

Kamala Harris formally secures Democratic presidential nomination

WASHINGTON, Aug 6 (PTI)

US VICE PRESIDENT Kamala Harris, who is of Indian and African heritage, on Tuesday formally secured the Democratic presidential nomination, becoming the first Indian-American to be nominated as a presidential candidate of a major political party.

Harris, 59, would face former US President and Republican nominee Donald Trump, 78, in the November general elections. Last Friday, Harris, who was abruptly thrust into the role of presidential candidate

late last month after President Joe Biden withdrew from the race for the White House, was declared the 2024 presidential nominee of the ruling Democratic Party after she won enough votes from Democratic delegates in a virtual roll call.

"I am honoured to be the Democratic nominee for President of the United States. I will officially accept the nomination next week. This campaign is about people coming together, fuelled by love of country, to fight for the best of who we are," Harris had said.

Harris received 99 per cent

of the votes of the pledged and automatic delegates at the conclusion of the roll call vote on Monday night. As many as 4,567 delegates from across the country cast their vote for Harris. The next steps in the nominating process include the certification of the roll call by the Democratic National Convention Secretary Jason Rae, and the acceptance of the nomination by Harris and her running mate, certified by DNCC Chair Minyon Moore.

Democratic Party delegates from across the country will then celebrate the nomination

through a celebratory roll call at the in-person convention in Chicago from August 9 to 22.

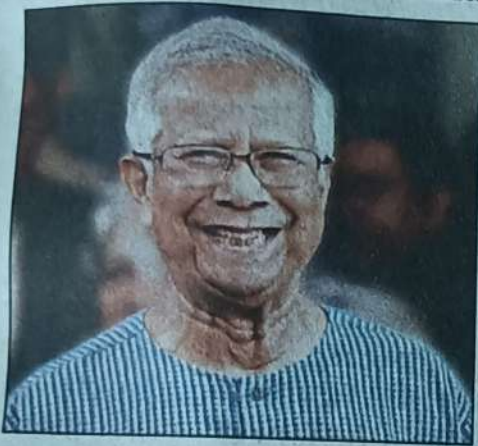
"With the support of 99 per cent of all participating delegates in the virtual roll call, Vice President Harris has historic momentum at her back as we embark on the final steps in officially certifying her as our party's nominee," DNC chair Jaime Harrison and Minyon Moore said.

Harris became the first ever woman of colour to be on the top of a presidential ticket of a major American political party.

B'desh Prez Dissolves Parl, Khaleda Zia Freed From House Arrest

AKM Moinuddin & Agencies

Dhaka: Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus will head the country's interim govt after former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stepped down and



► **Why Bangla Is Banking On Yunus, FLAP OPP**

fled the country amid a mass uprising against her regime, led mostly by students.

The announcement early on Wednesday came from Jynal Abedin, the press secretary of President Mohamed Shahabuddin. Abedin spoke to AP over phone. Abedin also said other members of the Yunus-led govt would be decided soon after discussion with political parties and other stakeholders.

The toll in the violence that has wracked the country since the protests began rose to 440, even as there were signs of normalcy returning in capital Dhaka.

President Shahabuddin dissolved Parliament earlier on Tuesday, clearing the way for fresh elections. His office also announced that leader

of the opposition Begum Khaleda Zia had been freed from house arrest.

The Anti-Discrimination Student Movement that spearheaded the protests had announced earlier that Yunus had agreed to head the interim govt. "If action is needed in Bangladesh, for my country and for the courage of my people, then I will take it," Yunus had told AFP, also calling for "free elections".

President Shahabuddin met the key coordinators of the student movement to dis-

FULL COVERAGE: P 26,28,30
► EDIT PAGE: While We Wait For New BanglaDress

cuss the situation and the shape of the interim govt. The three service chiefs were also present at the meeting. Nahid Islam, one of the coordinators of the student movement, had proposed Yunus's name in a video message earlier on Tuesday. "We urge the president to take steps as soon as possible to form an interim govt headed by Dr Yunus," Nahid said.

"No govt other than the one proposed by the students will be accepted. As we have said, no military govt, or one backed by the military, or a govt of fascists, will be accepted," said Nahid.

Microfinance pioneer Yunus, 84, is credited with lifting millions out of poverty — earning the enmity of Hasina and the wide respect of millions of Bangladeshis.

Photo: AFP

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After sunset: Why ozone scare is real for Delhi and its neighbours

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New Delhi: An analysis by the Centre for Science and Environment says that in summer this year, the ground-level ozone in the air increased in 10 metropolitan areas of India, with Delhi being the most affected. So far, Delhi-NCR has recorded 176 days of exceedance during the study period, followed by Mumbai and Pune with 138 days.

CSE said ground-level ozone usually exceeds the safety standard on all days of summer in some locations in Delhi-NCR every year. This year the number of stations exceeding the standard across core NCR has been 17.6, the highest in the last five years. On average, only 9.4 stations exceeded the standard daily in the previous summers. It was 14.6 stations in the 2020 summer.

The report also said ground-level ozone should ideally be negligible in the night air, but all 10 metropolitan areas saw a rare phenomenon of elevated ozone level after sunset. The study considered ozone in excess when the hourly concentration exceeded 100 micrograms per cubic metre between 10pm and 2am at any station. Mumbai-MMR reported the most instances of night-time ground-level ozone with 171 nights of exceedance, followed by Delhi-NCR (161) and Pune (131).

Ground-level ozone, a highly reactive gas, has serious health consequences. "Those with respiratory conditions, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, children with premature lungs and older adults can face serious risks. The gas can inflame and damage airways, make lungs susceptible to infection and aggravate asthma," said Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director, research and advocacy, CSE.

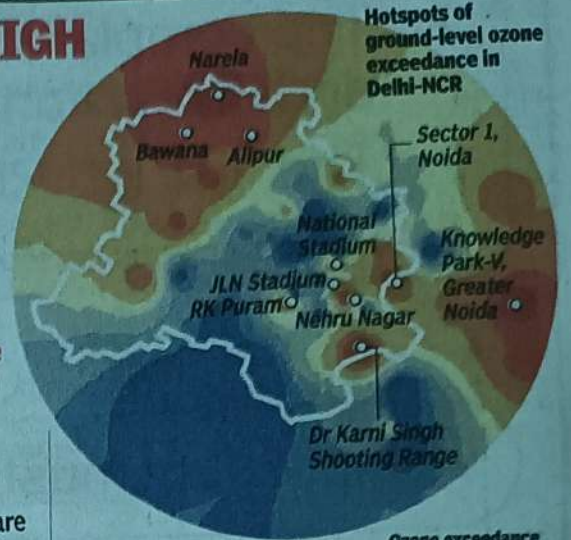
STN STATS AT 5-YR HIGH

10 metropolitan areas reported ground-level ozone exceedance in summer | Delhi among the worst hit

- Night-time ground-level ozone continues to persist in all metropolitan areas
- Ground-level ozone has become a year-long problem

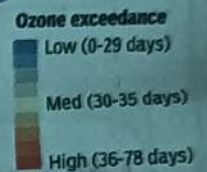
What is ground-level ozone | It is produced from a complex interaction between nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that are emitted from vehicles, power plants, factories and other combustion sources followed by cyclic reactions in the presence of sunlight

What is an ozone exceedance | An exceedance for ground-level ozone occurs when ozone concentrations are greater than 100 micrograms per cubic metre over the course of eight rolling hours per 24 hours in a day

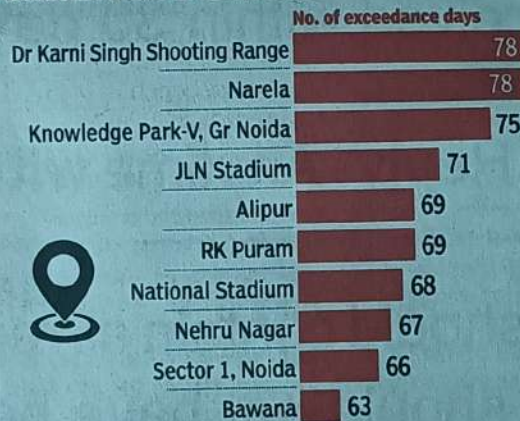


WHO IS AT RISK

Those with respiratory conditions, particularly children with premature lungs and older adults

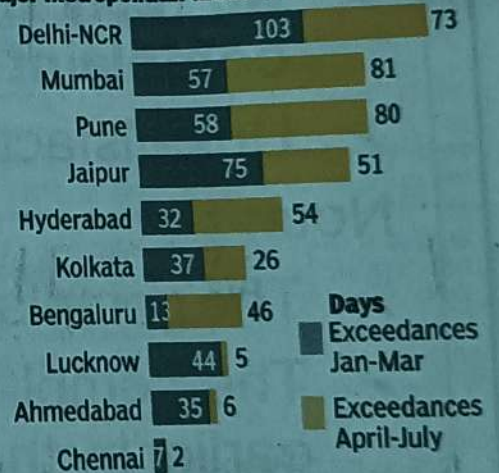


Worst hit areas in Delhi-NCR



Note: Exceedance is computed as daily maximum 8-hr average crossing the ground-level ozone 8-hr standard (100 µg/m³)
Period of study is April 1 to July 18, 2024

Ground-level ozone exceedances in 10 major metropolitan areas of India



Not only has the spatial spread in Delhi-NCR increased this year, but also the duration. This summer, at the stations which reported exce-

edance, the high levels lasted on average 13.9 hours, the highest since the pandemic summer of 2020.

Even upscale and green neighbourhoods were affected, including Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range and Lodhi Colony. "This is consistent with the

science that ozone drifts and gathers in areas where a comparatively lower amount of gaseous pollutants are present. Thus, relatively cleaner areas, including urban peripheries, can have comparatively higher ozone concentrations," explained Roychowdhury.

2 Assam Rifles battalions moved out of Manipur ignoring tribals' protests

To Be Replaced By CRPF Men From J&K, T'gana

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Guwahati: Amid protests by Manipur's Kukis against the withdrawal of two "non-partisan" Assam Rifles (AR) battalions from two sensitive security buffer zones in the strife-torn state, Army has recommended placing the incoming CRPF battalions under the command and control of AR's sector headquarters.

Kuki MLAs have been part of the protests to retain the AR troops. The community fears the move to withdraw a "non-partisan force like Assam Rifles" could lead to a resurgence of violence.

Army has directed relocation of the two AR battalions from Manipur to Nagaland, where they will relieve two other battalions. These relieved battalions will be redeployed in J&K. Assam Rifles, despite being a paramilitary force, has a dual control structure, with the Army overseeing operational control and home ministry handling



Manipuris displaced due to the violence being taken to their native places from a relief camp in Jiribam on Tuesday

administrative supervision.

Currently, the two Assam Rifles battalions are deployed in Manipur's Kangvai along the Churachandpur-Bishnupur border, and Kangchup on the Kangpokpi-Imphal (East) inter-district borders.

The incoming CRPF battalions, comprising over 2,000 personnel, are being transferred from J&K and Telangana and are expected to assume their new positions this month, a security source said. The AR battalions are expected to hand over their areas of responsibility within one week of the CRPF battalions' arrival, the source added.

"It has been recommended that the command and control

of the two CRPF battalions, relieving the AR battalions, is vested with the respective AR sector headquarters of IG (E) and IG (S), to ensure cohesion in operations in these sensitive areas," the source said. Besides, the two CRPF battalions will undergo three months of on-the-job training "in view of the prevailing security situation in the state".

Additionally, like other infantry battalions inducted into Manipur, they will undergo four weeks of pre-induction training at the Counter-Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School in Vairengte, Mizoram, suggesting their involvement in counter-insurgency operations in the state.

Afspa in force only in select NE areas: MHA

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, has been fully rolled back from Tripura and Meghalaya, and applies only in select police stations or districts of other northeastern states like Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, home ministry informed Lok Sabha Tuesday.

Citing the 71% decline in insurgency incidents, 60% dip in security personnel killings and 82% decrease in civilian fatalities in 2023 as compared to 2014, Mos (home) Nityanand Rai said this has led to significant reduction in Afspa coverage of northeast.

For instance, he said, the Act — labelled by several stakeholders as 'draconian' — stood completely withdrawn from Tripura and from Meghalaya. It is also totally rolled back from all but four districts of Assam; and three PS of Namsai district and three other districts in Arunachal.

India hosts its 1st-ever multinational air drill

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The first-ever multinational Tarang Shakti air combat exercise to be hosted by India took off at Sullur in Tamil Nadu on Tuesday, with Rafale and Eurofighter Typhoon jets as well as military aircraft from France, Germany, UK and Spain taking to the skies along with frontline IAF fighters.

Phase-II of the mega exercise will be conducted with other countries at Jodhpur from Aug 29 to Sept 12 after Phase-I concludes on Aug 14. In all, 67 fighters and military aircraft from 10 countries and observers from another 18, will take part in Tarang Shakti to strengthen India's military in-



Tarang Shakti 2024 took off at Sullur in Tamil Nadu on Tuesday

teroperability and strategic partnerships across the globe.

India will deploy 75 to 80 fighters, aircraft and helicopters for the exercise. "The exercise's aim is to build mutual trust, explore further avenues for interoperability and

inculcate each other's best practices strengthening our strategic relations with friendly foreign countries," IAF vice chief Air Marshal A P Singh had said earlier.

On Tuesday, Air Marshal Singh flew a Tejas fighter from Sullur for an "aerial rendezvous" with German Air Force commander Lt-Gen Ingo Gerhartz in a Typhoon jet during the exercise.

India is also showcasing its defence production capabilities and capacity through expositions on the sidelines of the exercise as well as arrange visits of foreign officials to defence R&D and technical hubs at Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

German ambassador Philipp Ackermann said, "Tarang Shakti

is Germany's first joint exercise with India on the subcontinent. It showcases our deepened partnership with India for a secure and prosperous region, together with our European friends."

British high commissioner Lindy Cameron said she was delighted that the Royal Air Force was one of the key participants. "Our cooperation in security and defence extends across seas, land, and air. It is crucial that our armed forces work together to preserve stability and enhance prosperity in the Indo-Pacific," she said.

French ambassador Thierry Mathou said his country, as "India's trusted partner", was proud to take part in the exercise.

UK asylum tricky, Hasina looks at other options, anxious wait for New Delhi

Sachin Parashar & Naomi Canton

New Delhi/London: After reports that deposed Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina was headed West, or London in all likelihood, it emerged Tuesday that she might have to stay put in India for days, if not longer. With India tight-lipped about how long it can allow her to stay here and the UK effectively ruling out asylum for her, Hasina was said to be exploring other options, including the US and Finland.

While London is Hasina's first choice for asylum, she hasn't officially approached

She's in shock, will wait till she settles: EAM



Foreign minister S Jaishankar told an all-party meeting Tuesday that ousted Bangladeshi PM Sheikh Hasina was in shock at the turn of events and the Centre would discuss with her about her future course once she is settled down. Hasina, who landed in Hindon in a BAF aircraft with her sister on Monday, was moved to a safehouse. **P 28**

authorities yet, as confirmed by her son Sajeeb Wazed. Wazed was quoted as saying the US and the UK, where she has extended family, would be possible choices.

Foreign minister S Jaishankar made it clear in Parliament that Hasina had sought

approval to come to India only "for the moment". India remains apprehensive about her opponents in Dhaka, with whom it needs to work now, using her extended stay to sow doubts about India's intentions.

► **Related report, P 26**

5 US troops and 2 contractors hurt in rocket attack at Iraq base

Washington: Five US service members and two contractors were injured when two rockets hit a military base in Iraq, US officials said Tuesday, providing a bit more detail about the Monday strike. The officials said five of those injured were being treated at the al-Asad airbase and two were evacuated, but all seven are in stable condition. They did not provide details on who was evacuated.

The rocket attack is the latest in what has been an uptick in strikes on US forces by Iranian-backed militias. A Pentagon statement on a call between defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and his Israeli counterpart Yoav Gallant described the rocket fire as an "Iran-aligned militia attack on US forces" and said the two agreed that it "marked a dangerous escalation". AGENCIES

WINESH GOES FROM PROTEST TO PODIUM

WILL GRAPPLE FOR GOLD TONIGHT

> Vinesh Phogat, 29, became the **first Indian woman wrestler** ever to reach the final of an Olympic event after a convincing 5-0 win over Cuba's Yusneylis Guzman Lopez in the 50kg freestyle category in Paris (see pic, Vinesh in red).

With silver guaranteed, Vinesh will **grapple for gold** against 2020 Tokyo bronze-medallist **Sarah Ann Hildebrandt** of US in the final early Thursday (around 12.15pm). Vinesh was one of the **prominent faces of the wrestlers' protest** against then WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Earlier, Vinesh came from behind to pull off the **biggest wrestling upset** at Paris Games by stunning **4-time world champion and Tokyo gold medallist Yui Susaki** of Japan with a last-minute takedown to claim a 3-2 victory. The 'invincible' Susaki hadn't lost a single match in any of her previous 82 international bouts. Vinesh then edged past **Livach Oksana** of Ukraine to move into her maiden Olympic semis

Grateful In Victory



NEERAJ QUALIFIES FOR FINAL WITH MASSIVE THROW

> Defending champion Neeraj Chopra reached the final of men's javelin throw with a **mighty throw of 89.34m** in his first attempt, breaching the automatic qualification mark of 84m in style. It was his **best throw** of the season and also the **biggest** among the players in fray at Paris



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INDIA GO DOWN FIGHTING, TO PLAY SPAIN FOR BRONZE

> A valiant India went down **2-3 to Germany** in the men's **hockey** semifinal. In a riveting match, India **had their chances** but a professional German outfit weathered the storm to **make the title round** against Netherlands. India will play Spain in the bronze medal playoff on Thursday



MEN'S TT TEAM OUT

> Veteran Achanta Sharath Kamal showed resistance but India suffered a **0-3 loss to China** in the pre-quarterfinals, which ended their campaign in the men's table tennis team event

> **Armand Duplantis** soared over his rivals in clinching back-to-back Olympic pole vault crowns on Monday with a new world record. Swedish star Duplantis cemented his status as the **greatest pole vaulter in history** with a superb display, blowing the roof off the Stade de France with a final leap of **6.25 metres**, improving his world record by an inch



FULL COVERAGE: P 33-35