 Indian students have returned to India in the past couple of weeks ending August 1 in view of the situation in Bangladesh, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Thursday. Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh, in a written response, also said that as per available records, there were about 19,000 Indian citizens, including over 9,000 students, living in Bangladesh. He was asked the total number of Indians living in Bangladesh for the purpose of education or business, the number of people of Gujarat living in Bangladesh, and whether any special campaign has been started to evacuate Indian citizens from the violence-hit neighbouring country.

The minister was also asked about the number of citizens brought back to India so far. Indian students in Bangladesh were from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, and the states of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Tripura, and Assam, among others. State-

wise list is not maintained by our Mission and Posts in Bangladesh, the Union Minister said. The High Commission of India in Dhaka and the Assistant High Commissions in Chittagong, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Khulna have been assisting in the voluntary return of Indian nationals, he said. They were also coordinating with the authorities concerned in Bangladesh for their safety and security during their stay as well as movement to the airports and to land ports along the India-Bangladesh border. "The Ministry of External Affairs has also been coordinating with relevant Indian authorities to ensure a smooth passage for our citizens arriving at land ports and airports. Over 7,200 Indian students have returned to India till August 1, 2024, starting from July 18, 2024," Singh said. State-wise list of Indian nationals who have "voluntarily departed from Bangladesh was not maintained by our mission and posts in Bangladesh", the minister added. In a separate query, he was also asked whether it is a fact that Indian students' intake in



Canadian universities has dipped in recent years due to strained relations with Canada, and if so, the details of students enrolled there during the last three years, year-wise. The Minister of State for External Affairs shared data and said as per information obtained from the website of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), the Indian student intake at Canadian universities has "increased over the last three years". As per the shared data, the corresponding figures were -- 2,16,360 (in

2021), 3,18,380 (in 2022) and 4,27,085 (in 2023).

In a separate question, he was asked whether the government is aware of the "growing Chinese influence" on India's neighbouring countries. Singh, in his written response, said the "government keeps abreast of all activities in India's neighbourhood that impinge on its interests". "Neighbourhood First Policy continues to guide our approach to our neighbouring countries.

It has resulted in outcome-oriented engagements, strong development partnerships, physical, digital and economic connectivity as well as vibrant people-to-people and cultural exchanges. India is an active partner of its neighbours, with extensive education, culture, trade and investment linkages," he said. "Our relations with neighbours stand on their own footing and are independent of the relations of these countries with third countries. The government keeps a vigilant watch on all

developments which have a bearing on India's national security, and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it," he added.

In response to a separate query, he shared data on the number of pilgrims from India who visited Gurdwara Shri Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in Pakistan in the past three years - 10,025 (2021); 86,097 (2022); and 96,555 (2023). He was also asked whether India had taken "any diplomatic initiative to stop the ongoing war between Palestine and Israel".

"India has strongly condemned the terror attacks on Israel on October 7, 2023, and also the loss of civilian lives in the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict. India has called for a ceasefire and sustained humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza," the Union minister said. "During the ongoing conflict, India has provided 70 tonnes of humanitarian aid including 16.5 tonnes of medicines and medical supplies. We have also called for the release of the remaining hostages.

## Biker, 29, Killed In Hit-And-Run Case In Maharashtra's Palghar

**New Delhi.** In yet another hit-and-run case in Maharashtra, a man was killed after a car rammed into his two-wheeler in the Palghar district today. The accident took place around 1 am in Palghar's Manor. The accused left the car, a Mahindra Scorpio, and fled after the crash. The police have seized the car. The victim has been identified as 29-year-old Sagar Gajanan Patil. A man, Sachin Suravase, has been taken into police custody. He is said to be the driver and not the car's owner. The victim's family has alleged that the driver has been taken into custody to save the car owner. They had also refused to take the body of the



victim, alleging that the police had refused to file the case. Earlier last month, a 24-year-old son of a Shiv Sena leader ran over an elderly woman with his BMW in Mumbai. During his interrogation, Mihir Shah admitted to the police that he was drunk during the early morning drive.

In another incident, a minor son of a Pune realtor had run over two 24-year-old techies with his Porsche during a late-night drive in May. He, too, was allegedly found drunk.

## Case against lawyer for raping 21-year-old in Delhi court chamber

**New Delhi.** A case has been registered against a Delhi lawyer after a 21-year-old woman alleged that he raped her inside his chamber at Tis Hazari Court on the pretext of giving her a job. The case was registered at Sabji Mandi Police Station after the aunt of the woman lodged a complaint on July 30. In her complaint, the aunt of the woman said her niece was looking for a job, and she gave her the contact of the lawyer. After the woman contacted the lawyer, she was asked to visit his



chamber to show her educational qualifications. The lawyer told the woman that he would look for a job for her in the next 8-10 days. After 10 days, the woman contacted the lawyer again and the two started exchanging texts, as per the complaint. The lawyer also allegedly told the woman that "everyone needs good friends in life".

The woman was again called to the lawyer's chamber on July 27. After speaking for some time, the lawyer forced himself on her and also inserted his finger in her private part, the woman said in the complaint. As the woman started screaming, the lawyer threatened her with dire consequences if she told anyone about the assault. He gave her Rs 1,500 and asked her to leave, the woman's complaint said.

After reaching home, the woman informed her aunt about the incident, who then approached the police. A probe is underway, police said.

## Who is Harish Salve, set to fight Vinesh Phogat's Olympic disqualification case

**New Delhi.** The hopes of grappler Vinesh Phogat and a billion Indians rest upon the shoulders of top lawyer

Harish Salve, who is set to fight the wrestler's Paris Olympics disqualification case at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). A former Solicitor General of India and King's Counsel, Salve has a stellar record of handling high-profile cases -- ranging from defending Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav at the International Court of

Justice to representing Ratan Tata in his battle against Cyrus Mistry. Vinesh Phogat, who became the first Indian woman wrestler to reach an Olympic final, was disqualified by the

organisers after being found 100 gms overweight ahead of her gold medal match on Wednesday. She later

announced her retirement from wrestling in a heartbreaking post on Thursday. Phogat moved the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against her

disqualification and demanded a joint silver be awarded to her.

**WHO IS HARISH SALVE?**

One of India's prominent lawyers, Harish Salve, was born in Maharashtra and completed his law from Nagpur University. He served as a senior advocate at the Delhi High Court in 1992 before being appointed as the Solicitor General of India in November 1999. Salve was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2015. In January last year, he was appointed as the Queen's Counsel for the courts of Wales and England.

Some of his top clients include the Tata Group and Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries.



## Study Reveals Priorities Of Indian GenZ's, How Hard They're Willing To Work

**New Delhi.** One in every four GenZ respondents in India is more inclined towards new-age job fields like Artificial Intelligence, cybersecurity and content creation while 43 per cent are willing to sacrifice the work-life balance to succeed in their career, a study has found.

The study, the Quest Report 2024, which unveils Gen Z traits and trends on dreams, careers, and aspirations, also found that only 9 per cent of respondents want to pursue entrepreneurship as they seek stability and security in work life. Gen Z usually refers to those born between 1997 and 2012. "One out of 4 Indian respondents are more inclined towards new-age job fields like content creation, data analysis, AI, and cybersecurity," the study commissioned by iQOO in association

with CyberMedia Research, said. iQOO is a sub-smartphone brand of the vivo group.

"43 per cent of respondents in India and 46 per cent globally are willing to give up work-life balance to succeed in their career," it said, adding that around 62 per cent of the Indian youth are willing to give up their hobbies and other interests to achieve their dreams. "Recent debate on work-life balance due to deliberation on 14-hour work day & 70-hour workweek have stirred conversations amongst the Gen Z," the study noted.

The study of 6,700 Gen Z respondents, aged between 20-24 years, from seven countries including the US, the UK, Malaysia Brazil and India, stated that 19 per cent of Indians surveyed prefer career advancements in big organisations while 84 per cent of

Indian respondents believe their jobs align with their goals, compared to 72 per cent globally. As many as 45 per cent of Queters said that they would take up higher studies to support their quest while 32 per cent believe they should take up relevant jobs to support their dreams.

Around 46 per cent feel financial constraints as a barrier to pursuing their choice of career. However, over 90% are confident in achieving their dream despite the barriers. "2X of women feel gender affects the pursuit of their dreams compared to men," the study said.

The study covered three broad areas- Gen Z Queters' spirit & motivation to fulfil their dreams, obstacles & barriers that disrupt their quest for passion, and career choices that drive their interests.

**New Delhi.** Senior Telangana Congress leader and state Waqf Board Chairman Syed Azmatullah Hussaini strongly criticised the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, calling it "a bulldozer on Waqf Board properties." His remarks came after the bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Thursday by Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, sparking strong opposition from various parties. "This bill is nothing but a bulldozer on Waqf Board properties," Hussaini stated. "We believe that BJP is doing vendetta politics as they have not received any minority votes."

Hussaini urged the BJP's alliance members, including the Chandrababu Naidu-led TDP and Nitish Kumar's JD(U), to oppose the bill. "We have called for an emergency Waqf Board meeting, where we will decide on our further course of action," he added.

The bill, which has been referred to a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) for further deliberation, proposes significant changes to the existing Waqf Act, including the inclusion of Muslim women and non-Muslims in Waqf bodies and the removal of Section 40, which gives Waqf boards the authority to determine Waqf properties.

The bill has ignited fierce debate, with opposition



parties condemning it as an "attack on the Constitution" and an interference in religious matters. Senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal labelled the bill as "draconian" and politically motivated, especially with upcoming state elections in Maharashtra and Haryana. Defending the bill, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju argued that the amendments were aimed at broadening the existing law and ensuring justice for those previously denied it. He said the bill seeks to implement reforms recommended by committees from the previous Congress government, assuring that no rights were being taken away nor religious freedoms being curtailed. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla stated that the JPC would be constituted after consulting with leaders from all parties, ensuring that the bill undergoes thorough examination before any further legislative action.

## NIA files chargesheet against four terrorists, including Pakistani handler in Kashmir

**All four accused were involved in the killing of two civilians on the evening of February 7 at Karfali Mohalla in Shala Kadal in Srinagar.**

**New Delhi.** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday filed a chargesheet against four terrorists, including one from Pakistan, for killing two people in Kashmir by Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and its offshoot, The Resistance Front in February. The



accused, identified as Adil Manzoor Langoo, Ahran Rasool Dar alias Tota, Dawood, and their Pakistan-based handler Jahangeer alias Peer Sahab, have been booked under various sections of IPC and UAPA. The NIA special court in Jammu, has already issued a non-bailable warrant against absconding accused Jahangir, the agency said in a statement.

All four accused were involved in the killing of two civilians on the evening of February 7 at Karfali Mohalla in Shala Kadal in Srinagar. The NIA took over the case in June, and initial investigations revealed that Adil Manzoor Langoo, who had joined the LeT in 2023, was motivated by his Pakistani handlers to carry out the outfit's activities in Srinagar.

He was also involved in previous attacks in the valley as well. He, along with his close associates Ahran Rasool Dar and Dawood, were working under the direction of Jahangeer and had conspired to kill people at Shala Kadal, the NIA said. Based on Jahangir's directions, Adil and Ahran had received the arms and ammunition which were used subsequently by Adil to commit the crime. Dawood had helped Adil destroy the evidence of the crime. "NIA has been cracking down on terrorist organisations active in Kashmir. LeT, the largest terrorist group in the region, has been working through various offshoots to carry out its operations after it was banned by the Government of India," the agency said in the statement. Further investigation is on, it said. "LeT/TRF has been luring unemployed youth into terrorist activities by using the social media extensively to propagate its dangerous agenda and promote its activities," the probe agency added.

News box

US, Qatar and Egypt call for talks with Israel and Hamas on August 15

Cairo. Leaders of the United States, Egypt and Qatar on Thursday called on Israel and Hamas to meet for negotiations on Aug. 15 in order to finalize a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal.

Britain is on alert for further unrest even after anti-racism campaigners faced down the far right

LONDON. British authorities said Thursday they were preparing for the possibility of further unrest, even as they applauded the efforts of anti-racism campaigners and police officers who largely stifled a threatened wave of far-right demonstrations overnight.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer sounded the note of caution after a week of anti-immigrant violence that has scarred communities from Northern Ireland to the south coast of England.

Police across the United Kingdom had braced for widespread disorder on Wednesday, after far-right activists circulated a list of more than 100 sites they planned to target.

But those demonstrations failed to materialize as police and counter-protesters filled the streets. Carrying signs saying "Refugees Welcome" and chanting "Whose streets? Our streets," people turned out in force to protect asylum service centers and the offices of immigration attorneys.

'Victory closer': Ukraine residents welcome offensive on Russia's Kursk region

KYIV. As Ukraine's major assault on the Russian border region of Kursk entered its third day, residents in the capital, Kyiv, praised the offensive as "bringing victory closer."

Donald Trump agrees to another debate with Kamala Harris

Palm Beach. Donald Trump gave an hour-long news conference Wednesday in which he recommitted to debating Vice President Kamala Harris and taunted her while also repeating old falsehoods and lashing out at questions about the enthusiasm her campaign is receiving.

Trump's decision to go on ABC, days after posting on his social media account that he would not appear on the network, sets up a highly anticipated moment in an election where Biden's catastrophic performance in the last debate set in motion his withdrawal.



become much less of an issue" since the Supreme Court ended the federal constitutional right to abortion services and returned control of the matter to state governments.

Trump also said he expected Florida "will go in a little more liberal way than people thought" when it votes to repeal an abortion ban later this year.

Trump argued that Democrats, Republicans and "everybody" are pleased with the results of the 2022 ruling that overturned the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision.

dismissing a question about his lighter campaign schedule as stupid, Trump says he has not "recalibrated" his campaign despite facing a new opponent, a dynamic some Republican strategists have quietly complained about.

TRUMP TAKES QUESTIONS ABOUT ABORTION

Trump suggested abortion will not be a major issue in the campaign and the outcome in November. He insisted that the matter "has

Venezuela blocks access to X for 10 days amid post-election protests, violence

Caracas. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Thursday said he had signed a decree to block access to social media platform X for 10 days, after earlier saying social media was used to incite violence following the country's presidential election.



WeChat, saying the app was being used to threaten the families of soldiers and police officers. Maduro has also clashed publicly with Musk since the election.

have released detailed vote tallies. In the days after the vote, protests from Venezuelans across the country and abroad broke out demanding Maduro step down and to honour a win by opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez.

Death toll from 6 weeks of monsoon rains jumps to 154 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD. The death toll from nearly six weeks of monsoon rains and floods across Pakistan has risen to 154, officials said Thursday, as downpours continued in much of the country, inundating some villages.

has also been battered by rains, causing landslides. Many of the 154 deaths occurred in the eastern Punjab and northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces, according to the disaster agency and provincial authorities.

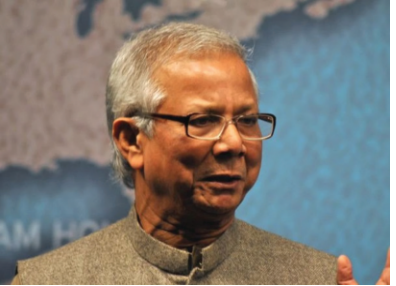
affected communities receive timely and adequate support to prevent this humanitarian crisis from deepening," the group's director in Pakistan, Shabnam Baloch, said in a statement.

Interim leader Muhammad Yunus takes the helm in Bangladesh, to seek peace and prepare elections

The figurehead President Mohammed Shahabuddin administered the oath to Yunus for his role as chief adviser, which is the equivalent to a prime minister.

DHAKA. Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus took the oath of office as head of Bangladesh's interim government Thursday after protests forced out former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina this week.

party were present. The 16 other members of the interim Cabinet were drawn mainly from civil society and include two of the student protest leaders.



developing microcredit markets, was in Paris for the Olympics when he was chosen for the interim role. He called for calm and an end to partisan violence before he returned home earlier Thursday.

Iran is accelerating cyber activity that appears meant to influence the US election, Microsoft says

NEW YORK. Iran is ramping up online activity that appears intended to influence the upcoming U.S. election, in one case targeting a presidential campaign with an email phishing attack, Microsoft said Friday.

launch cyberattacks in the U.S. presidential election. The report doesn't specify Iran's intentions besides sowing chaos in the United States, though U.S. officials have previously hinted that Iran particularly opposes former President Donald Trump.

November's election draws closer. First, a group linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guard in June targeted a high-ranking U.S. presidential campaign official with a phishing email, a form of cyberattack often used to gather sensitive information, according to the report, which didn't identify which campaign was targeted.

left-leaning audience insults Trump by calling him "raving mad" and suggests he uses drugs, the report said. Another site meant to appeal to Republican readers centers on LGBTQ issues and gender-affirming surgery.

NEWS BOX

Yuvraj Singh to 'unbreakable'  
Neeraj Chopra: Golden moment for every Indian heart

New Delhi. Former Indian all-rounder Yuvraj Singh heaped praise on Neeraj Chopra for winning the silver medal in Paris Olympics 2024. On Thursday, Neeraj finished second in the final of the men's javelin event at Stade de France with a best throw of 89.45 metres. Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem and Grenada's Anderson Peters won the gold and bronze medals respectively. The 26-year-old Neeraj, who won gold in the Tokyo Olympics, could not defend his crown, but Yuvraj said that even with the silver medal, he was able to bring smiles to the entire nation. Neeraj started with a foul throw but then he pulled off a stunning effort in his second attempt. Yuvraj, who won the Player of the Tournament award in the 2011 Cricket World Cup, praised Neeraj for his "perseverance and pride".

**'Golden journey'**

"Proving yet again that his spirit to win is as unbreakable as his javelin's flight. You have not only won a historic silver medal but



also brought a golden moment for every Indian heart. Here's to the champion who reminds us all that even in silver, there lies a golden journey of perseverance and pride." Yuvraj wrote. Yuvraj also had words of praise for Nadeem, who threw 92.97 metres and finished on top. "Heartiest congratulations to @arshadnadeem29 as well - for scripting history with an incredible 92.97m throw and breaking the Olympic record!" Yuvraj added. Nadeem also broke the Olympic record earlier held by Norway's Andreas Thorildsen, who threw 90.57 metres in the Beijing Games in 2008. Arshad had butterflies in his stomach as he made a foul throw to begin his campaign. But the second throw shattered all records. He did not stop there and finished with another colossal throw of 91.79 metres in his sixth and final attempt. Having crossed the 90-metre mark, Arshad now intends to get better and go past 95 metres.

India to play day-night practice match to prepare for Adelaide Test vs Australia

New Delhi. India are set to play a two-day warm-up match against the Prime Minister's XI at the Manuka Oval in Canberra from November 30 to December 1 during the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy. The contest has been scheduled to help India prepare for the Day-Night Test against Australia to be held from December 6 at the Adelaide Oval.

India have played three pink-ball Tests until now, against Bangladesh (2019), England (2021) and Sri Lanka (2022) and have won each of them. However, they are yet to play in an overseas Day-Night Test and the upcoming Adelaide Test would be their first on foreign soil. India will also be facing the Prime Minister's XI for the fourth time and the first in 20 years. Steve Waugh captained the PM XI which included current national coach Andrew McDonald against an Indian team led by Rahul Dravid. "We're delighted



to confirm India's involvement in this year's Prime Minister's XI match that emphasises the significance of the fixture on the cricketing calendar," Nick Hockley, the Cricket Australia CEO, was quoted as saying. "The upcoming Border Gavaskar Trophy Series will captivate the cricketing world. Today's confirmation of the Prime Minister's XI match is a terrific result for cricket fans, particularly in the ACT and surrounding regions, and adds to an incredible summer of cricket."

George Bailey, the CA Chair of Selectors, said, "Representing the PMs XI is a tremendous honour for any player given its rich history spanning across eight decades. This year's match also presents an opportunity for players to impress against arguably the strongest side in world cricket. India are scheduled to face Australia in the opening Test, starting November 22 at the Perth Stadium. Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney will host the third, fourth and fifth Tests respectively. India have won back-to-back Test series in Australia.

Aman Sehrawat's bronze medal match in Paris Olympics: When and where to watch

Hall reeled in three runners down the stretch of the 400-meter final Wednesday to deliver another heart-stopping win for his country at the Stade de France.

New Delhi. Indian wrestler Aman Sehrawat is just one step away from bringing India another medal at the Paris Olympics. He will take on Puerto Rico's Darian Cruz in the bronze medal match of the men's 57kg category in the wrestling competition on August 9, Friday. Aman Sehrawat featured in the bronze medal match after he lost the semifinal match 10-0 against the top-seeded Japanese wrestler Rei Higuchi, who is also a former world champion and a winner of a silver Olympic medal in Rio 2016. In the round of 16 bouts, Aman Sehrawat beat Macedonia's Vladimir Egorov, who is a former European



champion, 10-0 with technical superiority. In the quarter-final round, he got the better of Zelimkhan Abakarov from Albania, who is a former world champion and fourth seed, 12-0. He is set for an intense round of bout against Darian Cruz. He was a bronze medallist in the Pan American Games last year. He has also won three medals at the

Pan American Championships, including a silver in Buenos Aires last year. The 21-year-old Aman is the only male Indian wrestler to compete at the Paris Olympics 2024. Aman bested Ravi Dahiya, the Tokyo Olympics 2020 silver medallist in the Indian wrestling trials to make a cut into the 6-member Indian wrestling contingent. Here's

all you need to know about catching Aman Sehrawat live in action: When will Aman Sehrawat's bronze medal match at the Paris Olympics 2024 take place? Aman Sehrawat's bronze medal match at the Paris Olympics 2024 will take place on August 9, Friday. Where will Aman Sehrawat's bronze medal match at the Paris Olympics 2024 take place? Aman Sehrawat's bronze medal match at the Paris Olympics 2024 will take place at Champ-de-Mars Arena in Paris. What time will Aman Sehrawat's bronze medal match at the Paris Olympics 2024 start? Aman Sehrawat's bronze medal match at the Paris Olympics 2024 will start at 9:45 PM (IST) Where will Aman Sehrawat's bronze medal match at the Paris Olympics 2024 be broadcast?

Aman Sehrawat's bronze medal match at the Paris Olympics 2024 will be telecast on the Sports18 1 SD and Sports18 1 HD TV channels. Where to watch the live-streaming Aman Sehrawat's bronze medal match at the Paris Olympics? Aman Sehrawat's bronze medal match at the Paris Olympics 2024 will be streamed live on the JioCinema app and website.

When Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem celebrated Olympic gold win with Indians

- ➔ Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem wins gold medal at Paris Olympics 2024
- ➔ He breaks the Olympic record with a monstrous throw of 92.7m in the javelin final
- ➔ Neeraj Chopra finished 2nd and bagged first silver medal for India in Paris Games

New Delhi. A new chapter has unfolded in the sporting rivalry between India and Pakistan and, this time in an Olympic contest. However, what stood out the most was the mutual love and respect shared between Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem and India's Neeraj Chopra. The celebrations of Arshad Nadeem's gold medal win transcended the borders as the Indians cheered for him alongside Neeraj from the stands at the Stade



de France. Yet again, a sport like javelin managed to reunite the Indians and Pakistanis as they together celebrated Arshad and Neeraj Chopra's podium finish at the Paris Olympics 2024 on August 8. A social media user shared a video where Arshad was running across the stands with Pakistan's flag in his hands. He obliged to stop and click pictures with the Indian fans as they congratulated the Pakistani athlete for his win. Arshad celebrated his win with the Indians, who were also clapping and

cheering for him, and he looked ecstatic. Arshad was in tears as he met and greeted his countrymen who had turned out in huge numbers to cheer for him.

Arshad wins historic gold medal

Arshad Nadeem ended Pakistan's 32-year-long wait for an Olympic medal and became the first athlete from the country to win an Olympic gold. He also dethroned his good friend and India's star Neeraj Chopra as the Olympic champion in the men's javelin throw event. Meanwhile, Neeraj Chopra won the silver medal with his season best throw of 88.94m. Arshad Nadeem broke the Olympic record with his monstrous throw of 92.7m in his second attempt and ended his sixth and last one with 91.79m throw. Arshad and Neeraj both appreciated each other for winning medals. They both ensured India-Pakistan finished 1-2 for the first time on the Olympic podium in men's javelin, a sport that is traditionally dominated by the Europeans.

Can't be face of athletics, not loud or arrogant like Noah Lyles: Letsile Tebogo

New Delhi. Botswana's Letsile Tebogo was quick to dismiss suggestions that he will be the face of athletics as he claimed that he isn't some as 'loud and arrogant' as Noah Lyles. Tebogo would put in a stunning performance to claim the gold medal at the Paris Olympics 2024 on August 8, Thursday when upstaged the favourite Lyles. The US sprinter would end up in the third spot as he was hit by COVID before the race.

Tebogo became the first African to win the event as he ran and finished it in 19.46 seconds, ahead of Kenny Bednarek and Lyles. When asked if this performance would catapult him into stardom like Usain Bolt, the Botswana sprinter shook his head quietly and brushed aside the suggestions. "I can't be the face of athletics as I'm not a loud or arrogant person like Noah," he said as quoted by Reuters.

My mom believed in me

It was an emotional day for Tebogo as he would dedicate the win to his late mother. The sprinter's mother had passed away in May and he would wear spikes that was bearing her



birthdate. Tebogo would say it was like he was carrying her with each stride he took and it gave him the motivation to win. Tebogo said that she would have been very happy for him and his achievement. "It's basically me carrying her through every stride that I take," Tebogo told reporters. "Me, to take her, it gives me a lot of motivation. I didn't want to put the date of her death, because I'll get emotional."

"I took about a month without doing anything. It wasn't really clicking for me that she's really gone. For me, I have to find the reason why I started my athletics journey and why I should continue going on. (If she were here) I believe she could be one of the happiest people on the planet because she believed in me when I doubted myself."

PR Sreejesh retires: An ode to a legend who signed off at the top of his game

New Delhi. When the final hooter was sounded on August 8, Thursday in the bronze medal match at the Paris Olympics 2024, the Indian players would erupt in joy before making the run towards their favourite PR Sreejesh. The goalkeeper, however, was simple with his celebration. There were no fist bumps or shouts of joy. It was just a simple moment for the 36-year-old, who bowed down before the goalpost like it was a shrine where his god was living. There was a sense of fulfilment for a man who got his first kit after his father decided to sell their cow. It felt like life had come full circle for a star, who had seen the highs and lows of Indian hockey, coming from Kerala, where the sport has never had a rich history. From the absolute rock-bottom the team hit in the 2012 London Olympics, Sreejesh remained a constant to see the revival of Indian hockey as it won 2 back-to-back Olympic medals for the first time since 1972. However, as fans, you feel like Sreejesh was nowhere close to retirement. It seemed like the Indian star hadn't aged at all, especially during the Paris Olympics 2024



campaign. Nimble on his feet, with reactions showing no sign of any tardiness, Sreejesh lived up to his name of being the wall of Indian hockey. This was perfectly shown in the game against Australia, India's biggest bogey team.

Sreejesh was ever present to thwart any attack that was inside the Indian D. The last save he pulled off with just 7 seconds on the clock and close to 7 Australian players in the D, makes you just say he is Indian hockey's 'Thala for a reason.' And just when you thought, he couldn't top things off, in came the Great Britain quarterfinal.

In hockey, when you have a red card shown, it's almost like that team is bound to lose. No

one is expected to hold on and not see the opponents score. When Amit Rohidas was given his marching orders, everyone felt India were going out of the competition. But the team scored and eventually the game was 1-1, when Sreejesh decided that it was time for him to be that extra defender for his side. A barrage of close to 11 penalty corners were stopped by Sreejesh and Co as he never stopped being telling his players what to do. He didn't have the captain's armband at that moment, but he was certainly 'Sreejesh bhai' for the entire team. Then came the penalty shootout, where there's almost a sense that when Sreejesh is on the line, the attacker is under pressure. And it was certainly there for everyone to see. Great Britain crumbled under pressure, as they missed two shots and India won 4-2. And in the bronze medal match, the pressure remained on India in the final quarter. Spain had 15 shots and 9 PCs but Sreejesh was up to the task, when it was needed. So then, Sreejesh why retire now?

Going out on top

"To retire at the top of the game, that's always been my aim.

Noah Lyles reveals being Covid positive after 200m bronze win, withdraws from Olympics

Noah Lyles revealed that he was Covid positive after winning the bronze medal in the 200m race at Paris Olympics 2024 and the sprinter withdrew from the tournament.

New Delhi. USA's Noah Lyles revealed that he tested positive for Covid after a shock third finish in the 200m race at the Paris Olympics 2024. The American said that his Paris Games were over, hours after he needed medical attention and was taken off the track with a wheel-chair on August 8, Thursday. Lyles leaves as an Olympic champion, but an abrupt end to his campaign would be a bitter pill to swallow, as he had set the ambitious goal of winning four golds in Paris, in the

100m, 200m, 4x100m relay and the 4x400m relay. It was also the first time in three years when the triple 200m world champion could not win gold in this category. "I do have Covid," Lyles told the reporters on Thursday. "I tested positive around 5am on Tuesday. I woke up feeling chills, aching, sore throat. Those were a lot of the symptoms I have had before getting Covid. I was like: 'I need to test this one.' It came back positive so we quickly quarantined in a hotel near the village and they got me on as much medication as they legally could to make sure my body was able to keep the momentum going. It means Lyles, the 100m world champion, will play no part when the US quartet attempt to win 4x100m relay gold on Friday. "I still wanted to run, they said it was still possible so we stayed away from everybody and took it round by round. I have definitely had better days but I am walking around again. I was quite light headed after that race and the chest pain was definitely active. After a while I was able to catch my



breath and get my wits about me. I am feeling a lot better now."

Noah Lyles withdraws from Paris Olympics Noah participates in 200m race despite Covid Botswana's Letsile Tebogo won gold (19.46) and USA's Kenneth Bednarek bagged silver (19.62) and Lyles reached the finishing line in 19.70 seconds to bag bronze. In a statement, USA Track & Field said: "Our primary commitment is to ensure the safety of Team USA athletes while

upholding their right to compete. After a thorough medical evaluation, Noah chose to compete tonight. We respect his decision and continue to monitor his condition closely."

Despite missing out on gold medal, Noah was content with finishing third while being Covid-stricken. "It definitely affected my performance," Lyles said. "I had to take a lot of breaks [to receive] fluid. To be honest, I'm more proud of myself than anything. Coming out, getting the bronze medal with covid three days ago, it's been a wild Olympics." The Paris Olympics has no mandatory rules relating to Covid and participation, which meant Lyles was within his rights to take to the start line. "We didn't want everybody to go into a panic. We wanted them to be able to compete," Lyles said. "And then two, we wanted to be able to make this as discreet as possible. You never want to tell your competitors you're sick. Why would you give them an edge over you?"





# Pragya Jaiswal's Green Mini Dress Is All About Shimmer And Glamour

South actress Pragya Jaiswal has gained incredible recognition for her talent in a number of Telugu super hits. She is not only an acting sensation, but is also an active user of social media, through which she updates her fans on her enchanting looks and projects. Her latest photoshoot in a green dress is a sight to behold. Pragya took to Instagram to share the photos, which captures her fit body. She has chosen to don a strapless, dark green shimmer mini dress, a luminous attire in the dim light of the atmosphere. It is tailored with a deep neckline, folds along the length of the cloth and a flowing attachment at the front. She has opted to keep herself adorned with minimal accessories, only wearing huge golden earrings and matching finger rings and golden thin strapped heels. For her hair, she styled it open with big curls, resting on her shoulders. According to the caption, the look was for the trailer launch event of her new release, *Khel Khel Mein*. It stated, "Let the games begin. For the Trailer Launch of our film #KhelKhelMein."

Fans share their reactions to the dazzling photoshoot in the comment section below. The first user wrote, "Stunning as always ma'am." A second fan shared, "The dress is lovely." A third fan stated, "Very Very beautiful." And a fourth fan wrote, "Truly mesmerizing." Several users left heart emoticons in the replies to express their love. The post has garnered thousands of likes on the platform so far.



Pragya Jaiswal is set to appear in the film *Khel Khel Mein*, which is expected to release on August 15. It is made under the direction of Mudassar Aziz, who has also penned its story. The ensemble cast includes names like Akshay Kumar, Taapsee Pannu, Vaani Kapoor, Fardeen Khan and Ammy Virk. It is produced under the banners of T-Series Films, Wakaoo Films and White World Productions. The music is done by Tanishk Bagchi, Rochak Kohli and many others.

## Amid Breakup Rumours With Arjun Kapoor, A Look At Malaika Arora's Love Life



Malaika Arora is one of the leading figures in Bollywood, popular for her dance and fitness. The actress has been the face of some of the biggest chartbusters in the country as well as worked as a judge for superhit reality shows. The actress-model's love life has been a tumultuous journey, for which she frequently made headlines in the media. Going by the reports, Malaika Arora met Arbaaz Khan during a coffee advertisement shoot and the pair ended up falling in love. In 1998, the two tied the knot and stayed together for almost two decades and welcomed their son, Arhaan Khan. The two decided to part ways in 2016 and ended their relationship with a divorce by 2017, shocking the film industry.

After her separation, the media started to link her with actor Arjun Kapoor and the actor finally confirmed their relationship with a heartwarming post on Malaika's 45th birthday. After that, they became a popular social media couple, which loved to share affectionate posts with and about each other.

As per the latest reports on the couple, they have broken up with each other, after dating for nearly seven years. The rumours about the separation started to swirl when Malaika Arora was reported to be absent from Arjun's 39th birthday bash. It was followed by several cryptic posts shared by the two on their respective social media platforms, believed to hint at a big change in their personal lives. An official announcement is yet to be made by them. Throughout her career, Malaika Arora has appeared in cameos and singles in films like *Housefull*, *Dabangg*, *Happy New Year*, *Dabangg 2*. She was last seen in a cameo in the Netflix release *Kho Gaye Hum Kahan*, released in December, last year. It was directed by Arjun Varain Singh and starred Siddhant Chaturvedi, Ananya Panday and Adarsh Gourav as the leads. She has worked as a judge in shows like *India's Got Talent* and *Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa*.

## Aparshakti Khurana Gives Hilarious Reaction As A kid Calls Him 'Oo Stree'



Aparshakti Khurana, eagerly anticipating the release of his much-awaited horror-comedy '*Stree 2*,' recently found himself in a comical exchange with a young fan on the streets of Mumbai. In a viral video on social media, the child amusingly addresses Aparshakti as the actor from '*Stree*,' calling him 'Oo Stree.' Aparshakti's humorous response, saying "O Stree Kal Aana" in a playful manner, has delighted fans.

This lighthearted moment underscores the growing excitement for '*Stree 2*,' poised to be one of 2024's biggest blockbusters. The film stars Rajkummar Rao, Shradha Kapoor, Aparshakti Khurana, Pankaj Tripathi, and Abhishek Banerjee, and is directed by Amar Kaushik. As a sequel to the 2018 hit '*Stree*,' the anticipation surrounding '*Stree 2*' suggests it will replicate the original's success. In addition to '*Stree 2*,' which hits theaters on August 15, Aparshakti Khurana has several other projects lined up. He recently completed filming '*Badtimez Gill*,' a comedy-drama co-starring Vaani Kapoor and Pooja Rawal, set for release on November 29. Aparshakti will also appear in '*Berlin*,' a film that has garnered significant acclaim at international festivals, and he has a documentary titled '*Finding Ram*' in the works. Speaking about *Stree 2*, the Amar Kaushik directorial is the highly anticipated sequel to the 2018 blockbuster *Stree*, which grossed nearly Rs 200 crore worldwide. Since the success of the first film, Maddock Films has expanded the universe with several interconnected movies, the latest being the surprise hit *Munjya*, which earned Rs 130 crore globally. The trailer for *Stree 2* opens with a chilling voiceover introducing a new supernatural threat: 'Sarkate', a headless horseman reminiscent of the legendary Sleepy Hollow figure. To combat this eerie new foe, the beloved trio from the first film—Vicky, Jana, and Bittu—reunite and seek the help of Shradha Kapoor's enigmatic character.

# Malaika Arora

## Says 'Makes Your Own Rules' Days After Seemingly Confirming Breakup With Arjun Kapoor



Malaika Arora took to her Instagram stories on Thursday morning and shared a cryptic note which talked about maintaining a balance in life. It also urged everyone to live their respective lives by their own rules and stated that others must not control your way of living at all. "Balance is the key, in everything you do. Dance all night long and practice yoga the next day. Drink wine but don't forget your green juice. Eat chocolate when your heart wants it and kale salad when your body needs it. Wear high heels on Saturday and walk barefoot on Sunday. Live high and low. Move and stay still. Embrace all sides of who you are," it read. Be brave, bold, spontaneous and loud and let that complement your abilities and find silence, patience, modesty and peace. Aim for balance.

Make your own rules and follow your own path. Don't let anyone tell you how to live according to theirs," the note added. While Malaika did not mention anything in the caption while sharing the note, the timing of her post must be considered. Interesting, this comes at a time when the Bollywood diva has been making headlines for her rumoured breakup with Arjun Kapoor. Last month, Malaika left fans concerned after she skipped Arjun's midnight birthday celebration at his Juhu residence. She didn't wish him on social media either, which led to speculation about their possible breakup. Later, Malaika crossed Arjun at an event when they ignored each other and seemingly confirmed their breakup. Amid the ongoing rumours surrounding her "on-off relationship"



with Arjun, Malaika recently spoke about how the internet can be a very toxic space. "I have somehow built a mechanism — or shield, I would say — around me where I don't let the negativity through anymore," Malaika told Hello magazine. "I've insulated myself from it. Whether it's people, a work environment, social media or trolls. The minute I feel that energy, I recoil instantly. It's something I've learned to do over time. It would get to me earlier and I would lose sleep over it. I'd be lying if I said things don't affect me at all — I'm human too and so I will cry, break down and have all the emotions associated with being trolled. But you'll never see that in public," she added.