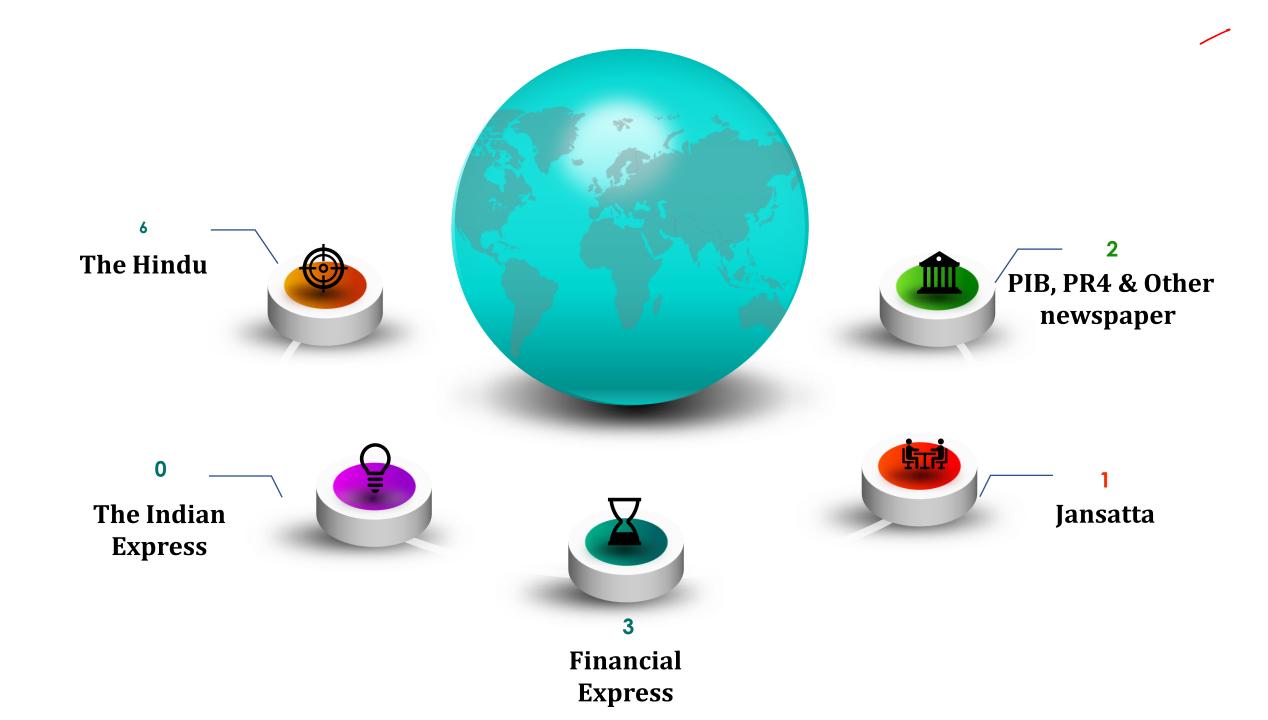
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Extra 100 gm crushes Vinesh's Olympic dreams

Weight inches past limit ahead of the women's 50-kg finals against U.S.'s Sarah Ann Hildebrandt

Y.B. Sarangi

n the cusp of glory, wrestler Vinesh Phogat's campaign in her third Olympics end-ed as the wrestler, who stunned Japan's World and Olympic champion Yui Su-

olympic champion thi su-saki on her way to the wo-men's 50-kg final, was dis-qualified after weighing 100 grams more than the permissible limit in the morning weigh-in ahead of the final, on Wednesday.

A two-time World Wres-

g Championships nze medallist in 53kg

tling

Rabiul Alam

Center.

An interim government headed by Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus will take oath in Bangladesh at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Army chief General Waker-Uz-Za-man said at a press confe-rence on Workneder.

rence on Wednesday. The 84-year-old will ar

rive in Dhaka on an Emi-

ates flight from Dubai on 'hursday afternoon, ac-

ording to a press release ssued by the Yunus

Mr. Yunus asked the

youth to be calm and get ready to build the country. "I congratulate the brave

"I congratulate the brave students who took the lead in making our "second Vic-tory Day" possible and to the people for giving your us make the best use of our new victory," he said. The Labour Appellate Tribunal on Wednesday overrumed a sistemonth jain in a case filed over alleged



of State BSP chief

CHENNAL N . Aswathaman, an office-bearer of the Tamil Nadu

Congress, has been arrested by the State police in connection with the murder of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader K. Armstrong, The BSP leader wa murdered by a gang on July 5 in Perambur. » PAGE 2



SC posts review of PMLA ruling to August 28

NEW DELHI A Supreme Court Bench scheduled for August 28 a series of petitions seeking a review of a July 2022 judgme of the apex court, which gave unbridled powers to the ED under the Prevention of Mo Laundering Act. » PAGE 4

LS nasses Finance Bill, amends LTCG tax provision

NEW DELHI The Finance Bill, 2024 was passed in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday with an amendment relaxing a proposal for the long-term capital gains tax on real estate It allows tax payers an option to switch to a new lower tax rate, > PAGE 4

CJI-led Bench expunges HC judge's remarks

NEW DELHI A Supreme Court Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud held a special sitting on Wednesday to expunge the remarks made by a High Court judge challenging the Supreme Court's position at the top of the judicial hierarchy. » PAGE 6



Iran executes 29 more a day after hanging protester

PARIS Iran on Wednesday hanged at least 29 convicts in a single day, including 26 in a group execution in one prison, a rights group said, a day after facing international nation for executing a man in connection on with 2022 protests. » PAGE 14

CM (III

WFI, IOA approach wrestling's international Cuban Yusneylis Gusman Lopes, who lost to her governing body but fail to secure an exemption lin the semifinals, to take her place in the finals down to 50kg for the Olym-pics. She managed to cut down her weight to the li-mit on day one of the com-petition but struggled to do so prior to her final against the U.S.'s Sarah Ann Hilde-brundt 'El out mither hor brandt. "Last night her weight was up by 1 kg. We and her personal support staff worked to cut it down. In the morning, she went to the sauna and gym. Unfortunately, her weight was slightly above the limit," chief coach of the Indian 1 chief coach of the Indian women's team Virender Dahiya said. She even had a haircut to reduce weight. Chef-de-mission Gagan ak: ICA chief P.T. Usha with Vinesh Phogat after her disqualification on W Chef-de-mission Gağan Narang, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) chief P.T. Usha and the head of In-dia's medical commission, Dinshaw Pardiwala, were present to help Vinesh. The WF1 and the IOA ap-proached the United World Wrestling, the world go

category... If an athlete does not attend or fail the weigh-in (the first or the se-cond weigh-in), he will be eliminated of the competi-tion and ranked last, with-our ranke verning body for the sport, but could not get any exemption. exemption. According to UWW's Ar-ticle 11 on weigh-in, "For all competitions, the weigh-in is organized each morning of the concerned weightout rank." UWW president Nenad

Lalowic underlined the Lalovic underlined the rules. "We have to respect the rules. I am so sad about what happened to her, Mr. Lalovic told presspersons. "She was overweight, even by a small margin. But

Wrestler Vinesh Phogat on Wednesday appealed against her disqualification from the Solig category Olympic finals in the Court of Arbitration for is fine. Even as the country, the Court of Arbitration for Sports, demanding that she be awarded a joint silver medal. The matter will be taken up on Thursday. An ad hoc division of the CAS has been set up here for meridian knowling the silver of fighting to match its previous edition's tally of seven medals, was deprived of a medal, Vinesh would be proud of her effort. She for resolution by arbitration of any disputes arising during the punched above her weight to take down Yui in spec-tacular fashion before get-Olympic Games. Pli rules are rules *

Vinesh moves CAS against

PARTS

disqualification

Wrestler Vinesh Phogat on

ting past Ukraine's Oksana Livach and Yusnelis to be rules are rules." Another athlete, Italian Emanuela Liuzzi had to forfeit her bout after being overweight in the same weight category on come the first Indian wo-man wrestler to reach the Olympics final before her ympics final before her

elimination, Cuban Yus-neylis Guzman Lopez, who had lost to the Indian in the semifinals, became eligible to compete in the final. It is learnt that Vinesh, who had some weakness due to the drastic weight cut and was treated at the polyclin-ic inside the Games Village, is fina

RELATED REPORTS Fuesday. As a result of Vinesh's

Yunus to take oath today; BNP calls for urgent polls, transfer of power



violation of the labour law. "destruction and revense violation of the labour law. The Bangladesh Nation-alist Party (BNP), the main Opposition party when former Prime Minister Shelkh Hasina was in pow-er, held a rally here, where thousands gathered from scross the country "destruction and revenge". "Youth are our future. We need to build a demo-cratic Bangladesh newly to fulfil their dream, and for which they shed their blood.," said Ms. Zia.

across the country. Addressing the rally vir-tually from London, Ta-rique Rahman, BNP acting Unrest remains The situation in the coun-try is yet to normalise. Van-dalism and looting persist chairperson and son of former Prime Minister and BNP chairperson Khaleda ed in some areas, with security forces struggling to stabilise the unrest. Key Zia, called for immediate election. "The national election must be held im-Ministry and department secretaries have stopped attending office, causing a mediately, and power must be handed over to the near standstill in the fund tioning of the Bangladesh elected representatives," he said.

Secretariat. Many officials and emhe said. BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alam-gir said election should be held within three month. Speech nince 2018, Ms. Zia, who joined the rally vir-tually, thanked the people for their "fight and prayers" and called for right country, instead of ployees affiliated to the Awami League have been absent, Numerous influen-

absent. Numerous influen-tial officials have gone into hiding, switching off their phones and cutting off communication with their offices, leaving their subor-dinates without guidance. This has led to a break-down in the chain of command. -

will have a huge negative effect. This will also create job dential campaign. However, the party knows its chances are slim in the Business leaders across

Business leaders across the country also raised concerns about ongoing destructive activities tar-geting industrial and com-mercial establishments. mercial establishments. President Mohammed Shahabuddin asked the police to become stricter in tackling the anarchic situa-tion and looting in the country.

The capital city of Dha

Rahman said, "If such a si

hindrances to

creation."

uation continues, trade, business, and investment

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groups. The

ontinued to see rallies different political

Metropolitan The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) on Wednesday expressed deep concern over the de-teriorating law and order situation in the country. MCCI president Kamran T Rohmen end "If which edit

RELATED REPORTS

Mahinda's son Namal to contest Sri Lankan presidential elections

Meera Sriniyasan

Sci Lanka's ruling party helmed by the Rajapaka of office by mass protests in 2022, on Wednesday amed Namal Rajapaka, amed Namal Rajapaka, amed Namal Rajapaka, amed Sci Context Mahinda Rajapaka, as its candidate for the Septem-tion the Sri Lanka Poddyana Peramuna SLIP or Peo-tis legislators recently pledged support to incum-inghe, who is also running Namal Rajapaksa inghe, who is also running for President. The party has held a parliamentary majority since the August 2020 general elections, when the President Gotabaya Raja-paksa-led government secured two-thirds of the seats, After Mr. Gotabava of the 2015 polls." 'A good move' According to Mandana Is-mail Abeywickrema, se-nior political commentator kend newymickrema, fielding Mr. Namalia is "good move" for the SLPP, "It could not have been an easy choice, have been an easy choice, have been an easy choice. have been an easy choice the rosion of their party and send out a strong meswas forced to resign at the height of Sri Lanka's crushing economic crisis in 2022, its MPs have backed Mr. Wickremesinghe who ok his place through a The SLPP's choice came

as a surprise to some since it was widely speculated that the party would field a asino mogul. Mr. Namal has been heir and send out a strong me apparent in the Rajapaksa camp for some years now, awaiting an opportune time to launch his presidate to continue his go-vernment's economic coming election, after be-ing discredited two years ago. The people's uprising held the former first family responsible for the country's financial crash and demanded that the Rajademanded that the Raja-pakaas step down. Mr. Namal, Hambantota legislator and a former Sports Minister, described his candidacy as a "last mi-nute" decision. "The party needs me at this time, and

111

other prominent conten-ders vying for the top of-fice. FULL REPORT



acob Koshy

The Union government has announced the first set of announced the first set of Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar, or national awards for scientists, ever since it con-control of the set of the number of such awards in 2022. Thirty-three of these awards, slated to be given on August 23, National drayaan-3's moon landing, drayaan-3's moon landing, were announced on Wed-neaday, Former Director of wea announced as the winleadership is about being there at challenging times," the 38-year-old parliamen-

ULL REPORT mon. "We faced it ever when President [Maithri PAGEG palal Sirisena left us ahead

> to strip away the powers of Waqf Board

Vijaita Singh Ishita Mishra NEW DELHI

sage to members that it is looking to rebuild itself," Waqf Act, 1995, set to be ta-bled in Parliament this she told The Hindu. Meanwhile, Mr. Wickreweek, the Union govern mesinghe is seeking a man

recovery programme, alth ough critics point to a ma clusion of wo clusion of women and non-Muslim members on the Board, and inserts a new Section to prevent the wrongful declaration of a property as "Waqf". The proposed legislation intro-duces the District Collector as an arbiter to decide if a property is a Waqf. jority of Sri Lankans reel-ing under the impact of painful austerity meapainful austerity mea-sures. Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa and Leader of the opposition National People's Power (NPP) alliance Anura Kum-ara Dissanayake are two other prominent conten-dem uniper for the ten of



the Sovear-out parliamen-tarian told The Hindu. Asked if the move was aimed at consolidating support within the party after it split recently, he said political actors jump-ing ships was not uncom-

Bill proposes

With the Bill to amend the

ment proposes to strip the Waqf Board of its powers to declare a property as its own. The Bill proposes the innen and nor

ABSX



Extra 100 gm crushes Vinesh's Olympic dreams

Weight inches past limit ahead of the women's 50-kg finals against U.S.'s Sarah Ann Hildebrandt

Y.B. Sarangi PARIS

n the cusp of glory, wrestler Vinesh Phogat's campaign in her third Olympics ended as the wrestler, who stunned Japan's World and Olympic champion Yui Susaki on her way to the women's 50-kg final, was disqualified after weighing 100 grams more than the permissible limit in the morning weigh-in ahead of the final, on Wednesday.

A two-time World Wres-Championships tling bronze medallist in 53kg and a prominent face of wrestlers' protest the against alleged sexual harassment by former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, Vinesh, who maintains a body weight of around 57kg, had dropped

down to 50kg for the Olympics. She managed to cut down her weight to the limit on day one of the competition but struggled to do so prior to her final against the U.S.'s Sarah Ann Hildebrandt. "Last night her weight was up by 1 kg. We and her personal support staff worked to cut it down. In the morning, she went to the sauna and gym. Unfortunately, her weight was slightly above the limit," chief coach of the Indian women's team Virender Dahiva said. She even had a haircut to reduce weight.

Chef-de-mission Gagan Narang, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) chief P.T. Usha and the head of India's medical commission, Dinshaw Pardiwala, were

present to help Vinesh. The WFI and the IOA approached the United World Wrestling, the world go-

WFI, IOA approach wrestling's international governing body but fail to secure an exemption

Cuban Yusneylis Gusman Lopes, who lost to her in the semifinals, to take her place in the finals

Vinesh moves **CAS** against disgualification

PARIS

Wrestler Vinesh Phogat on Wednesday appealed against her disgualification from the 50kg category Olympic finals in the Court of Arbitration for Sports, demanding that she be awarded a joint silver medal. The matter will be taken up on Thursday. An ad hoc division of the CAS has been set up here for resolution by arbitration of any disputes arising during the Olympic Games. PTI

rules are rules."

Emanuela Liuzzi had to forfeit her bout after being overweight in the same weight category on Tuesday.

elimination. Cuban Yusneylis Guzman Lopez, who had lost to the Indian in the semifinals, became eligible to compete in the final. It is learnt that Vinesh, who had some weakness due to the drastic weight cut and was treated at the polyclinic inside the Games Village, is fine.

Even as the country, fighting to match its previous edition's tally of seven medals, was deprived of a medal, Vinesh would be proud of her effort. She punched above her weight to take down Yui in spectacular fashion before getting past Ukraine's Oksana Livach and Yusnelis to become the first Indian woman wrestler to reach the Olympics final before her disqualification.

RELATED REPORTS » PAGES 5 & 16

Massive heartbreak: IOA chief P.T. Usha with Vinesh Phogat after her disqualification on Wednesday.PTI

verning body for the sport, but could not get any exemption.

According to UWW's Article 11 on weigh-in, "For all competitions, the weigh-in is organized each morning of the concerned weight-

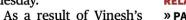
category... If an athlete does not attend or fail the weigh-in (the first or the second weigh-in), he will be eliminated of the competition and ranked last, without rank."

UWW president Nenad

Lalovic underlined the rules.

"We have to respect the rules. I am so sad about what happened to her, Mr. Lalovic told presspersons. "She was overweight, even by a small margin. But

Another athlete, Italian



Incident:

Vinesh Phogat was disqualified from the women's 50kg wrestling final at the Olympics for weighing 100 grams over the permissible limit during the morning weigh-in on the day of the final.

• Achievements Prior to Disqualification:

- Vinesh had a successful campaign, defeating Japan's World and Olympic champion Yui Susaki and reaching the finals.
- She is a two-time World Wrestling Championships bronze medallist and a prominent face of the wrestlers' protest against alleged sexual harassment by former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Efforts to Make Weight:

Vinesh's initial body weight was around 57kg. She managed to bring it down to 50kg for the Olympics but struggled to maintain it.

On the night before the final, her weight was up by 1 kg. Despite efforts, including a sauna session and gym workout in the morning, she was slightly above the limit

• Support and Appeals:

- Indian Olympic Association (IOA) officials and the head of India's medical commission assisted Vinesh.
- The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) and IOA approached the United World Wrestling (UWW) for an exemption, but it was denied.
- Vinesh appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) against her disqualification, seeking a joint silver medal.

Consequences:

Cuban wrestler Yusneylis Guzman Lopez, who lost to Vinesh in the semifinals, replaced her in the final.

Vinesh was treated for weakness due to the drastic weight cut but remained in good health.

The disqualification was a significant setback for India's medal tally aspirations.

Article 11- Weigh-In

If changes are done in the final entries compared to the entries in Athena (ONLY after exceptional circumstances like injury (confirmed by a medical certificate)), the updated athletes' entry list must be submitted to the organizer by the team leader, without fail, at least at 12h00 the day before the weigh-in and the competition day of the concerned weight category. No changes will be accepted after this time.

For all competitions, the weigh-in is organized each morning of the concerned weight-category. The weigh-in and the medical control lasts 30 minutes.

The second morning of the concerned weight category only the wrestlers who participate in the repechages and finals have to come for the weigh-in. This weigh-in will last 15 minutes.

No wrestler may be accepted at the weigh-in if he has not undergone a medical examination the first morning. Wrestlers must appear at the medical examination and the weigh-in with their license and accreditation.

The only uniform allowed for the weigh-in is the singlet. After having been examined by qualified physicians who are obliged to eliminate any wrestler who presents any danger of contagious disease, the wrestler can be weighed-in. No weight tolerance will be allowed for the singlet.

Contestants must be in perfect physical condition, with their fingernails cut very short.

Throughout the entire weigh-in period, wrestlers have the right, each in turn, to get on the scale as many times as they wish.

The referees responsible for the weigh-in must check that all wrestlers are of the weight corresponding to the category in which they are entered for the competition, that they fulfil all the requirements of Article 5 and to inform any wrestler of the risk he runs if he presents himself on the mat in incorrect dress. Referees will refuse to weigh a wrestler who is not dressed correctly.

The referees responsible for the weigh-in will received the results of the draw and will be allowed to control only the athletes who are on this list.

If an athlete does not attend or fail the weigh-in (the 1st or the 2nd weigh-in), he will be eliminated of the competition and ranked last, without rank. If an athlete is injured during the first day, he doesn't have to attend the second weigh-in and will keep his results.

What led to Vinesh Phogat's disqualification from the women's 50kg wrestling final at the Olympics?

A) She failed a doping test.

B) She weighed 100 grams over the permissible limit during the morning weigh-in on the day of the final.

C) She suffered an injury before the final match.

D) She was disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Science award for ISRO team, IISC's ex-chief Padmanabhan

Jacob Koshy NEW DELHI

The Union government has announced the first set of Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar, or national awards for scientists, ever since it controversially cut down the number of such awards in 2022. Thirty-three of these awards, slated to be given on August 23, National Space Day to mark Chandrayaan-3's moon landing, were announced on Wednesday. Former Director of the IISC, G. Padmanabhan, was announced as the winner of the Vigyan Ratna. The Vigyan team award went to the ISRO's Chan drayaan-3 team.

33 Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar awards will be given on National Space Day; 13 scientists to get Vigyan Shree award, 18 selected for Viyan Yuva award

uru Doordarshan 8

Rr ntati

Jacob Koshy NEW DELHI

he Union government has announced the first set of Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar, or national awards for scientists, ever since it controversially cut down the number of such awards in 2022. Thirty-three of these awards, slated to be given on August 23, National Space Day to mark Chandrayaan-3's moon landing, were announced on Wednesday.

Overhaul of awards

Following the overhaul of the scientific awards scheme, the Ministry of Science and Technology in January this year had notified four categories of awards, comprising a maximum of 56, for scientists. These are up to three Vigyan Ratna to recognise life-time achievements and contributions made in a given field of science and technology, up to 25 Vigyan Shri to recognise distinguished contributions, up to 25 Vigyan Yuva: Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar award to recognise and encourage young scientists Massive effort: Some members of the jubilant Chandrayaan-3 who made an exceptional matics, atomic energy, biological sciences, earth sciences were awarded the Vigyan Shri and 18 scien-

team with ISRO Chairman S. Somanath, FILE PHOTO

the Vivan Yuva.

this year were decided by a

nomination process on a

portal maintained by the

Union Home Ministry that

is a repository of a range of

national awards.

contribution, and up to three Vigyan Team awards to recognise a team of three or more scientists/researchers/innovators who have made an exceptional contribution working in a team.

Noted biochemist and former Director of the Indian Institute of Science, G Padmanabhan, was announced as the winner of the Vigyan Ratna. Thirteen scientists spanning a diverse set of fields from physics, chemistry, mathe-

Agency overview Formed 15 August 1969; 54 years ago Preceding **INCOSPAR** (1962–1969) agency Type Space agency Jurisdiction **Department of Space** Headquarters Bengaluru, Karnataka 13°2′7″N 77°34′16″E Chairman Sreedhara Somanath **Primary** Satish Dhawan Space spaceports Centre **Thumba Equatorial Rocket** Launching Station Kulasekarapattinam Spaceport Owner Government of India drayaan-3 team. The Employees 19,247 (as on 1 March awards are expected to be given at a ceremony on Au-2022)^[1] gust 23 here. The awards

> Annual budget ▲ ₹13,042 crore (US\$1.6 billion) (2024-2025)^[2]

tists were nominated for The Vigyan team award went to the ISRO's Chan The Union government announced the first set of Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar, national awards for scientists, on Wednesday. These awards are to be given on August 23, National Space Day, marking Chandrayaan-3's moon landing.

• Overhaul of Awards:

- The Ministry of Science and Technology overhauled the scientific awards scheme in January.
- Four categories of awards were notified, with a maximum of 56 awards for scientists.
- Categories of Awards:
- Vigyan Ratna: Up to three awards for lifetime achievements and contributions in science and technology.
- Vigyan Shri: Up to 25 awards for distinguished contributions.
- Vigyan Yuva: Up to 25 awards to recognize and encourage young scientists.
- **Vigyan Team:** Up to three awards for teams of three or more scientists/researchers/innovators with exceptional contributions.

- Awardees:
- G Padmanabhan, former Director of the Indian Institute of Science, was named the winner of the Vigyan Ratna.
- Thirteen scientists from various fields like physics, chemistry, mathematics, atomic energy, biological sciences, and earth sciences were awarded the Vigyan Shri.
- Eighteen scientists were nominated for the Vigyan Yuva.
- The Vigyan Team award went to ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 team.



• Ceremony:

- The awards will be given at a ceremony on August 23.
- This year's awards were decided by a nomination process on a portal maintained by the Union Home Ministry

• On which day will the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar awards be given, and what significant event does this day mark?

- A) August 15, Independence Day
- B) January 26, Republic Day
- C) August 23, National Space Day marking Chandrayaan-3's moon landing
- D) October 2, Gandhi Jayanti

Centre is trying to communalise NCERT curriculum: Kharge

The Hindu Bureau

4

Opposition and Treasury benches sparred over National Council of Educa-tional Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks after the Leader of the Opafter the Leader of the Op-position in Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, ac-cused the government of "tampering with" the cur-riculum and trying to im-

a communa ideology. While the Congress president flagged recent re-ports that the Preamble to he Constitution has been dropped from certain text-books, Education Minister

books, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan de-nied it. Speaking during Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Kharge accused the go-vernment of wilfully drop-ping the Preamble. He also stressed the

ed Constituent Assembly debates to bolster his

tallikarjun Kharge

The

Vijaita Singh Ishita Mishra

osal for the long-term cial democracy mean? It means a way of life which capital gains tax on real es-tate. It allows tax payers an recognises liberty, equali-ty, and fraternity as the option to switch to a new lower tax rate or stick to principles of life," he quotthe old regime that had a ed from the debates. higher rate with indexation House erunted mefit when Mr. Kharge said that

when Mr. Kharge said that the government shifted the statues of Gandhiji and Dr. Ambedkar in the Parlia-ment complex after unsa-tisfactory results in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. The amendment comes after a proposal to remove indexation benefit in calcu-lation of long-term capital gains on sale of immovea-ble properties in the Bud-get, 2024-25 had evoked 'The RSS and BJP are trycriticism from various cor-ners, including Opposition ing to impose their com-munal ideology on people ners, including Opposition parties and tax profession-als. The Budget had pro-posed a lower 12.5% rate of LTCG tax, down from 20%, while doing away with the indexation benefit. by tampering with curricu-lum. And the step taken by NCERT is not right," he said amid protests from the ruling side. The Treasury benches

The Hindu Bureau



Kiren Rijiju



bought houses before July 23, 2024, can opt to pay LTCG tax under the new scheme at the rate of 12.5% criticism from Opposition parties that the class was heavily taxed. She said that the Budget without indexation or claim the indexation beneproposals were aimed at promoting investment and benefiting the middle fit and pay 20% tax. The Finance Bill was passed by a voice vote in class. She said the Narendra the Lok Sabha with a total

She said the Narendra Modi government had brought in a simplified tax-ation regime and eased compliance without drasti-cally increasing taxes. Among the various meaof 45 official amendments. Replying to the debate before the passage of the Bill, Finance Minister Nir-mala Sitharaman rejected

News

Lok Sabha passes Finance Bill,

amends provision on LTCG tax

Sitharaman rejects criticism from Opposition that the middle class is heavily taxed; she says Budget is aimed at promoting

investment: protests erupt in House after govt, does not take up amendment against 18% GST on insurance premium sures taken to help the tion for the salaried class middle class, Ms. Sithara had been increased. On the Opposition's de-mand for removal of Goods and Services Tax on man mentioned the reduc-tion in customs duty on vapromote trade and invest-ment and generate em-Goods and Services Tax on health and life insurance premiums, the Union Mi-nister said that 75% of the GST collected went to the Output ployment. She also referred to the hike in tax exemption limit on long-term capital gains "Prior to levying 18% GST on health insurance [premium], all States used in listed equities and bonds to ₹1.25 lakh from ₹1 lakh, a nove that she said would to levy tax on insurance penefit those investing in ms. So when GST the stock market was rolled out, the tax au was rolled out, the tax au-tomatically got subsumed into GST," she said. Opposition MPs staged a walkout after a furore over the government not taking up an amendment in the Finance Bill to withdraw the 10% CST law on medi The Finance Minister said that simplification of the tax regime was the primary objective of the Modi government, high-lighting that 72% of those who had paid income tax had opted for the new re-gime while filing returns this year. The Finance Minister the 18% GST levy on medi cal and life insurance pre this year. "We have made trans-The amendment had

formational changes in tax governance. In 2023, the been moved by N.K. Pre machandran of the Revolu governance. In 2023, the tax slabs were significantly reduced. Again, this has been done this year," Ms. Sitharaman said, adding that the standard deductionary Socialist Party. The Finance Ministe said any amendment is ane Finance Minister said any amendment in GST had to be approved by the GST Council.

Elections to 12 Rajya Sabha seats will be held on September 3. The votes will be counted the same day. The Election Com sion notified the polls or The BJP, which now has 87 members in the Upper House, is likely to gain four seats at the cost of the Conanata Dal.

the seats vacated by Con-gress leaders Deepender Hooda and K.C. Venugo-

Bill removes powers of Waqf Board; Muslim bodies hit out at Waaf non-Muslims and women on board Bill, plan to move top court

Waqf Management, Empo-werment, Efficiency and Development Act, 1995". The Bill "omits Section 40

makes the Waof Boards the India. The Waqf Act was last amended in 2013. 'Unacceptable changes' The Bill has drawn sharp criticism from Muslim bo-

dies and Opposition par-ties, which termed it an act to create societal divides to create societal divides. The All India Muslim Per-sonal Law Board has hit out at the Bill and main-tained that any change in the Wakf Act which alters the nature of Wakf proper-ties, or makes it easier for

appeal in disguise?" Justice Ravikumar asked senior advocates Kapil Sibal, A.M. Singhvi, Menaka Guruswa-my and other lawyers for the seniore metionene in

the various petitioners, in

The review petitions had alleged that the apex court's July 27, 2022 judg-

court's July 27, 2022 judg-ment deprived an accused person of basic rights, which include even a copy of the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR).

The core amendments to which the judgment gave its stamp of approval had virtually transferred the

burden of proof of inno-cence onto the shoulders of the accused instead of

the prosecution. The 545-page judgment,

Karti

cluding Chidambaram.

'Twin conditions'

the government or any in-dividual to usurp them, will not be acceptable. the property and compe-tent to transfer or dedicate such property. The Bill, a copy of which was circulated among Lok Sabha members on Wed-

nesday, proposes to re-name the Act "Unified



Muslim Communities, and one member each from the such property is a Govern-Bohra and Aghakhani com Bohra and Aghakhani com-munities shall be nominat-ed in the Board in case they have functional *auqaf* [assets] in the State or Un-ion Territory," the Bill says. Union Minister Kiren Ri-ijiju's statement of objects ment property or not and submit his report to the State Government," the Bill It says that no person shall create a Waqf unless he is the lawful owner of

and reasons for the amendment Bill said that though the Waqf Act, 1995,

The Muslim bodie call the proposed

anyone including a non-Muslim, can make a waqf and the earnings of a cer-tain waqf property may be spent only as specified by the person making that person making that He alleged that the new

Bill opens the gates for non-Muslim legislators and others to become me bers of the Waqf Council and the State waqf boards. Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind

Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind president Arshad Madani refused to accept the pro-posed changes, stating, "We cannot accept any amendment in the waqt (endowment) law which would change the status of the waqf and the purpose of the waqf. It seems that by these amendments, the keholders, the Muslim community in this case, as worthy of consultation in a matter directly and deeply touching it. The govern-ment has also tried to rede-fine what is a "wayf" pro-perty. It says that only a by these amendments, the government wants to change the nature of waqf to make it easy to seize." Jamaat-e-Islami Hind president Sadatullah Hus-saini took objection to the inclusion of non-Muslim

members. However, he welcomed the inclusion of women members in the Waqf Board, "It is there in the

Muslim who has been practising his religion for the previous five years can the previous five years can make a waqf and that the earnings from waqf pro-perties will be spent on certain specified heads while, under Islamic law, 1995 Act too. There is no problem with that," he

SC posts PMLA judgment review to Aug. 28, asks if it's 'appeal in disguise'

Krishnadas Rajagopal

A Supreme Court Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant scheduled for August 28 a series of petitions seeking a review of a July 2022 judgment of the apex court, which gave unbri-dled powers to the Enfordied powers to the Enfor-cement Directorate (ED) to arrest and summon indivi-duals and raid private pro-perty under the Preven-tion of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The Bench, including

whether, even if a judg-ment had "gravely erred", review proceedings would still partake the character of an encode There is no Justices C.T. Ravikumar of an appeal. There is no and Ujjal Bhuyan, howev-er, made it a point on Wedappeal against a judgment of the final court. Exercise nesday to note that a reof review and curative juview in open court should not take the tone of an aprisdictions of the apex court are rare and enter-tained in case of apparent peal against a Supr errors or biases in the ver-dict. "Let us see if this is an

Court judgment. Justice Ravikumar asked **SM**

T.N. Minister's plea to quash PMLA proceedings refused

Anitha R. Radhakrishnan

nister for quashing

mister for quashing the ECIR and expected him to cooperate with the investi-gating agency in complet-ing the money laundering probe and filing a report before the special court for DML & comm

PMLA cases. The verdict was deli-vered after hearing argu-

ments advanced by the pe

titioner's counsel and Additional Solicitor Gener

ed by ED special public prosecutor N. Ramesh.

al AR.L Sundaresan, assist

and

Court.

Ziya Us Salam

ble", a step meant to "wea

ken the waqf commission-ers" and are mulling the

prospect of filing a joint pe tition before the Supreme

Court. The All India Sufi Sajja-danasheen, however, has come out in support of the government move, calling the changes "long overdue". All India Majlis-c-Mush-

awarat chairman and form-er chief of Delhi Minorities

The Hindu Bureau

authored by Justice (ne authored by Justice (now retired) A.M. Khanwilkar, had upheld the PMLA's controversial "twin condi-tions" for bail. These conditions pro-vided that a PMLA-desig-nated trial court was re-mined to give hell each if The Madras High Court on Wednesday refused to quash proceedings initiat-ed by the Directorate of En-forcement (FD) applied Mi forcement (ED) against Mi-nister for Fisheries, nister for Fisheries, Fishermen Welfare and quired to give bail only if the accused could prove his innocence against the Animal Husbandry Anitha R. Radhakrishnan under his innocence against the money laundering charg-es. On the slim chance the accused did get bail, he had to establish that he was "not likely to commit any offence while on bail". For an undertrial, who the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. A Division Bench of Jus-A Division Bench of Jus-tices S.M. Subramaniam and V. Sivagnanam dismis-sed a writ petition filed by him in 2022 with a plea to supply the Enforcement is under incarceration and

quash the Enforcement with whom the ED has not shared the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) registered against Case Information Report, him in 2020 on the basis of a 2001-2006 disproporto prove that he was no tionate assets case. The judges refused to accept guilty, to say the least, may prove to be a herculean if not an impossible task, the review petitions argued. any of the multiple grounds raised by the Mi-

Anti-militancy operations under way in Udhampur'

quashing the ECIR and al iential proceed The Hindu Bureau

ings. In his affidavit, the Mi-nister said the ED had re-gistered the ECIR in De-somber 2020 on the basis An anti-militancy opera-tion to flush out a group of militants hiding in Jammu's Udhampur continued for the second consecutive of the disproportionate as-sets case booked by the Directorate of Vigilance and day on Wednesday. "The anti-militancy op

Anti-Corruption in 2006. He claimed the PMLA He Id not be invoked inst him since the law is into force only in July could

who opposed the plea for

"The anti-multiancy op-eration started on Tuesday morning. Around 4.30 p.m., a contact was esta-blished with the terrorists. The contact was orte The contact was esta blished twice in two hours 2005. Stating that the check period in the dispropor-tionate assets case was bet-ween May 14, 2001 and March 31, 2006, the peti-As per our group of three or four ter rorists is trapped inside our cordon. We hope that tioner said Section 13 of the the group will be neutral-Prevention of Corruption ised as soon as pos Rayees Mohammad Act was made a part of the scheduled offences under ad Bhat the Deputy Inspector-Gen eral of Police, Udhampur Reasi Range, said. the PMLA only in June 2009.



Thursday, August 8, 202-

Elections to

be held on

The Hindu Bureau

12 RS seats to

September 3

SC frowns at conviction ratio in PMLA cases

The Hindu Bureau

With the Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1995, set to be ta-bled in Parliament this The Supreme Court of Wednesday allowed a Chhattisgarh-based busi nessman to continue or bail till the end of his tria week, the Union government proposes to strip the Waqf Board of its powers to in a money laundering case while voicing scepti cism about the starkly dis proportionate ratio of declare a property as its own. The Bill proposes the in-clusion of two Muslim wo-members on the Board, and inserts a new Section 5,000 cases filed to a dis mal 40 convictions se cured by the Directorate or Enforcement under the Prevention of Money Laun-dering Act (PMLA) in the to prevent the wrongful delaration of a property as 'Waqf''. The proposed le-

A Bench of Justices Su gislation introduces the District Collector as an arrva Kant and Uijal Bhuvai said Sunil Kumar Agarwal biter to decide if a properbiter to decide if a proper-ty is a Waqf or government land. In the 1995 Act, such decisions are made by the Waqf Tribunal. The Waqf comprises property or land donated by followers of Islam, and and his co-accused, repre-sented by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi and advo cate Sriram Parakkat, "de serve to continue on bai during the pendency of the

They had been charged is managed by the mem-bers of the community. The Waqf Boards currently with money laundering in a case linked to coal transportation. The top court made its earlier orders of interim

bail in May and July abso



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A review in open court mus

not take the tone of appeal

the Bench says

50 1 DF



amendments a step meant to 'weaken the The contentious Bill amend 44 Sections of the Waqf Act-1995 has drawn the ire of the Muslim com-munity. The overriding waaf commissioners' feeling is one of interfe rence in community's mat tablish the tradition of this

government of failing to consult the Muslim comters, and an attempt to dis ters, and an attempt to dis-possess the largest minority of the wealth meant for the socio-eco-nomic uplift of the com-munity. The Muslim bodies have called the proposed amendments "objectiona-ble". a etam meant to "wea munity in matters affecting the community." Giving the example of

Giving the example of the government's failure to take the community into confidence on the subject of instant triple talaq, Mr. Islam said, "The new Bill builds on a tradition fol-lowed by this government that it does not find it ne cessary to consult the sta-keholders, the Muslim

Lok Sabha passes Finance Bill, amends provision on LTCG tax

Sitharaman rejects criticism from Opposition that the middle class is heavily taxed; she says Budget is aimed at promoting investment; protests erupt in House after govt. does not take up amendment against 18% GST on insurance premiums

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

he Finance Bill, 2024 was passed in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday with an amendment relaxing a proposal for the long-term capital gains tax on real estate. It allows tax payers an option to switch to a new lower tax rate or stick to the old regime that had a higher rate with indexation benefit.

The amendment comes after a proposal to remove indexation benefit in calculation of long-term capital gains on sale of immoveable properties in the Budget, 2024-25 had evoked criticism from various corners, including Opposition parties and tax professionals. The Budget had proposed a lower 12.5% rate of LTCG tax, down from 20%, while doing away with the indexation benefit.

With this amendment, lindividuals or Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) who



New regime: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government had eased tax compliance. PTI

bought houses before July 23, 2024, can opt to pay LTCG tax under the new scheme at the rate of 12.5% without indexation or claim the indexation benefit and pay 20% tax.

The Finance Bill was passed by a voice vote in the Lok Sabha with a total of 45 official amendments. Replying to the debate

Replying to the debate before the passage of the Bill, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman rejected criticism from Opposition parties that the middle class was heavily taxed. She said that the Budget proposals were aimed at promoting investment and benefiting the middle class.

She said the Narendra Modi government had brought in a simplified taxation regime and eased compliance without drastically increasing taxes.

Among the various mea-

sures taken to help the middle class, Ms. Sitharaman mentioned the reduction in customs duty on various goods that would promote trade and investment and generate employment.

She also referred to the hike in tax exemption limit on long-term capital gains in listed equities and bonds to ₹1.25 lakh from ₹1 lakh, a move that she said would benefit those investing in the stock market.

The Finance Minister said that simplification of the tax regime was the primary objective of the Modi government, highlighting that 72% of those who had paid income tax had opted for the new regime while filing returns this year.

"We have made transformational changes in tax governance. In 2023, the tax slabs were significantly reduced. Again, this has been done this year," Ms. Sitharaman said, adding that the standard deduc-

tion for the salaried class had been increased.

On the Opposition's demand for removal of Goods and Services Tax on health and life insurance premiums, the Union Minister said that 75% of the GST collected went to the States.

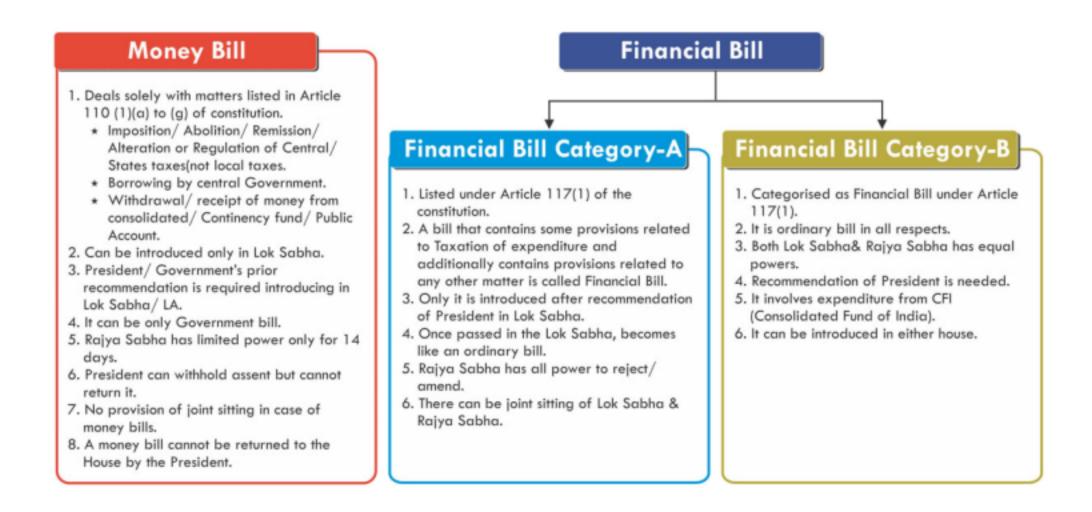
"Prior to levying 18% GST on health insurance [premium], all States used to levy tax on insurance premiums. So when GST was rolled out, the tax automatically got subsumed into GST," she said.

Opposition MPs staged a walkout after a furore over the government not taking up an amendment in the Finance Bill to withdraw the 18% GST levy on medical and life insurance premiums.

The amendment had been moved by N.K. Premachandran of the Revolutionary Socialist Party.

The Finance Minister said any amendment in GST had to be approved by the GST Council.

Difference between Money Bill & Financial Bill



BASIS FOR COMPARISON	MONEY BILL	FINANCE BILL
Meaning	A bill is said to be money bill which exclusively deals with the matters prescribed in article 110 of the constitution.	All the bills, which deals with the provisions concerning revenue and expenditure.
Form	Government Bill	Ordinary Bill
Introduction	Lok Sabha only.	Category A bills are introduced in Lok Sabha while Category B bills can be introduced in any of the two houses.
Approval	Prior approval of President or Government is required.	Prior approval of President is required.
Certification	Certified by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.	Not certified by the Speaker.
Rajya Sabha	The power of Rajya Sabha is restricted.	Both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha has equal powers.
Joint Sitting	No provision of joint sitting.	Provisions are there regarding joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

• Lok Sabha passes Finance Bill, amends provision on LTCG tax

• **Context:** The Finance Bill, 2024, was passed in the Lok Sabha with significant amendments to the long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax on real estate.

• Amendment on LTCG Tax:

- The bill includes an amendment allowing taxpayers to switch to a new lower tax rate or retain the old regime, which had a higher rate but included the benefit of indexation.
- Previously, the budget proposed a 12.5% rate for LTCG tax, down from 20%, removing the indexation benefit.
- The amendment allows Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) who purchased houses before July 23, 2024, to choose between the new scheme at a 12.5% rate without indexation or the old scheme at a 20% rate with indexation.

• Responses and Criticisms:

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman rejected the opposition's criticism that the middle class is heavily taxed, emphasizing that the budget aims to promote investment.
- She highlighted the reduction in customs duty on various goods to promote trade and investment and generate employment.
- An increase in the tax exemption limit on long-term capital gains to ₹1.25 lakh from ₹1 lakh was mentioned to benefit stock market investors.

• GST on Insurance Premiums:

- Opposition demanded the removal of GST on health and life insurance premiums.
- Sitharaman explained that 75% of the GST collected goes to the states and justified the GST on insurance premiums by referring to the standard procedure of subsuming taxes into GST.

• Reactions in Lok Sabha:

- Opposition MPs protested after the government did not accept an amendment to withdraw the 18% GST on medical and life insurance premiums.
- The amendment proposal was moved by N.K. Premachandran of the Revolutionary Socialist Party.

- What was one of the main amendments made in the Finance Bill, 2024, regarding the long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax on real estate?
- A) Introduction of a higher tax rate
- B) Removal of the option to switch tax regimes
- C) Allowing taxpayers to choose between a new lower tax rate without indexation and the old higher tax rate with indexation
- D) Increasing the tax rate to 25%

Bill removes powers of Waqf Board; non-Muslims and women on board

Vijaita Singh Ishita Mishra NEW DELHI

With the Bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1995, set to be tabled in Parliament this week, the Union government proposes to strip the Waqf Board of its powers to declare a property as its own.

The Bill proposes the inclusion of two Muslim women and two non-Muslim members on the Board, and inserts a new Section to prevent the wrongful declaration of a property as "Waqf". The proposed legislation introduces the District Collector as an arbiter to decide if a property is a Waqf or government land. In the 1995 Act, such decisions are made by the Waqf Tribunal.

The Waqf comprises property or land donated by followers of Islam, and is managed by the members of the community. The Waqf Boards currently control 8.7 lakh properties spanning 9.4 lakh acres across India, with an estimated value of ₹1.2 lakh crore. Collectively, this



Kiren Rijiju

makes the Waqf Boards the third largest landowner in India. The Waqf Act was last amended in 2013.

'Unacceptable changes' The Bill has drawn sharp criticism from Muslim bodies and Opposition parties, which termed it an act to create societal divides. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board has hit out at the Bill and maintained that 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.

The Bill, a copy of which was circulated among Lok Sabha members on Wednesday, proposes to rename the Act "Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act, 1995". The Bill "omits Section 40 relating to the powers of Board to decide if a property is waqf property".

"Any Government property identified or declared as waqf property, before or after the commencement of this Act. shall not be deemed to be a waqf property. If any question arises as to whether any such property is a government property, the same shall be referred to the Collector having jurisdiction who shall make such inquiry as he deems fit, and determine whether such property is a Government property or not and submit his report to the State Government," the Bill says.

It says that no person shall create a Waqf unless he is the lawful owner of the property and competent to transfer or dedicate such property.

Execution of Waqf deed Also, the creation of a *waqf-alal-aulad* (Waqf deed) must not result in the denial of the inheritance rights of heirs.

Another proposed amendment is that no Waqf can be created without the execution of a Waqf deed. In Islamic law, a Waqf dedication may be made either in writing, or orally.

The proposed legislation will ensure the "representation of Muslim women and non-Muslims" in the Central Waqf Council and the State Waqf Boards.

"Board shall have at least one member each from Shia, Sunni and other Backward Classes among Muslim Communities, and one member each from the Bohra and Aghakhani communities shall be nominated in the Board in case they have functional *auqaf* [assets] in the State or Union Territory," the Bill says.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju's statement of objects and reasons for the amendment Bill said that though the Waqf Act, 1995, had been enacted to provide for the better administration of *Auqaf*, it has not proved effective in this regard.

What is Waqf/Auqaf and Waqif?

- The Term Waqf denotes Detention, and signify the detention of property in the ownership of God
- Total extinction of ownership of founder
- Appropriation of usufruct for the objects recognized by Islamic Law as pious, religious or charitable
 - -The Founder or Donor is called Waqif
 - Auqaf is a plural of waqf
 - Mutawalli- is a local manager of property

WAQF: HOW IT WORKS



A person donates to waqf Donations are then invested in Sharia compliant investments



After 12 months it will accrue an average return of 7%



The profits are then used in charity projects



Such as health, education, livelihoods, orphans, emergency interventions



A part of the profit will be re-invested



Your donation keeps growing year after year

Central Waqf Council:

It is an **Indian statutory body** established in **1964** by the Government of India under the **Waqf Act**, **1954** (now a subsection of the Waqf Act, 1995) for the purpose of **advising it on matters pertaining to the working of the State Waqf Boards and proper administration of the Waqfs in the country.**

 Waqf is a permanent dedication of movable or immovable properties for religious, pious or charitable purposes as recognized by Muslim Law, given by philanthropists. The Council is headed by a Chairperson, who is the Union Minister in charge of Wakfs and there are maximum 20 other members, appointed by Government of India as stipulated in the Wakf Act.

• Bill Introduction:

- The Union government proposes to amend the Waqf Act, 1995.
- The Bill aims to strip the Waqf Board of its powers to declare a property as its own.
- Board Composition:
- Inclusion of two Muslim women and two non-Muslim members on the Waqf Board.
- Introduction of a District Collector as an arbitrator to decide if a property is Waqf or government land.

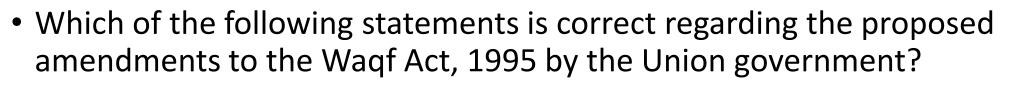


- Criticism and Support:
- The Bill has drawn criticism from Muslim bodies, terming it as a move to create societal divides.
- Some Muslim leaders have supported the changes as "long overdue".

1.Proposed Amendments:

- 1. Any government property identified or declared as Waqf property, before or after the commencement of this Act, shall not be deemed to be a Waqf property.
- 2. Representation of Muslim women and non-Muslims in the Central Waqf Council and State Waqf Boards.
- 3. Clarification that the Waqf dedication may be made either in writing or orally.





- 1. The Bill proposes the inclusion of only Muslim men on the Waqf Board.
- 2. The District Collector will decide if a property is Waqf or government land.
- 3.Any government property identified as Waqf property before or after the Act shall remain as Waqf property.
- 4.The Bill removes the representation of non-Muslims in the Central Waqf Council



2

THE HINDU States

T.N. Cong. leader

Uddhav indicates

CM face of MVA

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasa

runs away from responsi-bility. I took up the respon-sibility and tried to deliver

to the best of my abilities,"

he added. Mr. Thackeray, accom-panied by his son Aaditya

The Hindu Bureau

The dorbar shnong (vil-lage council) of Mawsyn-ram declined to let anyone

worship or perform rituals at Mawjymbuin after an obscure Hindu group an-nounced on August 1 that it

would organise a pilgrim-age, similar to the Kanwar

dents to take part and choose other colleges and courses if they have not gotten their preferred choice in the first round," he said. He assured that va-

cant seats at government

colleges will be open for all aspirants in the second

has received "a few com-

plaints of cyber cafes mess

ing up the student applica

tions". "They only care about getting the commis-sion and do not verify in-

Mr. Ghosh said WBSCHE

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und.

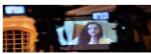
readiness to being

Thursday, August 8, 2024

SC pulls up

govt. over compensation

Maharashtra



Bombay HC quashes drugs case against Mamta Kulkarni

The Bombay High Court has quashed the 2016 drugs case against former actress Mamta Kulkarni, stating that the material collected against her does not prima facie constitute any offence. In its order, made available on offence. In its order, made available on Wednesday, a Division Bench of Justices Bharati Dangre and Manjusha Deshpande said, "We are of clear opinion that the petitioner (Ms. Kulkarni) had a fit case where we should exercise our and a fit case where we should exercise our nherent powers, since the proceedings are nanifestly frivolous and vexatious. We are atisfied that the continuation of the prosecuti would be nothing short of abuse of process of

U.P. CM promises punishment in Ayodhya gang-rape case

A delegation of the Nishad community met Uttar A deegatori of the visital committy mer octa Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday in Ayodhya, demanding the strictest possible punishment for the accused in the gang-rape of a 12-year-old girl hailing from the community. "During the 15-minute meeting, the Chief Minister assured the community that the perpetrators would receive the strictest possible perpetrators would receive the strictest possi punishment, with no leniency. The Nishad community representatives expressed their support for measures being taken against the accused Samajowali Party leader," reads a statement from the U.P. government.



Aswathaman, office-bearer of the Tamil Nadu Con-gress, has been arrested by Tamil Nadu Con-gress, has been arrested by rition with the murder of Ba-bujan Samaj Party (BSP) in the BSP leader was murdered by a gang on July 5 bar in the DSP leader was murdered by a gang on July 5 bar in the DSP leader was a senior official of the Chemnal police said that general secretary of the Ta-mil Madu Youth Congress, nai don Nagendran, who

nai don Nagendran, who was lodged in Puzhal pri-

On Tuesday, a Patna court acquitted all four and

raised questions over the investigation process. The

court observed that there

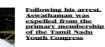
was no concrete evidence st the accused

ED chargesheet Asked about the supple-mentary chargesheet filed by the Enforcement Direc-torate (ED) in the alleged land-for-jobs scam, Mr. Ya-dav said it was a routine af-fair. He said he had full faith in the judicary and the court. Reacting to the state-

Reacting to the state-ment of Mr. Yadav on the ED case, Bharatiya Janata

ED case, Bharatiya Janata Party leader and Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary said those those who had "committed theft" will definitely be punished. "India's judici-ary is not under any pres-sure and is impartial," he added.

A total of 22 persons, in-'Threatened with gun' cluding Aswathaman, have The investigation revealed that Aswathaman, an advobeen arrested in connec-tion with the case so far. cate, and Armstrong had previous enmity. At one point, Aswathaman had One of the accused, Thiru-vengadam, was killed in an encounter near Madhavathreatened him with a gun over a land dispute at Mo-rai near Sholavaram. Nagendran had recently come out on parole and



Youth Congress with im mediate effect.

mediate effect. In a statement, Tamil Nadu Youth Congress pre-sident M. Lenin Prasath said that the decision was taken after his actions were "deemed inconsis-tent with the values and principles of our parts" had tried to intervene in

had tried to intervene in the dispute by contacting Armstrong, but the latter had avoided him, the pol-ice official added. Based on the investiga-tion carried out by a spe-cial team on Tuesday, As-wathaman was arrested on wathaman di 22 persons in-'Integrity, discipline' "The Tamil Nadu Youth Congress is committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity and

encounter near Madhava-ram on July 14. Following his arrest, As-wathaman was expelled from the primary member-ship of the Tamil Nadu Congress, was also presi-dent of the National Stu-dents Union Of India, the student wing of the Indian National Congress.



principles of our party".

discipline within its ranks," the statement said. Sources in the party said that Mr. Aswathaman, on of the general secretaries of the Tamil Nadu Youth

and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut, met Congress president Mallikariun president Manikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Op-position in Lok Sabha Ra-hul Gandhi and AICC gen-eral secretary K.C. secretary K.C. ugopal at Mr. Kharge's

Press Trust of India The Supreme Court on Wednesday pulled up the -Maharashtra governmen for not filing its response to the construction of build ings in forest land and

ompensation to the affect ed private party. The top court also said Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray with Congess chief Mallikarjun Kharge in New Delh the Maharashtra govern-ment has funds for distributing freebies under 'La

The timing of the Sena (UBT) chief's meetings with the top leadership of ing a matter related to the construction of buildings in forest land in Maharash the Congress is important as he shares a frosty relatra, where a private party has succeeded in the top tionship with Maharashtra court to get possession of the land which was "ille Congress chief Nana Pa-

gally occupied" by the State government. The State government tole. After winning the maximum number of Lok maximum number of Lok Sabha seats in the recently The State government has claimed that the said piece of land was occupied by Armament Research Development Establish-ment Institute. concluded general elec-tion, the Congress is up-beat about projecting itself as the predominant party ant party

as the predomin within the MVA. Assam group opposes ban on

cave worship in Meghalaya,

threatens blockade of roads

Tejashwi Yadav accuses Bihar CM of protecting criminals, says Nitish govt. has lost credibility

Amit Bhelari

Former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and the Leader of Opposition in Bihar As-sembly, Tejashwi Yadav, on Wednesday slammed Chief Minister Nitish Kumar over Minister Nitsin Kumar over the State's law and order situation and accused his government of giving shel-ter and protection to criminals

criminals. His statement came a day after all four accused got bail in the 2021 murder case of an IndiGo Airlines manager Rupesh Singh. "Incidents of crime are taking place regularly in Bi-har. All the accused got bail in the Rupesh Singh mur-der case; the question now arises, who were the murderers? It proves that the police had not done the right investigation or could not present facts properly in court," Mr. Yadav said. The Rashtriya Janata Dal

-Ale. Tejashwi Yadav

(RJD) leader further said, "Criminals have stopped fearing the police. In the regime of Nitishji, criminals get protection and shelter. His credibility has ended now." He further alleged that the State government "has become a mute spectator to crime" Singh was shot dead on January 12, 2021 in Patna. The police had arrested four persons and also filed a chargesheet of 350 pag-

Tripura goes to rural polls with BJP already winning 70% seats

Syed Sajjad Ali AGARTALA reached their assigned des-tinations and voting will start at 7 a.m. The State Preparations are complete in Tripura for the three-tier police are overseeing the security of the polling

anchavat elections on A police officer said a special alert has been is-sued for the khowai and where Opposition parties have managed to put up candidates. The Congress had last month targeted bad last month targeted bored violence" ahead of the panchayat polis, alleg-ing down a "distressing path, echoing the turmoil witnessed in Manipur". stations panchayat elections on Thursday. With the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party hav-ing already bagged 70% of the seats, the actual polling will only be held in a few hundred seats. Of the total 6,889 seats or the total 0,889 seats across gram panchayats, panchayat samitis and zilla parishads, the BJP has won 4,805 unopposed. Opposition parties in-cluding the CPI(M) and Congress have accused the ruling seature of union torroot ruling party of using terror and threats to turn the election into a "farce". The Council exempted

BJP has denied these alle-gations and blamed the Panchayat elections will not take place in areas un-der the Tripura Tribal Opposition's "weak organisation" for their failure to Areas Autonom ous District Council, which has limited The State Election Comjurisdiction over three-fourths of the State's land mission (SEC) announced on Wednesday evening that polling parties have and which have village committees instead.



Mawjymbuin, about 60 km from Meghalaya's capital Shillong, is a natural cave made up of sandstones. AVRILLA ISHA/GOOGLE MAPS

Shravan apart from mak-ing the local village body withdraw the ban," the parishad's president, Satya Yatra, to the cave on August 10 and 11. The village council's ban irked another group, the Assam-based Kutumba Su-rakshya Parishad, which warned that the ban on Ranjan Borah said. Blaming Christian or inisations for "forcing" worshipping at the cave would invite trouble for pe-ople of Meghalaya coming the village council to ban Hindus from performing their "religious duties" at the cave, he said members of his organisation would block the highways leading to Assam. "The Meghalava government should make proper arrangements for Hindus to Meghalaya if the Stat to worship the Shivaling during the sacred month of rnment failed to en government taueo sure a smooth pilgrin

Bengal's college admission portal widening digital divide, say students from rural areas

Shrabana Chatterjee

With its slick and minir ist design, the West Bengal government's common portal for undergraduate admissions may have been a boon for urban students who have typed in their ap-plications from the comfort of home, but applicants from the rural areas, where the digital infraser cafe took extra money to get the work done," he tructure is skeletal, said the portal has widened the get said. digital divide between

said. Contrastingly, Megha Mitra, an 18-year-old from the city, had a smooth ex-perience. "I got all the in-formation from news chan-nels and newspapers. Then our schools helped, friends got together to help each other. It was a hastle-free process to fill up formal," the The portal has been de-veloped for applying to 16 universities, 461 colleges and 7,217 undergraduate The system has worked without any major glitches till now, said West Bengal State Council of Higher Education (WBSCHE) vice-

SM



nce, their counterparts in villages, where the digital set-up Though urban students had a sn ntary and internet patchy, said they are at the m ercy of cyber cafe of

teenager said. Mr. Shawd said every Ar. Shawd an update about the admission pro-cess, he has to cycle 30 mi-nutes through paddy fields and approach the internet cafe. He does not have a laptop or access to a stable internet connection in his village. He said an appli-cant like him is "at the mer-cy" of the cyber cafe own-er. said once I get admission in one college, I cannot redo my application," Mr. Shaw

"Wrong information" "Even if he enters wrong information on the portal, we hardly have any way to check it. The cafe owner

sion and do not verify in-formation. Many rural stu-dents are not feeling confident to fill up the forms on their own. We hope to make the process seamless for all candidates next year; the said. Before this academic year, admission was done both online and offline. In the offline mode, colleges and application, whi shaw said. Mr. Ghosh said the applicant's fear is unfound-ed. "From August 8, we are doing a second round of application and admission, and we will allow all stu-Published by Nirmala Lakshman at Kastari Buildinss. 859-850. Area Salai. Onemai 600002 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT. ITD. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PEP Act).

students had to visit each institution to gather infor-mation, colleges had their have Bangla Sahayata Ken dra at multiple locations to help students with the proown help desks and stu-dent volunteers to help out the new and cess free-of-cost," Mr. Som said. anxious students. 'No information' However, a student from a Subhronil Som, princi pal of Bhairab Ganguly Col-lege, Kolkata, who has advillage in South 24 Parga nas said there has been no, who has ad-vocated the digital admission process in West Bengal colleges, said stu-dents "who have followed the guidelines have had no problems". "information of govern ment helplines and centres". "I got admission

centres". "I got admission into a college very far away from my home. This was cyber cafe owner followed a wrong preference order um scared t will home my preferred course seat this year' he said. Will be resolved in the next academic year and the cen-tralised portal will be an "example for other States". problems". "The portal has helped in unnecessary seat-block-ing. We have made small reels on our social media page to raise awareness about the process," he said. But he agreed that ap-plicants in rural and subur-ban areas encountered glitches. "There is a chance to make a fresh attempt

August 8-17. We als

ISSN 0971 - 751X

outing freebies under 'La-dli Behna' and 'Ladka Bhau''schemes but not for paying money for the loss of land. official residence. He also met Congress leader Digvijaya Singh, Tri-namool Congress leader Derek O'Brien, Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh and Samajwadi Party Lok Sabha member Aditya Ya Mr. Thickeray is sche-duled to meet former Con-aress president Sonia

of land. A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai, K.V. Viswanathan and Sandeep Mehta gave time to the State govern-ment till August 13 to file its response saying if the or-der is not complied with, the Chief Secretary shall be present in the court. gress president Gandhi on Thursday. Sonia present in the court. The top court was hear

Assam group opposes ban on cave worship in Meghalaya, threatens blockade of roads

The Hindu Bureau GUWAHATI

A hardline Hindu group in Assam has threatened blockades on arterial roads leading to Meghalaya if a ban on worshipping a 'Shivaling' in a geologically significant cave is not lifted.

About 60 km southwest of Meghalaya's capital Shillong, Mawjymbuin near Mawsynram is a 209metre-high natural cave made up of calcareous sandstones. A major attraction in the cave is a Shivaling-like stone below waterdripping stalactites almost resembling a cow's udder.

The *dorbar shnong* (village council) of Mawsynram declined to let anyone worship or perform rituals at Mawjymbuin after an obscure Hindu group announced on August 1 that it would organise a pilgrimage, similar to the Kanwar



Mawjymbuin, about 60 km from Meghalaya's capital Shillong, is a natural cave made up of sandstones. AVRILLA ISHA/GOOGLE MAPS

Yatra, to the cave on August 10 and 11.

The village council's ban irked another group, the Assam-based Kutumba Surakshya Parishad, which warned that the ban on worshipping at the cave would invite trouble for people of Meghalaya coming to Assam.

"The Meghalaya government should make proper arrangements for Hindus to worship the Shivaling during the sacred month of Shravan apart from making the local village body withdraw the ban," the parishad's president, Satya Ranjan Borah said.

Blaming Christian organisations for "forcing" the village council to ban Hindus from performing their "religious duties" at the cave, he said members of his organisation would block the highways leading to Meghalaya if the State government failed to ensure a smooth pilgrimage.

- Assam Group Opposes Ban on Cave Worship in Meghalaya, Threatens Blockade of Roads:
- Context:
- A Hindu group in Assam is threatening to block major roads leading to Meghalaya if a ban on worshipping a 'Shivaling' in a significant cave is not lifted.

Location and Significance:

Mawjymbuin cave, about 60 km southwest of Shillong (Meghalaya's capital), is known for a Shivaling-like stone and is a significant pilgrimage site.

Ban on Worship:

The village council of Mawsynram has banned worship and rituals at the cave since August 1.

• Response and Opposition:

- Assam-based Kutumba Suraksha Parishad has opposed the ban and warned of trouble for people of Meghalaya traveling to Assam.
- They demand the Meghalaya government facilitate Hindu worship at the cave during the sacred month of Shravan.

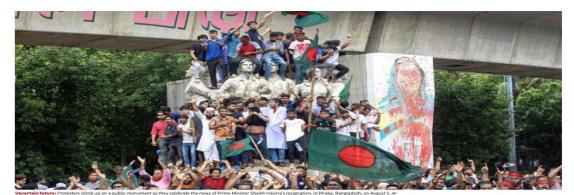
1.Threat of Blockade:

1. The group's president, Satya Ranjan Borah, blamed Christian organizations for the ban and threatened to block highways if the ban isn't lifted to ensure a smooth pilgrimage.





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What led to the fall of Sheikh Hasina?

Sheikh Hasina remobilised the Awami League and brought the party to power. She went on to oversee economic progress in Bangladesh, lifting millions out of poverty. But what went wrong for the most powerful Prime Minister Bangladesh has had in a generation?

WORLD INSIGHT

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Simily Johns Simily Johns Service Control of the Service of the Service Serv returned to power after an interregnum in

In the subsequent 15 years, Ms. Hasina oversaw economic progress in Bangladesh. The country of 170 million people saw millions being lifted out of poverty. Her government won international praise for hosting millions of Rohingva Muslim refugees who fled violence in neighbouring Myanmar. She country's economy. Bangladesh set up a war crimes tribunal to hold those who aided the genocide of the 1970s accountable. She also won back-to-back elections, the latest victory being in January. Still everything she built came crashing like a sandcastle on August 5.

with measured australing decomposite growth, showing a jump in GPP per capito and aubstantial improvement in social indicators, Powerty declined from 1L. Set according to the World Bank. Seconding to the World Bank. Measured the World Bank. The World Performance of the Second autor of the Second Second Second trike of COVID-19 and then the Russia-Ukraine war. GDP growth plunged to 3.4% in 2000, from 7.5% the previous of 3.4% in 2000, from 7.5% the previous the second second second second second trike of COVID-19 and the previous the second second second second second trike of COVID-19 and the previous the second second second second second the second second second second second point and the second about 20%. As the second seco Lack of political legitimacy The trigger for the set of events that led to Ms. Hasina's downfall was an unpopular quota system for government jobs that was originally introduced by Mujib after the liberation of Bangladesh. More than 50% of government jobs in Bangladesh

were reserved for different sections, of employment opportunities in the private which 30% were for the descendants of freedom fighters - meaning, Awami League workers. Ms. Hasina had done sector shrank. Government jobs were seen a report of economic stability by the youth. And when the high court ordered League workers. Ms. Hasma had done away with this system in 2018 after protests. In June 2024, the old system was reinstated by the Bangladesh high court. This triggered student protests, first on youth. And when the high court ordered the reinstatement of the quota system, it angered the already frustrated students. I is this anger which lit the fuse for Ms. Hasina's imminent downfall. And the opposition, which had been living under Ms. Hasina's tight grip for over 15 years,

This striggtory the idea present ages court. This striggtory the idea present ages court. university campuses. But Ms. Hasina had another problem – like the idea of the idea of the idea of the proper memory. The idea is the idea of the proper the idea is not if relationship. A former Prime Minister and INP conviction. Leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, conviction. Leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, and hanged by the war crimes tribunal for their trole in the genocide. Opposition and hanged by the war crimes tribunal for the Prime Minister's rivals. This is do the Prime Minister's rivals. This is do the Prime Minister's rivals. This is do the BNP, the main opposition process. The iron lady's mistakes Ms. Isaina erred in understanding the depth of the students' anger. She also miscakulated the strength of her political translars', a derogatory term which was used to refer to those who helped Palsistani troops during the Is71 liberation war. This inflamed passions. And Ms. Hasina made the mistake which honk en excessive force to quell an uprising. She unleashed both police personnel and She unleashed both police personnel and AL activists on the protesters, who were also violent. In July, some 200 people irregularities in the election process. Thus, the space for opposition politics were killed, mostly protesters, in clashes. After the first round of protests, the shrank over the years. But for large sections of Bangladesh's Bangladesh Supreme Court scaled back the quota system, setting the reservation

population, Ms. Hasina was a force of stability, who turned around the cap for the descendants of freedom fighters at 5%, While the students had won a major victory, they were not ready to call off the protests. On August 4, they called for another round of protests with a new demand – Sheikh Hasina should aitnessed sustained economic growth go. They also demanded accountability for the deaths of over 200 of their comrades. The AL then called for a

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commets. The AL then called for a counter mobilisation of its members. Database a megacity of 10 million people, indicating the sensing to the sensing of the sensing to the sensing the sensing to the sensing the sensing to the sensitive sensitive sensitive method as a sensitive sensi

CHIEF I

According to a Reuters report, Army chief THE GIST Waker-uz-Zaman, after holding a meeting with senior Generals, informed the Prime Minister the night before she quit that his Minister the night before she quit that hi soldiers would not be able to enforce the curfew she had called for. Ms. Hasina's fate was sealed. In the afternoon on August 5, when

In the afternoon on August 5, when protesters started moving towards her official residence, the Awami League leader who was in power for 15 years resigned and left the country for India. -Chaos or order?

Chaos or order? Ms. Hasina is the second leader in South Asia who has now been forced out of power by mass protests. In July 2022, Sri Lanka's elected Desider Combine Daime Bainer forced In July 2022, Sri Lanka's elected President Cotabaya Rajapaksa was forced to resign and leave the country amid massive protests triggered by an economic meltdown. The island country, however, saw an orderly political transition. The country's political class trailshift. The country's pointer and backed Ranil Wickremesinghe, a former Prime Minister, as the new President. Sri Lanka is now preparing for a Presidential election later this year, even though the

Ms. Hasina errod in understanding the depth of the students' anger. She also miscalculated the strength of her political opponents. She called the protesters 'razakars', a derogatory term which was used to refer to those who helped Pakistani troops during conomic crisis. But the situation in Bangladesh looks

the 1971 liberation war. This inflamed passions.

The Hyperer from dissolved plane in the dis-memory of the second second second second second second months. However, it is not clear what role was monthed to be second second second second would also find it difficult to bring in order after the chaos of the past month-order after the chaos of the past month-violence against Hindus, Ahmedia Muslims and A.f. functionaries. Rangladesh's polity stands broken, sho but the A.s. all thas a presence in the country. Moreover, the economic woes are looming large over the next second second second second second and the second second

country is yet to recover from the

....

Sheikh Hasina, in the late 1980s and early 1990s, remobilised the Awami League (Al) which played a crucial role in bringing down the military dictatorship of Muhammad Ershad in 1990.

The main problem was the lack of political legitimacy for Ms. Hasina's government. In Bangladesh the opposition and the government have historically had a hostile relationship. Ahead of the 2018 elections, Ms. Zia, the former Prime Minister and BNI chairperson, was jailed after a corruption conviction.

gloomier. The Army chief has announced an interim government, which is to be headed by Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus, a key demand from the students. The President has dissolved parliament. The BNP has demanded elections in three



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• Background and Rise to Power:

- Sheikh Hasina survived the massacre of August 15, 1975, which killed her family, including her father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founding father of Bangladesh.
- She spent six years in exile and then reformed the Awami League (AL) in the late 1980s, which played a crucial role in ending the military dictatorship of Muhammad Ershad in 1990.
- Hasina became Prime Minister for the first time in 1996, was out of power for a while, and returned to power in 2009.

• Economic Achievements:

- Over her subsequent 15 years in power, Hasina achieved significant economic progress, lifting millions out of poverty.
- She set up a new generation of schools for the children of Muslim refugees and organized medical camps.



Political Legitimacy Issues:

One of the main reasons for her downfall was the lack of political legitimacy and her government's historically bad relationship with the opposition.

Opposition leaders were routinely harassed, and electoral integrity was questioned.

The quota system for public jobs reserved 30% of jobs for children of freedom fighters, which angered students and triggered protests.

- Major Protests and Downfall:
- The quota system protests in 2018 escalated when Hasina misjudged the intensity of student anger.
- The protests were violently suppressed, and tensions continued to rise.
- Economic struggles due to COVID-19, the Russia-Ukraine war, and the devaluation of the Bangladeshi currency added to the unrest.
- Hasina's authoritarian measures and police brutality further inflamed the situation.

Final Events Leading to Her Fall:

On August 5, as part of the 'March to Dhaka' campaign, students demanded her resignation.

On August 6, thousands stormed her residence, and the army airlifted her out of Dhaka.

Hasina fled to India, seeking asylum, marking the end of her 15-year tenure.

1.Current Situation:

- 1. The situation in Bangladesh remains uncertain with an interim government and ongoing protests.
- 2. The Awami League leaders have been arrested, and the future political landscape is unclear.

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IN THE NEWS HOURS BEFORE

FINAL, PHOGAT DISQUALIFIED

Centre sounds out sovereign funds for Vi stake dilution

TALKS ON WITH ABU DHABI, QATAR FIRMS

INA HEARTBREAKING twist of fate, wrestler Vissh Phogat was disqualified from the So-kg gold medal bout at the Paria Olympics after failing the weigh-in because she was 100 grams overweight, reports Mihir Vasavda PAGE 34 Move follows telco's recent fundraise of ₹20,000 crore

NEW GOVERNMENT PRASANTA SAHU New Delhi, August 1

IN BANGLADESH TO BE SWORN IN TODAY

BE SWORM PLOE With the second second

SEBIASKS NSE TO SHORE UP F&O FUND TO ₹10.5K CR

SEBI HAS ADVISED NSE to increase the core settlement guarantee fund (SGF) of National Clearing Ltd to 10,500 crore for equity ports Vivek Kumar M. B PAGE 6

the company.

Abu Dhahi Investment Authority Oatar possible help – like further deferral of pay-ments such as adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues – so that the company's business case becomes viable. This assurance is significant because one of the second s Investment Authority and Singapore's Temasek are some of the funds which have Termasek are some of the funds which have been sounded out, sources and, adding the function of the function o

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VI SHAREHOLDING PATTERN

Promoter groups including Aditya

37.17

23.15

12.78

Mutual funds 6.12 Other public 20.78

Foreign portfolio

FM: LTCG tax on realty Bank liquidity surplus tops revenue-neutral now ₹2.5 trillion FE BUREAU New Delhi, August 7 SACHIN KUMAR Mumbai, August 7

WITH VODAFONE IDEA infusing ₹20,000 correvia a follow-on public offering and equity contribution by one of the promoter entity, Aditya Birla Group, the government is now

exploring whether sovereign wealth funds would be interested in picking up its stake in

the company. Sources said that since the promoter group has shown sufficient interest in rais-ing funds and running the company, and the government is fully backing the efforts, it makes sense for sovereign wealth funds to acquire Centre's current 23.15% stake in the commany.

THANKS TO THE AMENDMENTS added to the Finance Bill 2024 before it was passed by the Lok sabha on Wednesday, the new regime for taxa-Sabha on Wednesday, the new regime for tax-tion of long-term capital gains (ILTCG) from property transactions work result in any addi-Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday. The government eased the ITCG tax regime for sale of properties proposed in the Badger Dotteen to adjustment of the ILS of the ILS of the Constant of the ILS of the regard to transfer of properties acquired before ILS of the ILS of t

DECREDANCE OF ADDATE OF AD

ere cited, which depicted an increase in tax-bur-en for such transactions, said the minister."The n tor such transactions, said the minister. The rent amendment ensures that even in such pothetical cases, there will be no additional tax rden," she said, while adding the government esn't intend to gain any additional revenue nn capital gains tax rate changes for real estate.

ontinued on Page 20



The FM said the government doesn't intend to gain any additional revenue from capital gains tax rate changes for real estate

No relief for NRIs

LONG-TERICATIVAL gains from unlisted shares held by non-residents will nove be tasked at 12-5% without heldscation or any reports Priyansh Verma. The Finance Bill 2023 was modified to make this clear. The gains. This led to an interpretation that while the taxartewas raised from 10% to 12-5% in the taxartewas raised from 10% to 12-3% in the startewas raised from 10% to 12.5% in the startewas raised from 10% to 12% in the startew

Continued on Page 20



creation," he said. The second quarter will remain in the moderate surplus mode on an average basis and the government spending pattern will be the key to ensure easing of liquidity on a sus-tainable basis, especially third quar-ter onwards, he added.

Private firms mull thermal capacity addition to keep pace with demand RAGHAVENDRA KAMATH Mumbai, August 7



IN SYNC WITH GOVT'S TARGET TO ACHIEVE ENERGY SECURITY

The 2023-24 Economic Survey stated analysts recently. mal capacity is not without a reason. The huinon government is looking at oversello thermal by 2032 to meet the growing thermal by 2032 to meet the growing thermal by 2032 to meet the growing thermal phase to be constructed by 2032 to meet the growing the FM proposed new thermal phases to the FM proposed new thermal phase to the FM proposed new thermal phases to the FM proposed new thermal phase to the FM proposed new thermal phases to the FM proposed new thermal phase to the FM proposed new thermal phases to the FM proposed new thermal phases to the FM proposed new thermal phase to the FM proposed new thermal phases to the FM proposed new thermal phase to the FM proposed new thermal phases to





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SIT Report on Tigers Deaths in MP

- Recently, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) report on the deaths of 43 tigers in Madhya Pradesh in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve and Shahdol Forest Circle between 2021 and 2023 has raised significant concerns regarding the effectiveness of wildlife protection measures in India.
- The report highlights serious lapses in investigations, insufficient evidence collection, and a lack of accountability among officials responsible for tiger conservation



- Tiger Mortalities in India:
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) reported a rising trend in tiger deaths over recent years, with totals of 96 in 2019, 106 in 2020, 127 in 2021, 121 in 2022, and peaking at 178 in 2023, marking the highest number of fatalities since 2012.
- A total of 628 **tigers** died in India between 2019 and 2024.

The number of tigers in India stood at **3,682**, around **75%** of the global wild tiger population, in 2022.

India launched **Project Tiger** in **1973**, to promote tiger conservation.

Currently, India has **55 tiger reserves** covering more than **78,735 square km**, **nearly 2.4%** of the country's geographical area, of tiger habitat.

Reason for death	Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve	Shahdol forest circle	alest.
Electrocution	3	3	- AND
Infighting	17	0	arth
Disease/Illness	4	0	1/2000
Senility	2	0	
Bodypartsseized	2	0	(Astended)
Poisoning	0	1	the sur-
Road accident	0	1	at the state
Unconfirmed	6	4	
Total	34	9	



Royal Bengal Tiger (Panthera Tigris) is the National animal of India.

Subspecies of Tiger

- * The continental (Panthera tigris tigris)
- * The Sunda (Panthera tigris sondaica)

Habitat

Tropical rainforests, evergreen forests, temperate forests, mangrove swamps, grasslands, and savannas

Countries Where Tiger Population Is Found

Found only in 13 Tiger Range countries- India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Russia, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam

As per the latest report by IUCN, tiger has gone extinct in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam

Protection Status

■ IUCN Red List: Endangered

- CITES: Appendix I
- WPA 1972: Schedule I

Conservation Efforts

- International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA): For conservation of seven big cats namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma (launched by India)
- Tx2 campaign: Launched by WWF; stands for 'Tiger times 2' signaling the goal to double the tiger population by 2022
- National Tiger Conservation authority (NTCA): Constituted under the WPA, 1972
- Project Tiger: Launched in 1973

Tiger Census: Every 4 years

Threats

- Habitat loss
- Poaching and illegal trade
- Human-Wildlife conflict

Tigers In India

- India has the largest population
- As of 2022, India has 3167 tigers
- Largest population has been found in Central Indian Highlands & Eastern Ghats Landscape
- Tiger Reserves: India now has 55 tiger reserves
- Dholpur-Karauli in Rajasthan is the latest
- Nagarjun Sagar (Andhra Pradesh) is the larg while Orang (Assam) is the smallest (Core a

- Among the following Tiger Reserves, which one has the largest area under "Critical Tiger Habitat"? (2020)
- (a) Corbett
 (b) Ranthambore
 (c) Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam
 (d) Sundarbans

From the ecological point of view, which one of the following assumes importance in being a good link between the Eastern Ghats and the Western Ghats? (2017)

(a) Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
(b) Nallamala Forest
(c) Nagarhole National Park
(d) Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve

National Handloom Day

Recently, the 10th National Handloom Day was celebrated on 7th August 2024. This day has been celebrated since 2015 and marks the launch of the Swadeshi Movement on 7th August 1905, part of the independence struggle promoting domestic handloom products.

Handloom fabrics are generally made with high quality natural fibres like cotton, linen, silk, and wool which are resilient and last for a long time.

• Unique Handloom Products: Banarasi, Jamdani,

Baluchari, Madhubani, Kosa, Ikkat, Patola, Tussar Silk, Maheshwari, Moirang Phee, Phulkari, Laheriya, Khandua and Tangaliya



Sri Lanka Tests IUDs Contraceptives on Monkeys

Sri Lanka is testing Intrauterine Devices (IUDs) on female toque macaques to control their population, estimated at around 3 million.

An Intrauterine Device (IUDs) is a small contraceptive device that is put into the uterus (womb) to prevent pregnancy.

• IUDs Types: The copper IUD and the hormonal IUD, sold under the brand names Mirena and Kyleena.

This action follows the government's earlier decision to provide shotguns to farmers to address crop damage and to abandon a contentious plan to export monkeys to China.

• Experts doubt that contraception alone will effectively reduce monkey populations, emphasising that controlling monkey populations also requires **banning the feeding of wild monkeys**, as access to human food boosts their survival and reproduction



TOQUE MACAQUE Macaca sinica

CONSERVATION STATUS: ENDANGERED

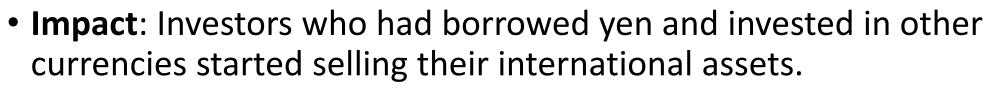
- · Named for the whorl of hair on top of their heads
- · Endemic to Sri Lanka
- · They form large troops with complex social hierarchies
- Commonly seen in Sri Lanka's Cultural Triangle of temples and nicknamed temple monkeys
 - AR
- · Threatened by habitat loss and human-wildlife conflicts

Yen Carry Trade

- Low rates incentivized global investors to borrow yen cheaply and invest in other countries for better returns.
- About Yen Carry Trade
- Investors borrow money in a country with low interest rates and invest it in countries with higher interest rates.
 - Example: Borrowing yen (from Japan) with low rates and investing in countries like Brazil, Mexico, or India where rates are higher.

- Bank of Japan's Policy: Between 2011 and 2016, Japan's interest rates were at zero, and since 2016, they have been even lower (-0.10%) to stimulate economic activity in Japan.
 - From mid-March to July, the Bank of Japan raised rates from -0.10% to 0.25%.
 - The increase in Japanese interest rates led to a stronger yen.



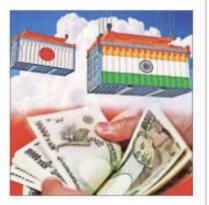


• The yen strengthened against other currencies like the US dollar, Brazilian real, Indian rupee, and Mexican peso.



Imports from Japan to turn more expensive

INDIA BEING A NET importer of merchandise from Japan is likely to see its imports from that country turning costlier, thanks to an appreciating yen, say economists. On Wednesday, rupee ended at 83.95 against the US dollar, three paise lower than its previous closing level. "Unwinding of carry trade will reduce the overvaluation in the rupee against its trading partners," says Gaura



Sengupta, chief economist, IDFC FIRST Bank.

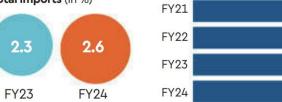
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India's top imports from Japan (\$ million)

		(1		
	FY23	FY24	Growth (%)	
Nuclear reactors, boilers & machinery	2,865	3,331	16.3	
Copper and articles	1,284	2,240	74.5	
Electrical machinery; sound recorders & reproducers, TV image & sound recorders	1,740	1,963	12.8	
Inorganic chemicals; organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals	2,152	1,647	-23.5	
Iron and steel	1,390	1,488	7.1	
Plastic and articles	1,219	1,169	-4.1	
Total imports from Japan	16,495	17,698	7.3	
Share of Japan in India's total imports (in %)	Trade deficit with Japan (\$ billion)			
	FY21	-	6.47	



Green National Highway Corridor Project

- The Government of India and the World Bank have recently signed an agreement for the construction of Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP).
- It is a safe, green, Climate resilient road that is built using green technologies in Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.
- Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification & Maintenance) Policy was launched in 2015.



- Nodal Ministry Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- **Aim** To provide smooth and motorable roads with all-weather connectivity of the nearby areas.
- Socio-economic development as well as enhanced trade and connectivity within the region.

- Enhance the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in mainstreaming safety and green technologies.
- **Project Period** 2020 to 2026.
- World Bank Fund \$500 Million.

Features of Green highways corridor

- Conservation of natural resources using cement treated sub base/reclaimed asphalt pavement.
- Promote use of local/ marginal material such as lime, fly ash, waste plastic.
- Use of bio-engineering measures for slope protection like coco fibre/Jut



- **Benefits -** Green technologies and bio engineering solutions reduce carbon emissions.
- Conservation of natural resources during the life cycle (construction and operation period) of the project.

Word of the day

Ratiocination:

the proposition arrived at by logical reasoning; logical and methodical reasoning

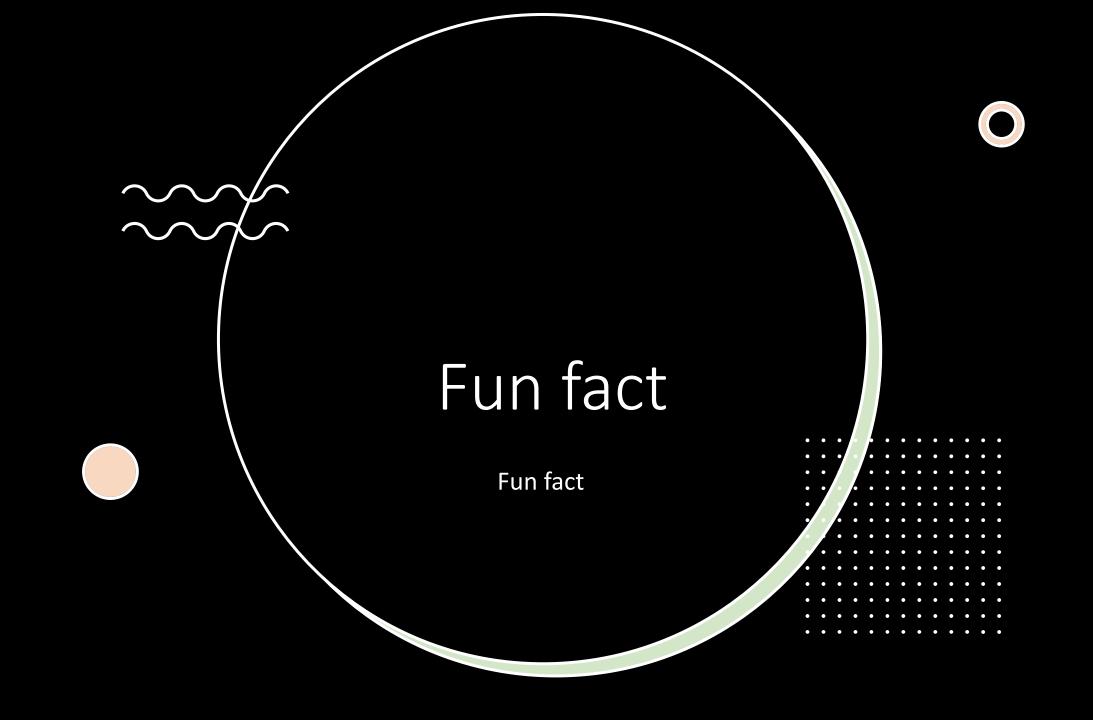
Synonym: conclusion

Usage: The detective is known for his gifts of ratiocination.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/ratiocinationpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɹætɪˌɒsɪˈneɪʃŋ/







• Longest Interval Between Olympics:

 The longest interval between the Olympic Games occurred during World War II. The 1940 and 1944 Games were canceled, resulting in a 12-year gap between the 1936 Berlin Olympics and the 1948 London Olympics.

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