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Govt willing to hold discussion on NEET paper leak issue: Rijiju tells LS

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SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

21-07-2026
Total pilgrims - 82105
Tonsures - 34,484
Hundi kankulu - 518 CR
Laddu sale - 417 Lac
Annasprasams - 2,60,1ac
Medical treatment - 3,790
Waiting Consultants - Outside line at Silahotnam

Approx. Devan Time for Sevantharam (with out SSD Tolems) - 8 - 10 H.

Trump announces 200 pc tariff on generic drugs, India faces hit



Washington (TSIT): US President Donald Trump on Wednesday, July 22, announced steep tariffs on imported generic medicines from August 2028, asserting that the move was aimed at onshoring the manufacturing of such pharmaceutical products.



Crowd swells near Jantar Mantar; Bajrang Punia, Rakesh Tikait join CJP protest

■ CJP urges Wangchuk to end fast, says agitation will continue; Dipke asks PM to break silence

New Delhi (TSIT)

Cockroach Janta Party on Wednesday said thousands of protesters had gathered at the Jantar Mantar, with spokesperson Saurav Das sharing visuals of the crowd swelling at the protest site.

Speaking to ANI news agency, CJP spokesperson Ashutosh Ranka claimed "millions more will come" if the government doesn't agree to their demands. Meanwhile, the ministry of

home affairs ordered the immediate deployment of 20 additional CRPF companies to Delhi. The CRPF companies are being brought in from West Bengal.

Heavy barricading continues at various areas in Delhi, including Parliament House and Rafi Marg, even as the Cockroach Janta Party continues its protest at the Jantar Mantar demanding the resignation of union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged irregu-

larities in NEET.

A total of six FIRs have been filed so far over the alleged violence and vandalism during the protest march held by the CJP on Monday, at Parliament Street, Connaught Place and other police stations, with police likely to probe a "larger and criminal conspiracy" behind the matter reported.

'India needs you, not in suffering, but in service': Opposition MPs urge Wangchuk to end fast

Sonam Wangchuk says he will end fast if govt assures no action against protesters

New Delhi: Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk has set conditions for the government to end his fast. In a letter addressed to Union



Health Minister J.P. Nadda and Minister of State Jitendra Singh, Wangchuk thanked them for visiting him at Medanta Hospital and appealing to him to end the fast. "During our discussion, you assured me that the Government would positively consider adequate compensation for the families of students who committed suicide following the examination paper leak, and initiate a meaningful discussion in Parliament to ensure accountability, including consideration of the resignation of the Hon'ble Education Minister," Wangchuk said in the letter.

152 paper leaks in a decade: Rahul guns for Modi apology

He also alleged that police officers who were dragging him whispered in his ears that they were fed up with the current government.

New Delhi: In an all-out attack on the Narendra Modi government, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said the Prime Minister should immediately apologise to students after the brutal attack by Delhi Police on them on Monday during the Chalo Sansad march.

In a press conference on Wednesday, July 22, the Congress leader condemned violence against students, several identified as school children, use of tear gas, lathi charges, assault and humiliation. "The question is why is this happening to students. What exactly have they done. Thousands of them. To have security forces aiming weapons at them. What have they done? They are protesting peacefully. They are asking for what this country owes them," Gandhi said, asserting their demands are legitimate.

"In every government, there comes a time when psychologically the leadership collapses. And this government is visibly panicked," he told the media. Gandhi, his sister and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and



other Opposition leaders staged a sit-in in front of PM Modi's residence on Tuesday demanding his resignation and the government take accountability for the deteriorating education system in the country. They were forcibly removed and detained by the Delhi Police.

On being pushed and dragged, Rahul Gandhi said, "It's a huge honour to be able to express the will of people. I am used to getting punched. Happy to take many more." He also alleged that police officers who were dragging him whispered in his ears that they were fed up with the current government. "As they were taking me, some said, 'Sir, please remove the BJP government.'"

CM Revanth leads Kodangal protest over NEET paper leak



Hyderabad, TSIT Bureau:

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday led a protest rally in Kodangal against the alleged NEET paper leak issue and the reported

police action on Congress leaders and students. The rally, attended by Congress MLAs, local leaders and party workers, started from the Chief Minister's residence and concluded at Ambedkar Crossroads, where Revanth Reddy paid

tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister alleged that the Union Government was suppressing democratic protests instead of taking action against those responsible for the examination controversy. He criticised the reported police action on students at Delhi's Jantar Mantar and demanded accountability from the Centre.

Revanth Reddy reiterated the Congress demand for the resignation of the Union Education Minister and said the party would continue its agitation until justice was delivered to affected students.

Not interested: CJI on police action on student protestors

Hyderabad (TSIT):

The Supreme Court on Wednesday, July 22, declined to urgently list a plea seeking action against Delhi police for its handling of student protestors during the Cockroach Janata



Party's (CJP) march to Parliament, with Chief Justice of India Surya Kant telling the lawyer mentioning the matter, "Don't waste our time, and don't waste your time." When the lawyer pressed on the issue, stating that there were videos of the police cracking down on students demanding proper conduct of the NEET exam, and reforms in the National Testing Agency, the CJI said, "We are not interested in videos; we don't have time to watch."

Philippines envoy hails PM Modi's leadership, highlights growing bilateral ties

New Delhi, July 22 : Ambassador of the Philippines to India, Josel F Ignacio on Wednesday hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, saying that India is far different from what it was several decades ago and now heading to becoming a 'Viksit Bharat'.

In an interview with IANS, Ignacio appreciated PM Modi's efforts in strengthening ties between both countries and stated that India-Philippines relations are at an "all-time high" with room to elevate them further.

"Prime Minister Modi, I think, is very much admired around the world and that's certainly shared by the Philippines. We are happy that our leaders Prime Minister Modi Ji and President Marcos met in August last year here in Delhi and built good friendship and rapport. But, beyond that also, we saw a meeting of the minds when it comes to global priorities, advancing economic prosperity, rule of



law, connectivity, energy security, food security, digital public infrastructure, all these priorities," said Ambassador Ignacio.

"I think as a leader, Prime Minister Modi has done much for India and India now is far different from the India of several decades ago. We see how India is well on its way to Viksit Bharat, and, of course, the Philippines supports India in that respect. I think that when it comes to developmental aspirations, both countries have much room to work together in order to meet

our respective desires and hopes and aspirations for our respective people. So, we're glad that the Philippines and India under our current leaders are cultivating such a good relationship and we give credit to Prime Minister Modi for helping bring our relations to such heights," he added.

The diplomat highlighted the growing trade ties between both countries and stated that both nations crossed the USD 3 billion mark while fast approaching to USD 4 billion. "I would say that

Philippines-India relations are at an all-time high and there is always room to elevate them even further. We are very satisfied that over the past few years, our relationship has expanded and intensified significantly. We are now strategic partners and under this we are cultivating broad-based cooperation from defence to even military cooperation," Ignacio told IANS. "In the economy, we are boosting our trade. In 2023, we crossed the US\$3 billion mark, and we are now approaching USD 4 billion... We have direct flights between our countries after more than a decade. Tourism is increasing significantly in both directions, aided by our more relaxed visa policy. For the Philippines, we relaxed visa access to Indians. Indians are visa-free for 14 days for tourism or short-term business. So, all these things, I think, sum up to a very good relationship, that is the basis for further growth," he added.

CM Vijay condemns Rahul's detention,

Renews demand to scrap NEET

Chennai (TSIT)

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam (TVK) president C. Joseph Vijay on Wednesday broke his silence over the nationwide protests over the NEET controversy, condemning the detention of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and other Opposition leaders in New Delhi and describing the police action against student protesters as "undemocratic."



Issuing a statement on social media platform X, Vijay said that TVK stood firmly with the Opposition parties protesting inside the Parliament complex following the police crackdown on demonstrators participating in the 'Sansad Chalo' march.

He also reiterated the party's unwavering opposition to the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET).

The Chief Minister said TVK has consistently maintained, ever since the party was founded, that NEET should be abolished permanently. He asserted that the party would not exploit the issue by making promises for electoral gains, adding that the examination has caused immense hardship to students and their families. Calling for structural reforms, Vijay said the permanent solution was to move education from the Concurrent List to the State List, enabling states to determine their own admission policies.

CM Naidu meets PM Modi, invites him for inauguration of Bhogapuram Airport



Amaravati (TSIT):

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi and invited him for the inauguration of Bhogapuram International Airport.

Accompanied by Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu and TDP parliamentary party leader Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu,

the Chief Minister called on the Prime Minister at Parliament House.

"Honoured to meet Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji in New Delhi today. I had the privilege of inviting the Hon'ble Prime Minister to Andhra Pradesh for the inauguration of Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport, Bhogapuram," Chandrababu Naidu posted on X.

Citizen welfare must remain at heart of all reforms: PM

New Delhi, July 22 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday told the top officials of the Central government at a high-level meeting that the welfare of citizens must remain at the heart of all reforms. PM Modi said reforms designed around people's needs should gather real momentum and deliver meaningful transformation. He highlighted that the objective of reforms was not merely to improve the functioning of the government, but to accelerate India's journey towards becoming a developed nation, according to a PMO statement issued after the meeting. The meeting with the Cabinet



Secretary and Secretaries of key ministries, at the Prime Minister's residence on 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, was held to review the progress of rural development, agriculture, social welfare and allied sectors towards Viksit Bharat Goals, the statement said.

The Prime Minister stressed the need for a whole-of-government approach to achieve the nation's development goals.

He further emphasised that the dream to build a Viksit Bharat should become a Jan Andolan and that India's youth should form the foundation of this vision.

PM Modi underscored the importance of tackling the serious issue of drug abuse among youth. He suggested that efforts should be made to develop an institutional mechanism to break departmental silos and foster greater inter-departmental coordination and convergence in youth-centric initiatives.

Govt willing to hold discussion on NEET paper leak issue: Rijiju tells LS



NEW DELHI: The government on Wednesday told the Lok Sabha that it is willing to hold a discussion on the NEET paper leak

issue, and urged Speaker Om Birla to convene a meeting of all parties to decide on the rule, date and duration of the debate.

As soon as the House reassembled at noon after an earlier adjournment, Birla asked Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren

Rijiju to make a statement but Congress leader K C Venugopal intervened to assert that the Opposition is also seeking the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Rijiju said the government is willing to hold a discussion on NEET paper leak issue but the Speaker will have to meet floor leaders of all parties to decide on the rule under which the discussion will be held, its date and duration.

Amid Opposition sloganeering, the House was adjourned till 2 pm. The opposition has been demanding a discussion on the NEET paper leak issue and is also seeking the resignation of Pradhan over the handling of the controversy over the alleged examination irregularities.

Thalliki Vandhanam a boon for poor students: Chittoor MP

Chittoor : Chittoor Parliament Member and Politburo Member Daggumalla Prasad Rao has praised the 'Thalliki Vandhanam' Scheme as a great boon for poor students. He described the Alliance Government as a synonym for trustworthiness and congratulated Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu as a leader who stands firmly by his promises.

The Alliance Government, honouring its commitment, has released the second instalment of the Thalliki Vandhanam scheme. While attending Parliament sessions in Delhi on Wednesday, Chittoor MP Daggumalla Prasad Rao expressed his



happiness over the direct credit of funds into the mothers' bank accounts.

The Andhra Pradesh Government is implementing the prestigious 'Thalliki Vandhanam' scheme with the noble objective that parents of poor students should not face financial difficulties in educating their children. Under this scheme, the government is directly transferring financial

assistance into the bank accounts of eligible students' mothers. This is a shining example of the Alliance Government's sincerity and commitment, the MP stated.

The government is providing Rs.15,000 per year to every eligible student. As part of this, a total of Rs.10,120.78 Crores have been released into the accounts of mothers of approximately 64.76 lakh students across the state.

Chittoor MP Daggumalla Prasad Rao clarified that students studying in government, aided, and local body schools are eligible for this scheme. He added that the scheme also applies to poor students studying Intermediate

courses. The scheme provides benefits for all children in a family, irrespective of the number of children, thereby paving the way for a bright future for students.

He emphasised that this scheme will serve as a great support for students who might otherwise drop out of studies due to poverty. Direct financial assistance to mothers will enable them to pay special attention to their children's education, he noted. On this occasion, Daggumalla Prasad Rao extended his heartfelt thanks to the Alliance Government for standing as a strong support to poor students through the Thalliki Vandhanam scheme.

Hi Life Jewels brings exclusive jewellery showcase to Hyderabad



Hyderabad: Hi Life Jewels is set to present an exclusive jewellery showcase in Hyderabad, featuring some of India's finest jewellery brands and their exquisite collections. The three-day event will showcase a wide range of diamond, gold, polki, kundana and precious gemstone jewellery, along with contemporary designs and bridal collections.

The exhibition aims to bring together timeless craftsmanship, luxury designs and modern elegance under one roof for jewellery enthusiasts and shoppers. Visitors can explore a curated selection of statement pieces, traditional heirlooms and bridal jewellery collections crafted by leading jewellers from across the country.



The event will be held on July 24, 25 and 26 at Novotel HICC, Hyderabad. With a focus on quality, artistry and unique designs, Hi Life Jewels offers an opportunity for customers to discover exceptional jewellery pieces suitable for weddings, celebrations and special occasions.

Road safety is key to protecting brain health, say KIMS ICON doctors



Visakhapatnam, July 22, 2026: Emphasising that adherence to road safety norms can significantly reduce the risk of serious brain injuries, doctors at KIMS ICON Hospital urged motorists to follow traffic regulations and adopt safe driving practices. The appeal was made during an awareness programme

organised on the occasion of World Brain Day to promote road safety and brain health.

Traffic Circle Inspector S.K. Hussain and Law & Order Circle Inspector Vasu Naidu attended the programme as chief guests. Sub-Inspectors Shantaram and Krishna were also present. Speaking on the occasion,

Dr. C.H. Vijay, Dr. Manasa, Dr. Nikhil Nagireddy, Dr. K.A. Naidu, Dr. Remvath and Dr. Jagadeesh said that road accidents frequently result in severe head injuries, leading to traumatic brain damage, intracranial bleeding and blood clots. Such injuries, they noted, can cause paralysis, speech impairment, memory loss and other long-term neurological disabilities.

They stressed that timely medical intervention during the critical "golden hour" following an accident can substantially improve survival and recovery. The doctors also advised motorists to avoid overspeeding and reckless driving.

Naseeruddin Shah, Ratna Pathak support protesting students, slam police action

NEW DELHI: His heart is aching and he is furious at the injustice meted out to the young by masked "goons" who remind him of American ICE agents, actor Naseeruddin Shah said on Wednesday in a strongly worded statement against the police crackdown on protesting students. "Sab yaad rakha jayega (Everything will be remembered)," Shah said in an emotional video posted on Instagram while asking students to continue their fight. The video came two days after police in the city cracked down on thousands of people, mostly students, who hit the streets of the capital in response to a 'Chalo Sansad' call to push for the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and voice their protest against irregularities in the exam system and NEET paper leaks.



Rajya Sabha adjourned till 2 pm as Opposition raises issue of police action against students

NEW DELHI: Rajya Sabha was adjourned till 2pm, for the second time on Wednesday, after Opposition members tried to raise the issue of police action against students protesting the NEET examination paper leak. "The House will meet again at 2 pm today," Deputy Chairman Hariwansh announced after his repeated requests to members to let the House function were ignored. The House proceedings began at 11



am, but as soon as the Leader of the Opposition and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge attempted to raise the issue of the baton charge and use of tear gas against student protesters earlier this week, Treasury bench members objected loudly, triggering a shouting match across the House. Before Kharge could complete even one sentence, Chairman C P Radhakrishnan adjourned the proceedings until noon.

Medicover Hospitals Secunderabad Gives New Lease of Life to Baby Born at Just 25 Weeks

Secunderabad, July 22, 2026: The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) team at Medicover Hospitals, Secunderabad, successfully treated an extremely premature baby boy born under highly critical circumstances, demonstrating excellence in advanced neonatal care.

The baby was delivered at just 25 weeks and 3 days of gestation, weighing only 816 grams, making him an extremely preterm infant.

During pregnancy, the mother developed several high-risk complications, including Preterm Premature Rupture of Membranes (PPROM), severe oligohydramnios, chorioamnionitis, and a urinary tract infection (UTI). Soon after birth, the baby developed severe respiratory distress and was immediately admitted to the NICU, where he received comprehensive advanced neonatal care.

The infant was managed with advanced respiratory support and received Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN) through PICC and central



venous lines. Throughout the treatment, Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), and the unwavering support of the multidisciplinary medical team, nursing staff, and the baby's parents played a crucial role in his recovery.

The baby recovered successfully without major complications such as intracranial hemorrhage (brain bleeding) or Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP). He is now healthy, steadily gaining weight, and achieving normal developmental milestones.

Doctors stated that the baby will continue to undergo regu-

lar follow-up evaluations to closely monitor his growth and overall development. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Deepa Dharanappa Shetty, Senior Neonatologist & Pediatrician, said, "Successfully discharging a baby born at just 25 weeks of gestation and weighing only 816 grams is a proud milestone for our NICU team. This achievement reflects the combined efforts of our experienced multidisciplinary team, state-of-the-art neonatal infrastructure, the importance of breast milk, Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), and the unwavering commitment of the baby's

parents. With timely intervention and quality neonatal care, even extremely premature babies have a significantly better chance of surviving and leading healthy lives."

Present on the occasion were Dr. Srujana S., Senior Consultant - Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Laparoscopic Surgeon & Infertility Specialist; Dr. Madhavi Dokku, Senior Consultant - Gynaecological Oncologist, Obstetrician & Gynaecologist; Dr. Sajitha Reddy, Consultant - Neonatologist & Pediatrician; Ms. Krishnaveni, Centre Head; and Dr. Prashanth, Medical Superintendent.

Bank of Baroda Telangana North Region Celebrates 119th Foundation Day with CSR Initiative at PM Kendriya Vidyalaya, AFS Begumpet.

Hyderabad, July 22, 2026: As part of the 119th Foundation Day celebrations, Bank of Baroda, Regional Office, Telangana North under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative has sponsored an RO Water Purification Plant to PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, AFS Begumpet, Hyderabad.

As part of the celebrations, an Essay Writing Competition was also conducted for students and prizes were distributed to the winners in recognition of their creativity. The event was graced by Mr. Sanil Kumar B, DGM, Regional Manager, Telangana North Region and Mr. Abhishek Bharti, AGM, Deputy Regional Manager, Telangana North Region along with Branch Heads & Staff members.

From PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, Mr. R Venkateshwar Rao, Principal of the school, along with faculty members and students, actively participated in the programme. Speaking on the occasion, the school authorities expressed their heartfelt grati-



tude to Bank of Baroda for providing the RO Water Plant, stating that it will greatly benefit the students by ensuring access to safe and clean drinking water. They appreciated the Bank's commitment towards community welfare and its continued efforts to contribute positively to

society. Bank of Baroda remains committed to its legacy of service and nation-building by undertaking initiatives that promote education, health and social well-being in line with its vision of being ONE TEAM, ONE GOAL, ONE BANK.

Protests against the NEET controversy escalate across TN

COIMBATORE : Protests against the NEET escalated across Tamil Nadu, with various organisations demanding the examination's abolition and the immediate resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Members of Students' Federation of India (SFI) and Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI), both pro-CPI(M) organisations, staged an agitation in Coimbatore to express solidarity with students protesting in New Delhi.

DYFI District Secretary Dinesh Raja strongly condemned the Union government and Delhi Police for cracking down on



parliament-bound students and arresting activist Sonam Wangchuk, who has been on a hunger strike since June 20. Raja demanded Wangchuk's unconditional

release and strict action against the police personnel responsible for brutality against the Jantar Mantar protesters.

The student leaders

criticised the Tamil Nadu police for detaining demonstrators in Chennai, Madurai, and Mayiladuthurai, questioning the absence of a designated protest venue like Jantar Mantar in the state. Citing the loss of 20 student lives nationally due to NEET, the organisations announced a 48-hour wait-in protest in Coimbatore, even as police intervened to detain the demonstrating activists.

In a related development in Chennai, CJP (Cockroach Janata Party) members continued their protest over the ongoing issue for the third consecutive day, with visuals depicting the sustained agitation.

Tamil Nadu names breakfast scheme after Kamaraj, expansion launch on Sept 17

CHENNAI: After pioneering the initiative to provide free meal to ensure that children were sent to school by parents, which later became a model for the country and the world, late chief minister K Kamaraj finally got due credit after the State government decided to name the free breakfast scheme after the Congress leader.

The government also announced that the expansion of the scheme to include students of Classes 6 to 8 would be launched on September 17.

This is also considered to be a deft political move by the alliance leader TVK, as the move would endear itself with the Congress, a key constituent in the ruling



ing coalition.

According to a government order issued by Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department Secretary M Pallavi Baldev, the expansion of Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme will benefit 15,14,274 students studying

in 15,454 government schools across the State. The government has allocated Rs 217.63 crore for the expansion.

Incidentally, the order is dated July 15, Kamaraj's birth anniversary, and the expansion will be launched on September 17, the birth anniversary of Dravidian icon Periyar EV Ramasamy.

"The scheme will be extended to 447 schools in Chennai, where the Commissioner of the Greater Chennai Corporation will oversee its implementation," the order said. In the remaining districts, the scheme implementation will be monitored by Collectors.

Protium

PROTIUM FINANCE LIMITED
(Erstwhile Growth Source Financial Technologies Limited)

Registered & Corporate Office Address: 7th Floor, Block B2, Phase - I Nirilon Knowledge Park, Pahadi Village, Off. Western Express Highway, Cama Industrial Estate, Goregaon(E), Mumbai - 400052, Maharashtra

POSSSESSION NOTICE (U/S 13(4) & As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

WHEREAS, the undersigned, being the Authorized Officer of Protium Finance Limited (erstwhile Growth Source Financial Technologies Ltd.) (hereinafter referred to as "Protium Finance Limited"), under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) (the "SARFAESI Act"), and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 14th May 2026, calling upon the Borrowers Anandhan Coconut Traders Through its Proprietor Ananthan M S/O Mokkaipandian, And The Co-Borrowers: 1. Vidhya Anandhan W/o Ananthan M. 2. Ananthan M S/O Mokkaipandian, in respect of the Loan Account Bearing No. GS099EEL2484610, to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice, being INR 27.63,152.63/- (Twenty Seven Lakh Sixty Three Thousand One Hundred Fifty Two Rupees and Sixty Three Paise Only) as on 14th May 2026 together, within 60 (sixty) days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herebelow, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, on this 21st July 2026. The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property, and any dealings with the property shall be subject to the charge of Protium Finance Limited for an amount of INR 27.63,152.63/- (Twenty Seven Lakh Sixty Three Thousand One Hundred Fifty Two Rupees and Sixty Three Paise Only) as on 14th May 2026 together with further interest thereon, and all costs, charges, and expenses incurred. The borrowers' attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY -

1st Item Of Property (Settlement Deed Doc. No. 4018/2025) In Theni District, Periyakulam Registration District, Bodinayakanur Sub Registration Office, Bodinayakanur Taluk, B. Meenakshipuram Village, B. Anakkaraipatti Panchayat, B. Meenavilakku, Ward No. 9, Meenavilakku Main Road, Patta No. 976, Property In Survey Nos. 232/1A1 & 232/1A2, As Per Sub-Division Survey Nos. 232/1A1A, 232/1A2A, 232/6 & 232/7, On The Western Side To An Extent Of 90 Cents, In That Southern Side South Portion To An Extent Of 1303/3 Sq. Ft., Sub-Division Survey No. 232/19, The Said House Site Property Along With A RCC Building Property Therein, Bearing Old Door No. 429, New Door No. 429/B, Door No. 429/E, Within The Following Common Four Boundaries: North By : Property Belongs To Eswari, South By : Property Belongs To Eswari W/o Thavakodi, East By : Property In Survey No. 232/1A2B Belongs To Sakkarai Devar Vagayara, West By : Road Towards B. Anakkaraipatti The Said House Site Property Along With A RCC Building Property Therein, Bearing Door No. 429/E, With Tax Assessment No. 1385, 2nd Item Of Property (Settlement Deed Doc. No. 4017/2025) In Theni District, Periyakulam Registration District, Bodinayakanur Sub Registration Office, Bodinayakanur Taluk, B. Meenakshipuram Village, B. Anakkaraipatti Panchayat, B. Meenavilakku, Ward No. 9, Meenavilakku Main Road, Patta No. 976, Property In Survey Nos. 232/1A1 & 232/1A2, As Per Sub-Division Survey Nos. 232/1A1A, 232/1A2A, 232/6 & 232/7, On The Western Side To An Extent Of 90 Cents, In That Southern Side North Portion To An Extent Of 1303/3 Sq. Ft., Sub-Division Survey No. 232/18, The Said House Site Property Along With A RCC Building Property Therein, Bearing Old Door No. 429, New Door No. 429/B, Door No. 429/E, Within The Following Common Four Boundaries: North By : Property Belongs To Amaraty, South By : Property Belongs To Eswari W/o Thavakodi, East By : Property In Survey No. 232/1A2B Belongs To Sakkarai Devar Vagayara, West By : Road Towards B. Anakkaraipatti, The Said House Site Property Along With A RCC Building Property Therein, Bearing Door No. 429/B, With Tax Assessment No. 1386.

Date: 21st July 2026
Place: Theni, Tamil Nadu

Sd./- For Protium Finance Limited
Authorised Officer

Student members of DYFI protest in Tiruchy, arrested

BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Office: Bajaj Finance Limited, Off Pune-Ahmednagar Road, Viman Nagar, Pune - 411014 Branch Office: Senar Rivera Building No.70 First and Second Floor, Spurtank road Chetpet, Chennai- 600031 Branch Office: Ground Floor, Kamla Towers, Plot NO - 2, Indora Square Kampelee Road, Beside JT Mall, Nagpur, Maharashtra 440017

POSSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bajaj Finance Limited (BFL), under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Sec.13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand by registered post ("Notice") calling upon the Borrowers/Co-borrowers mentioned hereunder to repay the amount mentioned in the notice U/s 13(2) of the said Act within a period of 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors named below having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors and public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Sec.13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

The borrowers in particular and public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealing with this property will be subject to the charge of the Bajaj Finance Limited, for the amount mentioned herein below along with interest thereon at contracted rate.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Loan Account No./Name of the Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Immovable Property	Date of Notice U/s.13(2) and U/s.13(2) Notice Amount and Date of Possession
403LTFPP117905 Anandraj Raju Kuppuswamy (Borrower) Kamakshi K Rajuswami (Co-borrower) Both At - No.92, 15th Block, Ground Flr, 13, Thirunagar, Villivakkam Thirunagar Park, Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600049	All that piece and parcel of Plot No.13, total adm area 139.41 sq.m in the lay out slum clearance Backward Class Co-op Housing Society as per Sale Deed 139.3540 Sq.m as per Ri 132.4960 Sq.m, Khasara No.130/4, Ph No.11, City Survey No.279, N.M.C. House No. 2470/A/13, Ward No.57 Mudda No.4 Mauza Nari Tal Dist Nagpur	22/04/2026 Rs.23,32,648/- (Rupees Twenty-Three Lakh Thirty-Two Thousand Six Hundred and Forty-Eight Only) as on 21/04/26 Possession Date 20/07/2026

Date: 22.07.2026 Place: CHENNAI / NAGPUR Sd/- Authorized Officer, Bajaj Finance Limited

TIRUCHY: There was a minor scuffle between the members of the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) and the police when they attempted to block traffic at the busy Head Post Office Road in Tiruchy City on Wednesday in support of the student protest in Delhi against NEET.

As the protest against the NEET and resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in Delhi by students led by the CJP, the student members belonging to DYFI assembled near the BSNL office adjacent to the Head Post Office signal, a busy road in Tiruchy City, on Wednesday and staged a protest. They expressed their solidarity with the protesters in Delhi and raised slogans against the Union Education Minister and demanded his resignation.

They also demanded to scrap NEET for medical admissions and went on raising slogans. Suddenly, they went to the middle of the road and attempted to block the traffic, and soon, the police, who were on duty, held talks with the agitators and asked them to ease the traffic. This triggered a minor scuffle between the police and the protesters. But still, the protesting members continued to block the traffic, and so, the police forcibly removed them one by one and took them to the police vehicle. As many as 10 members,



including a woman, were arrested. Traffic was disrupted for a while, and the

members continued to raise slogans while being taken away by the police.

KNBFC

KRAZYBEE SERVICES LIMITED
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS KRAZYBEE SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED)
KrazyBee Services Limited Regd.Office: 3rd Floor, No. 128/9, Maruthi Sapphire, 35, HAL Old Airport Road, Murugesahally, Bangalore, Karnataka 560017

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") read with Rule 8(6) and 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "the Rules").

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Co Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) or their legal heir(s) or representative(s) that the below described immovable property(s) mortgaged/charged to KrazyBee Services Limited (hereinafter referred to the Secured Creditor), the possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of KrazyBee Services Limited (hereinafter referred to as the "Secured Creditor") having its Registered Office at 3rd Floor, No.128/9, Maruthi Sapphire, HAL, Old Airport Road, Murgesh Palya, Bangalore, Karnataka 560 017 and Branch Office at KrazyBee Services Limited, No.2588, First Floor., Avadi Bye Pass Road, Thiruvallur - 602001, Tamil Nadu., will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is", "Whatever there is", "Without Recourse" basis on the dates mentioned below for realization of the amount due to the Secured Creditor from the borrowers, co borrowers and guarantors. The Auction sale will be done through Online and the details are mentioned below.

Loan Account Number and Name of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice u/s 13(2) Date and Amount	Date and Type of Possession and Outstanding Amount
BL250326ZEPJG 1. Anandhi J.2. U John Michael Above 1 & 2 residing at: 35, Rangappa Naidu Nagar, Mosur Road, Arakkonam Vellore, Ranipet, Tamil Nadu 631 001	03-02-2026 / Rs.35,07,300/- (Rupees Thirty-Five Lakhs Seven Thousand Three Hundred Only) standing due as on 18.12.2025 Bid Increase Amount: Multiples of Rs.50,000/- (Multiples of Rupees Fifty Thousand only)	22-04-2026 Physical Possession Rs.35,07,300/- (Rupees Thirty-Five Lakhs Seven Thousand Three Hundred Only) standing due as on 18-08-2026

Reserve Price: Rs.65,41,560/- / Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) 10% of the Reserve Price / EMD Deposition Last Date : 18-08-2026
Date and Time of Inspection of the property: 10-08-2026 / Date and Time of Auction: Date: 19-08-2026, Time: 10am to 5pm

Description of the Immovable Property/ Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of the Vacant land situated at Arakkonam Town, Kalivarkandigai, Arundhadiapalayam, Arakkonam Tk, Ranipet Dt., admeasuring 408.77 Sq. Mtr (or) 4400 Sq. Ft of land comprised in Survey No. 30/3A, Ward No.C, Block No.3, T.S. No.12/4, as per patta Ward No. C, Block No.7, T. S.No.97, (Old T.S.No.12/2 & 3 Part) situate within the Sub- Registration District of Arakkonam and the Registration District of Ranipet being bounded on the hereunder : North by : Property of Bakthavachala Naidu, South by : Road & Vacant land, East by : Property of Chinnna Pilla, West by: Property of Kesavai Naidu, Measuring East to West on the Both Sides : 110 Ft., North to South on the Both Sides: 40 Ft Admeasuring 408.77 Sq. Mtr (or) 4400 Sq. Ft of Vacant land

For further Details please contact : Lokesh R; Mobile No. 9962906555 and Manjunath; Mobile No. 9980219262

Auction/Bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website <https://www.foreclosureindia.com> or <https://www.bankauction.in>. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms & conditions before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.

Mode of Payment :- All payment shall be made through RTGS/ NEFT/ Fund transfer to : KrazyBee Services Limited, Account Number: 002281300003756, IFSC Code: YESB00000022, Bank Name: Yes Bank, Kasturba Road Branch, Bangalore - 560001

Place : Thiruvallur, Date : 23.07.2026 Sd./- Authorised Officer, KrazyBee Services Limited

Muthoot Homefin

Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd.
Corporate Office: Unit No. 19-NE, 19th Floor, The Ruby, Senapati Bapat Marg, Near Ruparel College, Dadar (West), Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400 028

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. (MHIL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower/s (the "said Borrower"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s issued to them that are also given below.

In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower to pay to MHIL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest at 2% p.m. as detailed in the said Demand Notices, from the dates mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrowers. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to MHIL by the said Borrowers respectively.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor/ Loan Account No./Branch	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
1.	Veeramani/ Reshika/ CHE-HL-000598/ Chennai	Rs. 39,02,699.35/- Rupees Thirty Nine Lakh Two Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Nine and Paise Thirty Six Only.	30-Jun-2026	Flat Bearing No. S-1, A Block On The Second Floor, Having A Build Up Area of 995 Sq. Ft., Together With Un-Divided Share of 507 Sq.ft., Out of Total Land Extent of 9000 Sq. Ft., In Apartment Know As "Ala Classic", Comprised In Survey No. 168/3C, Situated At Door No. 24/67, Shanmugam Mudali Street, Anakaputtur Village, Pallavaram Taluk, Chengalpatt District, Situate Within The Sub-registration District of Pammal and The Registration District of Tambaram Within The Boundaries Hereunder North By: Property of Nunusamy South By: Property of Rathnasabapathy and Remaining Property of Ravi. East By: Shanuga Mudali Street and Remaining Property of Ravi. West By: Property of Siva Subramanija Swami Kovil.

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to MHIL as aforesaid, MHIL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of MHIL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made thereunder, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: July 23, 2026
Place: Chennai

Sd/-Authorized Officer,
Muthoot Homefin (India) Limited

L&T Finance Limited

Registered Office: L&T Finance Limited, Brindavan Building Plot No. 177, Kalina, CST Road, Near Mercedes Showroom Santacruz (East), Mumbai 400 098
CIN No.: L67120MH2008PLC181833
Branch office: Chennai

PUBLIC AUCTION FOR SALE OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY

The Authorised Officer of L&T Finance Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 [54 Of 2002] and in exercise of powers conferred under the said Act is auctioning the following property on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION" by way of "PUBLIC AUCTION" for recovery of its dues and further interest, charges and costs etc.

Name of Borrower and Co-Borrower	Secured Property Address	Loan Account Number(s)	Physical Possession taken	Earnest Money Deposit 10% or more of RP (in ₹)	Secured Debt	Reserve Price (in ₹)	Date of Inspection	Date and Time of Auction
1. Ravi A 2. Chitra R 3. Dreamland Designs (through its Proprietor Ravi A)	All The Piece And Parcel Of The Property Address: Property Bearing Plot No. 5, Building Approval From The Commissioner, Pallavaram Municipality, Vide His Planning Permit Ppa No. 283, Ppl No. 623/06/f2 Dated 14.07.2006, For Member Secretary No. Cmtd, Chennai 600008 And The Commissioner, Pallavaram Municipality's Ka. Ma. No. 83, Ka. Aa. No. 538/06/f2, Dated 14/07/2006, Situated At Old Village No. 90, New Village No. 21, Zamin Pallavaram Village, Bashyam Street, Radha Nagar, Chrompet, Chennai, 600044, Comprised In Survey No. 455/2 And 456, Patta No. 56, Measuring An Extent Of 447 Sq.ft., Undivided Share Of Land In 4500 Sq.ft., Together With Flat No. A In The First Floor, Having A Plinth Area Of Flat Measuring 1100 Sq.ft., In Tambaram Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Within The Registration District Of Chennai South And Sub Registration District Of Pallavaram Bounded On The	CHNHL18 000509 CHNHL18 000556	26th July 2025	Rs. 3,71,250/-	As per Demand Notice dated 13-03-2023 Total outstanding dues is Rs. 39,44,936.76/- as on date 13-03-2023	Rs. 37,12,500/- BID INCREMEN TAL VALUE Rs. 25,000/-	On all 03/08/2026 working day from 10:00 to 12:00 P.M with prior appointment.	from 11:00 to 12:00 PM
Boundaries	East Bashyam Street West House-site Owned By Sri Vellai Pandithan North Plot No. 4 Owned By S. Senkamlavathi Ammal Alias Sindira South Plot No. 6							
Measuring	Northen Side : 116 Feet, Southern Side : 110 Feet, Eastern Side : 40 Feet, Western Side : 40 Feet, From Measuring East To West Northern Side 103 Ft From Southern Measuring - 72 Ft From North To South - 71 Ft Totally 6212.5 Sq. Ft							

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PUBLIC AUCTION

1. The E-auction Sale is being conducted online by the Authorised Officer through the website <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/> under the provisions of SARFAESI Act with the aid and through public e-Auction mode.

2. The public E-auction will be conducted on the date and time mentioned herein above, when the secured asset/s mentioned above will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS & "AS IS WHAT IT IS" CONDITION.

3. For participating in the public E-auction, intending purchasers/bidders will have to submit the details of payment of refundable Earnest Money Deposit of 10 % of the reserve price of the secured assets along with copies of the PANCARD, Board Resolutions in case of company and Address Proof on or before 10/08/2026 till 6:00

4. The EMD of all other bidders who did not succeed in the public E-auction will be refunded by LTF within 7 days of the closure of the public E-auction. The EMD will not carry any interest.

5. The successful purchaser/bidder shall deposit the 25 % (inclusive of EMD) of his/its offer by way of by way of D.D./P. Of favoring "L&T Finance Limited" payable at Mumbai on or before 18:00 hours on 11/08/2026 i.e., day of e-auction or on the next working day i.e., 12/08/2026, which deposit will have to be confirmed by L&T Finance Limited, failing which the sale will be deemed have been failed and the EMD of the said successful bidder shall be forfeited. The balance amount i.e., 75% of purchase price payable shall be paid by the purchaser to L&T Finance Limited on or before the fifteenth day of confirmation of sale of immovable property or such extended period as per provisions of law.

6. For inspection of property or more information, the prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer i.e. Name - Mr. Satheesha R. Mr. Vikas Singh, Contact No. 8669189048 L & T Finance Limited, Brindavan Building, Plot No 177, Kalina, CST Road, Near Mercedes Showroom, SantaCruz (East), Mumbai - 400 098. At any stage of the E-auction, the Authorised Officer may accept/reject/modify/cancel the bid/offer or post-pone the E-auction without assigning any reason

7. The successful purchaser/bidder shall bear any statutory dues, taxes, fees payable, stamp duty, registration fees, etc. that is required to be paid in order to get the property conveyed/delivered in his/her/its favour as per the applicable law.

8. The Borrower/Guarantors, who are liable for the said outstanding dues, shall treat this Sale Notice as a notice under Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, about the holding of above-mentioned public E-auction sale.

9. The Borrower (s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) are hereby called up on to pay the entire loan outstanding dues as mentioned above before the said E-auction date failing which the L&T Finance Ltd shall sale the property as per the provisions laid down in the SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

10. The Borrower (s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) public at large are hereby restrained from transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise with the secured assets referred to in the notice without prior written consent of L&T Finance Limited.

Date: 23.07.2026
Place: Chennai

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
For L&T Finance Limited

EDITORIAL

A Rs 5,000 Fine Can't
Fix India's 'Babu' Raj.
But It's A Start

One small step for the government, and a giant leap for governance? That's the question that popped up in my mind this week as I read about an interesting decision by the Delhi government's cabinet to fine officials a maximum of Rs 5,000 if their service for citizens is delayed without a valid justification. If it is approved as expected, the Delhi (Right of Citizen to Time Bound and Ease of Delivery of Service) Bill replaces/upgrades a similar 2011 Act. As the name suggests, it holds itself accountable to citizens with a proposal to impose a fine of Rs 250 a day, with a Rs 5,000 ceiling.

In principle, this is a great idea and also reflects an increasing democratisation of governance in which elected leaders pressure the bureaucracy to do what is expected of them. But there is a very long way to go, because in India, which the UK's The Economist magazine once described as "a natural habitat of the clerk," there is a lot to do to undo the process-driven bureaucratisation that the magazine's land of birth itself left in its imperial stamp on its colony. The very same magazine recently ran a self-explanatory editorial titled, "Why can't India's government build a decent website?", and moaned about clunky online experiences among "failures of "Indian officialdom". Any casual watcher of the old BBC comedy series, "Yes, Minister", would be assured that "Great" Britain has been not so great in political control over bureaucrats. The culture is such. It does get tricky. How do you hold bureaucrats and lower-level government officials responsible in a system in which incentives and disincentives have to be balanced with costs, processes, and public accountability to legislators and institutions like the Comptroller and Auditor General? A rule-based system cannot easily function like an incentive-based culture or a severe hire-and-fire mechanism.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is officially aware of the bureaucracy problem, but the solution requires re-engineering a culture from the bottom up. The ongoing controversy over the alphabet soup of state-run public examinations, NEET, CUET, and CBSE school exams, suggests that ministers and bureaucrats need to be sensitive to an increasing mass of aware citizens demanding accountability and efficient service. Again, the buck-passing involving politicians and so-called autonomous bodies, such as the National Testing Agency, shows that you cannot have autonomy without accountability, and you cannot absolve yourself of a responsibility by pointing to a structural autonomy designed to reduce bureaucratisation.

Much like the inflation-interest rate trade-off in macro-economics, this requires a trade-off between empowerment that improves efficiency and transparency that ensures there is no abuse of power.

Outsourcing things to private agencies, often risking underhand corruption as well as the "Li syndrome" in which the lowest bidder in a contract need not necessarily be the best service provider, is a trade-off between transparency at low cost and the public's desire to get better services.

A SNUB, A CANCELLED VISIT:

WHY TRUMP DOESN'T EVEN WANT
TO SEE NETANYAHU ANYMORE

It was just over five months ago that President Trump invited Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to the White House's Situation Room, a rare honour for a foreign leader. The highly classified event, attended by the top security teams of both countries, was arranged at Netanyahu's request to persuade Trump to launch a joint military operation against Iran. The Israeli leader managed to convince the President that this was an opportunity for the US to secure a quick victory, similar to the one it achieved in Venezuela a month earlier. But that proved to be not only a major miscalculation but also the worst foreign policy decision by a US president in decades.

Trump is now so annoyed with Netanyahu that he doesn't even want to meet him. After failing to get an appointment with the President, the Israeli leader had to cancel his planned Monday visit to Washington. In recent weeks, Trump has humiliated Netanyahu by calling him 'crazy' and using expletives during phone calls. Last month, he told the Financial Times, "I call all the shots." Referring to Netanyahu, he added, "he doesn't call the shots". It is a remarkable fall from grace and power for the veteran Israeli leader, who, for over three decades, openly confronted and sometimes even lectured US presidents, without jeopardising his position or damaging Israel's special relationship with the United States. But that has now changed.

Shifting US Opinion

For the first time since the State of Israel's establishment in 1948, the US political consensus in Israel's favour is under the most serious strain, largely due to Netanyahu's actions. Last week, more than 100 Democratic members of the House of Representatives (about half of their strength) voted to end \$3 billion in military and humanitarian aid to Israel. Although the proposal was defeated, prominent Democrats, including Nancy Pelosi, Katherine Clark of



Massachusetts (the minority whip), and Ro Khanna, backed it. Israel has been the largest recipient of US foreign aid since World War II, receiving over \$300 billion between 1946 and 2025. The proposal to cut aid was intended as a protest against the actions of the Israeli government in Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon. Israel can't survive without military and economic aid from the United States. A week earlier, Rahm Emanuel, chief of staff in the Obama White House and a potential Democratic Party nominee for the 2028 Presidential election, delivered a stern message to Israel. Emanuel, who is Jewish and whose father was born in Jerusalem, told Tel Aviv University that the US-Israel alliance "can not stand or survive as it has been" and needs significant changes and a new direction. He attacked Netanyahu's leadership, which he said had turned Israel into a "territorial pariah", adding that America's "unconditional support has allowed you to deny food and medical relief to innocent Palestinians in Gaza,

leaving the world to conclude that Israelis not only want to kill Palestinians, but are completely indifferent to their death, to their destruction and completely indifferent to their suffering". Even sections of the Republican Party, which were earlier staunch supporters of Israel, are now openly critical of its government. The Vice President, JD Vance, who warned Netanyahu a month ago that President Trump was Israel's only ally, last week accused it of funding a campaign to manipulate US public opinion about the Iran war and to undermine negotiations to end the conflict. These developments reflect shifting public opinion in the United States about Israel, particularly since Netanyahu's disproportionate military campaign in Gaza following the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023. More than 72,000 Palestinians were killed in that campaign. In February, a Gallup survey found - for the first time in the poll's history - that more Americans now sympathise with Palestinians than with Israelis.. In April, a Pew survey found that

60% of Americans have an unfavourable view of the Israeli government. The survey also found that, across both political parties, majorities of adults under 50 now rate Israel and Netanyahu negatively. Among Democrats, the figure was 84%.

Trump-Netanyahu Bromance

Soon after taking office, Trump announced a plan to 'relocate' Palestinians from Gaza to new homes elsewhere and presented a stunning proposal. He suggested that the US would take ownership of the strip and build what he called the "Riviera of the Middle East". Netanyahu was thrilled, as it gave him a political lifeline. However, Trump soon realised the plan was unrealistic, and the Gaza war was becoming increasingly unpopular in the US. With some Israeli hostages still held by Hamas, the dealmaker in Trump saw an opportunity. Within months, he presented his 20-point peace plan for Gaza and imposed a ceasefire on both Israel and Hamas. This marked the first setback for Netanyahu, who wanted

the conflict to continue.

Lasting Damage

But Netanyahu had a bigger plan: to invade Iran. He had been trying to persuade American presidents to attack the Islamic Republic for more than three decades, but all had turned down the idea, except Trump. The Israeli leader had already convinced him during his first term to abandon the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), negotiated by President Obama. In June 2025, Trump decided to bomb Iran's nuclear facilities during the war started by Israel, even though the US and Iran were negotiating a new nuclear agreement at the time. The US decision to join Israel's war in February was seen in Israel as a major success for Netanyahu.

But as we know now, the war has trapped Trump, forcing him to sign a humiliating MOU with Iran, which has emerged as a more radical and uncompromising country. Tehran now has leverage to halt a fifth of the world's energy supplies passing through the Strait of Hormuz. No wonder Trump is frustrated and angry with Netanyahu. It's been even worse for Israel, making the Jewish nation more insecure and destroying Netanyahu's Mr Security brand at home. One of his war aims was to gain popularity and get re-elected in the October elections. But that now looks increasingly unlikely as Netanyahu is blamed for the debacle in Iran. Two opinion polls published in the past few days in Israel predict a narrow victory for the opposition in the upcoming election. One poll gives Netanyahu's coalition only 48 seats in the upcoming election, while another gives it 50, still short of the 61-seat mark for a majority in the Knesset. Netanyahu's Questionable Record

The Iran war is the culmination of a series of actions by Netanyahu over the years that have harmed Israel's reputation overseas and damaged its special relationship with the United States.

CRISIS IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM:

Why Won't the Government Accept
the Education Minister's Resignation?

Saurabh Varshney

A nation's greatest asset is not its natural resources, but its young generation. It is these young people who lay the foundation for the country's future. If their dreams, hard work, and future are jeopardized, it becomes not merely an administrative failure but a matter of national concern. Recent incidents involving the leaking of question papers for various competitive examinations across the country have deeply shaken the confidence of millions of students. Today, lakhs of students are asking: if the value of their hard work is not secure, what meaning remains in their years of struggle? Just as the government is quick to claim credit for the successful conduct of examinations, the New Education Policy, or reforms in the education sector, it must also accept moral responsibility for the failures of the examination system. In a democratic setup, accountability is not limited to achievements alone; accepting responsibility for failures is also an essential principle of good governance. The recurring incidents of question paper leaks in various parts of the country are not merely technical glitches. They indicate a serious institutional weakness within the examination system. Each time, an inquiry committee is formed, arrests are made, and assurances are given—yet, after a

while, the same incidents recur. This cycle has eroded the students' trust. Today, the country's students are compelled to take to the streets to demand their rights. Students are staging peaceful protests at various locations, including Jantar Mantar in the capital, Delhi. Amidst lathi-charges, scorching heat, rain, and harsh conditions, they have but one demand: that their hard work and future be safeguarded. It is an irony that the youth power, which ought to be in libraries and laboratories, is forced to stage sit-ins and protests for its rights. In a democracy, protest is not a crime. The Constitution grants every citizen the right to express their views peacefully. Instead of viewing the students' voices through a political lens, it is essential to understand their anguish. After all, they are not demanding special privileges; they merely seek fair examinations and equal opportunities. At this juncture, the question naturally arises: will the Ministry of Education accept moral responsibility for this entire sequence of events? In Indian democracy, ministers have often established a tradition of accountability by resigning on moral grounds. A resignation is not a personal defeat; rather, it can symbolize accountability to the system and respect for democratic values. However, it is equally important to recognize that

a minister's resignation alone is not a permanent solution. If the flaws plaguing the entire examination system are not rectified, the same problems could recur even under a new minister. Therefore, comprehensive reforms are needed—such as the use of state-of-the-art technology in conducting exams, a secure digital system for question papers, swift and stringent action against the guilty, effective control over the 'exam mafia,' and the establishment of a transparent investigation mechanism. The government must also understand that today's generation seeks results, not mere assurances. Known as 'Gen-Z,' this generation is tech-savvy, conscious of its rights, and expects accountability. If their hard work repeatedly falls victim to systemic weaknesses, it is natural for their faith in democratic institutions to erode. The role of the opposition is also crucial here. In a democracy, the opposition's duty is not merely to criticize the government but also to convey the voices of the public—especially the youth—to Parliament and society at large. If students take to the streets to voice their grievances, listening to them and providing a proper platform for their concerns is part of the democratic obligation. At the same time, any agitation must remain entirely peaceful and within constitutional bounds. Today, the paramount ques-

tion concerns not just any single individual, but the credibility of the entire education system. If the country's meritorious students begin to feel that success is determined not by their hard work but by leaked question papers or organized corruption, it poses a serious threat to the process of nation-building. The government currently faces both an opportunity and a challenge. If it adopts a path of transparency, accountability, and comprehensive reforms, the trust of students can be regained. However, if matters remain limited to mere assurances and inquiry committees, the chasm of discontent and mistrust will only widen. This is the time to rise above politics and make decisions in the national interest. The future of students is greater than any government, political party, or individual. Restoring the credibility of the education system is not solely the government's obligation but the responsibility of the entire democracy. Accountability must be fixed, the guilty must face severe punishment, the examination system must undergo lasting reforms, and the nation's youth must be assured that their hard work will be respected. For a nation's future is secure only when the trust of its students is secure.

-The author is a senior journalist, thinker, and political commentator.

Student protests: Debate straying from
issues and concerns about the future

— Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

In a democracy, protest is not only a right but also an effective means of ensuring accountability. When serious flaws in the system are exposed, the public raises its voice and demands answers from the government. Especially when the future of millions of students is at stake, the voice of protest becomes even more natural. Reports of alleged irregularities and paper leaks in national exams like NEET have alarmed youth and their parents across the country. After years of hard work, when the fairness of an exam is questioned, it is not unusual for outrage to arise. But this entire incident also raises a significant question: is the purpose of student movements truly the future of students, or are they gradually becoming a platform for political and ideological conflicts? The greatest strength of any student movement is its morality. When students fight for their rights and future, society stands with them. Parents, teachers, and ordinary citizens also consider their demands justified. But as the focus of the movement shifts and topics unrelated to the original issue begin to surface, its credibility is bound to be questioned. If the platform for protesting exam irregularities becomes the center of slogans, speeches, or controversies that have no direct connection to the education system, the movement's gravity diminishes and the real issue is left behind. Today, the country's youth is troubled by

paper leaks. They worry that years of hard work may be wasted due to some criminal gang. In such a situation, the most important questions should be how to stop paper leaks, how to make the examination system more secure, how quickly and severely will the culprits be punished, and what institutional reforms will be implemented to prevent such incidents in the future. If these fundamental questions are replaced by political slogans and debates about opposition to or support for the government, the path to a solution is weakened. It must also be acknowledged that paper leaks are not a new problem. Cases of irregularities in various competitive examinations have been reported in different states, under different governments. This clearly demonstrates that the problem is not limited to a single party, a single minister, or a single government. The problem lies within the very system that criminal gangs are able to infiltrate. Therefore, if discussions are limited to political accusations and counter-accusations, the real culprits will escape, and students will suffer again and again. A minister's resignation may be a matter of democratic accountability, but it is not a definitive solution in itself. Changing ministers will only transform the system if administrative reforms, technical security, transparent investigations, and strict punishment are implemented. Without addressing the root causes, simply changing faces will

not change the outcome. Therefore, the focus of student movements should be on systemic reform, not individuals. In the age of social media, the direction of movements shifts rapidly. A few seconds of video clips, a slogan, or a single post can shape the image of an entire movement. This is why the responsibility of those involved in the movement is greater than ever. If slogans are heard on stage that have no connection to exams or education, ordinary citizens are forced to wonder whether the original purpose of the movement is the same as initially stated. Ideologies have a place in democracy, but when student movements become a medium for ideological competition, the greatest harm is suffered by the very students in whose name the movement was started. Any person active in public life—whether a social activist, a student leader, or the face of a movement—can be both agreed upon and disagreed with. Democracy is the essence of this diversity. But any movement should be judged not by the popularity of individuals, but by its purpose and results. If a movement is started for the future of students, then every action, every slogan, and every demand should strengthen that purpose. Otherwise, society's trust begins to weaken. The need today is not just for blame, but for comprehensive reform. A state-of-the-art digital security system must be developed for national-level examinations. Accountability must be

established at every stage, from the creation of question papers to their distribution. Cybersecurity must be strengthened. Serious consideration must be given to stringent measures such as confiscation of assets of organized gangs involved in paper leaks, speedy justice, and lifelong bans. The problem will not be completely eradicated until criminals fear that their crimes will be severely penalized. Political parties also have no less responsibility. Instead of avoiding criticism, the ruling party should take transparent action, while the opposition should offer constructive suggestions rather than limiting itself to criticizing the government. If every issue is viewed solely through the lens of political gains and losses, students' trust in democratic institutions will diminish. Education and the future of youth are far more important than any political gain. Society also needs to introspect. Too often, we quickly judge the pros and cons based on viral videos, incomplete information, or emotional messages on social media. However, any movement or controversy should be evaluated based on facts, evidence, and a balanced perspective. Dissent is necessary in a democracy, but it is only meaningful when expressed with discretion and responsibility. Students must also understand that their greatest strength lies in their moral credibility. If they remain united on their issues, the entire society will stand with them.

NMDC Invites Applications for 200 Fully Sponsored Nursing Seats Under Flagship Balika Shiksha Yojana

Hyderabad, July 2, 2026: India largest iron ore producer NMDC has invited applications for 200 fully sponsored nursing seats under its flagship Balika Shiksha Yojana (BSY) for the academic year 2026-27. The admission notification has been published inviting applications from eligible Scheduled Tribe (ST) girls from six districts of Chhattisgarh. Implemented under NMDC Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, the programme provides 110 seats for B.Sc. Nursing and 90 seats for General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM). Selected candidates will receive completely free professional nursing education, with NMDC bearing the entire cost of tuition fees, hostel accommodation, study materials, uniforms, examination fees and other academic expenses. The programme is exclusively open to ST girls from Bastar, Dantewada, Sukma, Bijapur, Kondagaon and Narayanpur districts belonging to families with an annual income not exceeding ₹72,000.



Applicants must be between 17 and 35 years of age. Candidates seeking admission to the B.Sc. Nursing programme must have qualified NEET-2026, while applicants for both B.Sc. Nursing and GNM courses must have passed Class XII with Science (Physics, Chemistry and Biology) and English, securing the prescribed minimum qualifying marks. The initiative aims to equip tribal girls with professional healthcare skills. Eligible candidates can submit their applications online only through the Careers section of the NMDC website (<https://www.nmdc.co.in/ca>

reers) from 11:00 AM on July 22, 2026, to 11:59 PM on August 5, 2026. Applicants must upload scanned copies of all required documents, including Class X and XII marksheets, ST caste certificate, income certificate, domicile certificate, Aadhaar or ration card, passport-size photograph, signature, and the NEET-2026 scorecard for B.Sc. Nursing applicants. Selection will be based on a written examination comprising objective-type multiple-choice questions (MCQs) conducted in English using an OMR sheet in offline mode. The 30-mark examination will include Biology (10

marks), English (7 marks), Physics (5 marks), Chemistry (5 marks), and General Knowledge (3 marks). Candidates shortlisted in the written examination will undergo document verification and a medical examination before final selection. Preference will be given to eligible applicants residing in areas surrounding NMDC project locations. For assistance with the online application process, candidates may contact the BSY Helpdesk at 7044599061 or email nbsylbachelio02@gmail.com. Since its inception, the programme has enrolled 330 GNM students till FY 22, with 230 graduates joining government healthcare institutions in Chhattisgarh. Additionally, 75 tribal girls have received fully sponsored B.Sc. Nursing education, with nearly 80% returning to serve in the state healthcare sector. NMDC invests up to ₹12 lakh per student per year, covering all educational and hostel expenses to make quality nursing education accessible to tribal girls.

Three athletes of Odisha AM/NS India Gymnastics High-Performance Centre to represent India in the Commonwealth Games 2026

Mumbai, July 22, 2026: Three athletes of Odisha AM/NS India Gymnastics High Performance Centre (Odisha AM/NS GHPC) to represent India in the Commonwealth Games 2026 to be held in Glasgow, Scotland during July 23 – August 02, 2026. Out of the eight athletes in artistic gymnastics category, three athletes — Tapan Mohanty, Tapeswaranath Das and Olympian Pranati Nayak are part of the Odisha AM/NS GHPC. Tapan Mohanty and Tapeswaranath Das are part of the India Men's Team in the Men's Artistic Gymnastics (MAG) category. Olympian Pranati Nayak is part of the India Women's Team in the Women's Artistic Gymnastics (WAG) category. This achievement highlights the dedication and hard work of the athletes, and world-class training and holistic development provided at the Odisha AM/NS GHPC, which continues to play a pivotal role in nurturing young talent and elevating Gymnastics in India. Mr. Ashutosh Telang, Director & Vice President – HR & Administration, AM/NS India said, "Having three athletes from our Odisha AM/NS GHPC competing at



the Commonwealth Games is a proud milestone for us. Tapan Mohanty, Tapeswaranath Das, and Olympian Pranati Nayak exemplify the excellence, discipline, and resilience nurtured at our Centre. Their achievement reflects the world-class training and holistic development ecosystem we have built in Odisha. On behalf of AM/NS India, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to them and wish them all the very best as they showcase their talent on

the global stage." The athletes of the Odisha AM/NS GHPC have been achieving laurels in various prestigious international and national platforms such as International Continental Cup 2026, Lisbon, Artistic Gymnastics Asian Championship 2025, FIG World Cup 2025 in Antalya, Turkey, Artistic Gymnastics National Championships 2025 – 2026, etc. showcasing the centre's consistent performance and readiness for the global stage.

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30 TH JUNE 2026



Business Growth - Total Business of the Bank stood at Rs.6,05,083 Crore as on 30.06.2026 registering a growth of 15.53% on Y-o-Y basis, wherein Gross Advances grew by 21.18% on Y-o-Y basis to Rs.2,72,768 Crore & Total Deposits grew by 11.28% on Y-o-Y basis to Rs.3,32,315 Crore. CASA Growth - Total CASA stood at Rs. 1,16,136 Crore as on 30.06.2026 registering a growth of 12.34% on Y-o-Y basis, Savings Deposit stood at Rs. 1,00,870 Crore registering a growth of 11.78% on Y-o-Y basis and Current Deposit stood at Rs. 15,266 Crore registering a growth of 16.23% on Y-o-Y basis. CASA Ratio stood at 36.94%. Advances in Retail, Agriculture & MSME (RAM) Sectors - RAM segment of the Bank increased by 25.27% to Rs. 1,57,745 Crore Y-o-Y backed by 27.32% Y-o-Y growth in Retail advances 30.01% Y-o-Y growth in Agriculture advances and 18.79% Y-o-Y growth in MSME advances. Profitability- Operating Profit for the quarter ended 30.06.2026 has shown an impressive growth of 79.84%

on Y-o-Y basis and stood at Rs.2,810 Crore. Net profit for the quarter ended 30.06.2026 stood at Rs.656 Crore as against Rs.607 Crore as on 30.06.2025 registering a growth of 8.05% on Y-o-Y basis. Net Interest Margin (NIM)- Global stood at 3.05% and Domestic NIM at 3.24% for the quarter ended 30.06.2026. Reduction in NPA - Gross NPA reduced by 55 bps Y-o-Y to 2.08% as on 30.06.2026 whereas Net NPA reduced by 20 bps Y-o-Y to 0.25% as on 30.06.2026. Capital Adequacy Ratio - Capital Adequacy Ratio (CRAR) stood at 19.03% as on 30.06.2026 with Tier I Capital Ratio of 17.44%. Credit to Deposit Ratio - Stood at 82.08% as on 30.06.2026 as against 75.38% as on 30.06.2025. Provision Coverage Ratio stood at 97.85% as on 30.06.2026 Financial Results for the Quarter Ended 30 th June 2026 Profitability (Quarter Ended June 30 th ,2026): Net Profit for the quarter ended 30.06.2026 stood at Rs.656 Crore as against Rs.607 Crore for the same period in the preceding year, registering a growth of 8.05% Y-o-Y. Net

Interest Margin (NIM)- Global improved by 9 bps Y-o-Y and stood at 3.05% and Domestic NIM improved by 6 bps Y-o-Y and stood at 3.24% for the quarter ended 30.06.2026. Net interest income (NII) grew by 16.86% on Y-o-Y basis to Rs.2808 Crore for the quarter ended 30.06.2026 as against Rs.2403 Crore for the quarter ended 30.06.2025. Cost of fund improved by 37 bps Y-o-Y to 4.36% for the quarter ended 30.06.2026. Yield on Advances (Domestic) stood at 8.14% for the quarter ended 30.06.2026. Strong Earnings Beat BPCL reported an Ebitda loss of Rs 4,080 crore for the June quarter, significantly better than the Bloomberg estimate of an Ebitda loss of Rs 13,713 crore. The company also posted a net loss of Rs 3,960 crore, substantially lower than the consensus estimate of a Rs 12,632 crore loss. According to analysts, BPCL's better-than-expected performance was driven by lower other expenditure, stronger gross refining margins (GRMs) and lower inventory losses during the quarter. The company also benefited from a foreign

BPCL Strong, HPCL Weak: How Suppressed Fuel Margins Dictated Q1 Earnings

India's state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) reported sharply contrasting June quarter performances, with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) delivering a much stronger-than-expected earnings performance, while Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) reported a weaker operational showing despite both companies being hit by suppressed fuel marketing margins. The losses were widely anticipated during the quarter as government-led pricing constraints squeezed gross marketing margins on petrol and diesel. BPCL Delivers Strong Earnings Beat BPCL reported an Ebitda loss of Rs 4,080 crore for the June quarter, significantly better than the Bloomberg estimate of an Ebitda loss of Rs 13,713 crore. The company also posted a net loss of Rs 3,960 crore, substantially lower than the consensus estimate of a Rs 12,632 crore loss. According to analysts, BPCL's better-than-expected performance was driven by lower other expenditure, stronger gross refining margins (GRMs) and lower inventory losses during the quarter. The company also benefited from a foreign

exchange gain of around Rs 350 crore, which boosted other income. However, BPCL's debt increased by Rs 6,920 crore sequentially to Rs 17,396 crore at the end of the quarter. HPCL Reports Weaker Quarter HPCL reported an Ebitda loss of Rs 16,140 crore during the quarter, wider than the Bloomberg estimate of a Rs 12,672 crore loss. The company posted a net loss of Rs 11,530 crore, although it was marginally better than the consensus estimate of a Rs 12,296 crore loss. Analysts said HPCL's earnings were hit harder because of its relatively higher dependence on the fuel marketing business, where margins remained under pressure during the quarter. While HPCL's gross refining margin improved sharply to \$23.8 per barrel from \$14.3 per barrel in the previous quarter, the benefit was not enough to offset weakness in the marketing segment. HPCL's debt also rose sharply, increasing by around Rs 25,000 crore quarter-on-quarter to Rs 72,600 crore. Marketing Margins Remain The Key Driver The June quarter highlighted the importance of fuel marketing margins for India's oil marketing companies.

Plastindia Foundation Inaugurates Regional Office in New Delhi



New Delhi: Plastindia Foundation, the apex body of the Indian plastics industry, has inaugurated its Regional Office in New Delhi, marking a significant step towards strengthening collaboration among industry, government and academic institutions. The office will serve as a key centre for policy advocacy, innovation, skill development and sustainable growth initiatives for the Indian plastics industry. Established under the leadership of Plastindia Foundation President Mr Ravish Kamath, the Delhi office will function as a dedicated platform for policy advocacy, industry representation, stakeholder engagement and strategic collaboration with the Government, academic institutions, industry associations and allied organisations. It will play a vital

role in promoting innovation, skill development, MSME support, industry-academia collaboration and capacity building across the plastics value chain. The office was formally inaugurated in New Delhi with a traditional puja ceremony. The inauguration was led by Dr. Raju Desai, Vice President, and Mr Dharmendra Gandhi, Honorary Treasurer of Plastindia Foundation, marking the beginning of a new chapter in the Foundation's outreach and policy initiatives. Although located in the national capital, the Regional Office has been conceived as a pan-India initiative. It will serve the interests of the entire Indian plastics ecosystem by strengthening policy outreach, fostering regional and national collaboration, and contributing to the development of practical

solutions to environmental and sustainability challenges, particularly those relevant to the Delhi-NCR region. The initiative is expected to enhance the competitiveness of the Indian plastics industry while contributing to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Plastindia Foundation is the apex body representing the Indian plastics industry through its seven Founder Associations and two Constituent Associations. It is the only industry body in India that brings together the entire plastics value chain, including processors, raw material manufacturers, machinery manufacturers and manufacturers of finished plastic products. The Foundation is committed to promoting the industry's growth, technological advancement and global competitiveness.

NMDC BAILADILA KABADDI LEAGUE TO BE HELD FROM JULY 23 TO 26

Hyderabad, July 22, 2026: NMDC's CSR Initiative to Provide a Platform for Players from 26 Villages in the Bailadila Region Players from 26 villages in the Bailadila region of Dantewada district, Chhattisgarh, will get an opportunity to showcase their talent and sporting skills at NMDC Bailadila Kabaddi League, to be held from July 23 to 26. As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, Navratna company NMDC Limited is organizing the tournament to identify and encourage rural sporting talent and provide them with a platform to grow. A total of 24 teams representing 26 Gram Panchayats from the Bachel and Kirandul regions will participate in the competition. From the Bachel region, teams from Molasnar, Dugeli, Padhapur, Benpal, Bade Kameli, Kamalur, Jhirka, Dhurli, Gamawada, Nerli, Bade Bachel, Masenar, Ganjenar, and Bhansi will compete. From the



Kirandul region, players from Kodenar, Kadampal, Madadi, Cholnar, Tikanpal, Kalepal, Samalwar, Madkamiras, Hiroli, Kutrem, Gumiypal, and Taneli will showcase their sporting talent. The league matches will be held at the Football Stadium in Kirandul and the Hockey Ground in Bachel. The opening and closing ceremonies will take place at the Hockey Ground in the NMDC Township, Bachel. To ensure smooth conduct of the event, a waterproof German hangar has been installed, and synthetic rubber mats are being laid on the playing field for the

comfort and safety of the players. NMDC will provide sports kits and all necessary playing equipment to the participating teams. The tournament aims to promote a sporting culture in rural areas, encourage youth participation in sports, and support emerging local talent. The tournament will be attended by Sarpanches of the participating Gram Panchayats, public representatives, senior officials from NMDC Headquarters, Hyderabad, officials and employees of NMDC's Bailadila Iron Ore Mine projects at Kirandul and Bachel, and representatives of labour

unions. During the closing ceremony, the winner and runner-up teams, along with outstanding performers, will be honoured with prizes. The Bailadila Kabaddi League is another significant step by NMDC towards identifying and nurturing sporting talent from rural areas and helping them progress to national and international platforms. Through its CSR initiatives, NMDC remains committed to the holistic development of local communities by continuously working in the areas of education, healthcare, sports, skill development and community development.

More Style, More Exclusivity: Škoda Auto India Expands The Slavia Monte Carlo's Colour Palette

Mumbai, July 2026 – Škoda Auto India has expanded its Slavia range with the Slavia Monte Carlo receiving two new exclusive colour options – Shimla Green and Steel Grey. They are both offered in a distinctive dual-tone finish. Exclusive to just 200 units, these limited colour editions of the Slavia Monte Carlo combine the sedan's dynamic design and engaging driving experience with the brand's Rallye Monte Carlo heritage. The addition lends an even stronger visual presence and is aimed at customers seeking a more distinctive and exclusive ownership experience. Commenting on the introduction, Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India, said, "The Slavia Monte Carlo has been well received by customers for its distinctive design, premium appeal, engaging driving dynamics and strong connection to our motorsport heritage. We are further enhancing the individuality and desirability of the Monte Carlo range, offering customers greater choice and exclusivity. The Slavia Monte Carlo



continues to embody the perfect blend of style, performance, and modernity. We will continue to strengthen our sedan portfolio, in line with the evolving aspirations of our customers." The limited Monte Carlo Apart from the new exclusive colour options, the Slavia Monte Carlo continues to distinguish itself with its blacked-out exterior design cues, signature

Monte Carlo styling elements, premium black and red interior theme, and feature-rich cabin. The new Shimla Green and Steel Grey dual-tone finishes further amplify choice for customers seeking one of the most desirable variants in the Slavia range. The Slavia Monte Carlo continues to be offered with Škoda Auto India's proven TSI engines, combined with the brand's

array of real automatics, delivering a blend of performance, efficiency and driving pleasure. Customers can choose between the 1.0-litre TSI engine paired with a 6-speed torque converter automatic transmission or the 1.5-litre TSI engine paired with the 7-speed DSG. The 1.0 TSI is a three-cylinder turbocharged petrol that makes 85 kW (115 PS) and 178 Nm of torque, while the larger 1.5 TSI four-cylinder turbocharged petrol generates 110 kW (150 PS) and 250 Nm of torque. Moreover, the 1.5 TSI continues to be the only engine in its segment offering Active Cylinder Technology, where two cylinders shut down under light loads, saving fuel, along with Plasma-Coated Cylinder Liners for better heat management and thermal efficiency. Škoda Auto's racing DNA Motorsport has been an integral part of Škoda Auto for over a century. The Monte Carlo trim specifically pays homage to the company's association with Rallye Monte Carlo since 1912 and its various victories and podium finishes since then.

WHO IS MYKHAILO DRAPATYI, UKRAINE'S NEW COMMANDER - IN-CHIEF?



Maj Gen Mykhailo Drapatyi, 43, has replaced Oleksandr Syrskyi as Ukraine's commander-in-chief - the third since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022. His nomination has been welcomed by both civil society and the military. Drapatyi's name was chanted during protests that started off backing his friend, ex-defence minister Mykhailo Fedorov, but ended up demanding Syrskyi's dismissal. "There's no better person for this position nowadays in Ukraine," one Ukrainian soldier told the BBC. Drapatyi's support rests on years of military experience in post-Soviet Ukraine, his skills as field general and his reputation for being a humane and strong commander among the military. He graduated from the Kharkiv Institute of Tank Troops in 2004 and began serving as a lieutenant. Ten years later he gained prominence when footage went viral showing his infantry fighting vehi-

cle smashing through a makeshift barricade. It was May 2014 and pro-Russian separatists had taken over parts of eastern Ukraine, when Drapatyi's battalion entered the southern city of Mariupol to free hostages held in the city's police department. He later recalled being told there were barricades more than a metre high ahead and being asked what to do. "I said, let's take it by storm. This video flew around the world," he said in an interview. Later that year, he was commended for withdrawing encircled Ukrainian units from a border area of the Luhansk region. Drapaty returned to university in 2021 for further operational and strategic training and was presented with a sword of honour as top graduate in June 2021 by British ambassador Melinda Simmons. When Russia's full-scale invasion began in February 2022, Drapaty was deputy commander of joint forces.



■ Trump threatens to target Iran's bridges and power plants if Hormuz attacks persist

US TO ANNOUNCE DEAL ALLOWING SAUDI ARABIA A NUCLEAR PROGRAMME

The US and Saudi Arabia are expected to announce a deal that will allow the Gulf kingdom to develop a civilian nuclear programme. An announcement is expected from US President Donald Trump's administration on Wednesday, according to CBS News, the BBC's US partner. The agreement could be worth billions of dollars to the US, whose companies could be involved in building a facility to produce enriched uranium, which can be used as fuel for power plants but also to make nuclear bombs. Nuclear experts and former officials in Israel - the US's top ally in the Middle East - have voiced concern that the plan could ultimately lead to Saudi Arabia being able to develop a nuclear weapon. The BBC has asked the



White House for comment. The deal would allow U.S. companies to run nuclear power for the Saudis on Saudi soil, CBS reported citing a regional official familiar with the agreement. The corporations involved have not been disclosed and Congress would need to be consulted. After undertaking a joint study with the

guish this agreement from another one that was struck by the US in 2009 with Saudi Arabia's neighbour, the United Arab Emirates, under which the UAE does not produce its own fuel and accepts a host of other restrictions. For that reason, the agreement is also expected to attract the concern of nuclear non-proliferation campaigners, whose ultimate aim is to prevent an increase in the number of nuclear weapons worldwide. The nuclear issue has been at the centre of the months-long US-Israeli conflict with Iran. The two nations say one of the reasons they attacked Iran in February was to prevent the country from ever developing a nuclear weapon - something that Tehran denies planning to do.

BRITISH WOMAN JAILED FOR BLACKMAIL AFTER ACCUSING BANKER OF RAPE IN HONG KONG

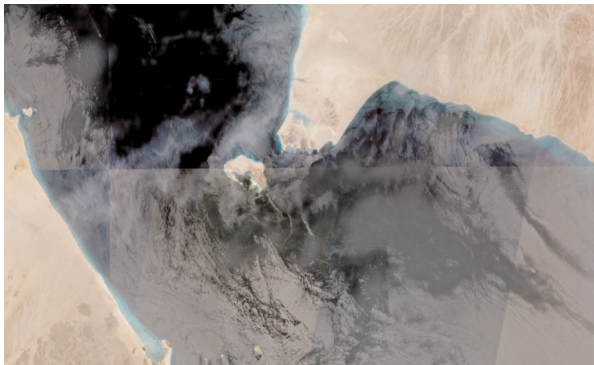


A British woman has been jailed for six years in Hong Kong for blackmail and perverting the course of justice after a court found she made a false allegation of rape. Isabel Rose, 26, from Hackney in east London, alleged that a British banker raped her after she travelled to Hong Kong to visit him in January 2024. The man was arrested after she reported the incident but later released without charge. Rose was subsequently arrested and charged. Local media reported that Rose was in Hong Kong's District Court on Wednesday for sentencing after being convicted in March. She had denied the charges. "I didn't wanna have sex" According to local press reports, Judge Adriana Tse sentenced her to five years in prison for blackmail and three years for perverting the course of justice, with one year to be served consecutively. Prosecutors argued that Rose fabricated the allegation in an attempt to extort £100,000 (\$134,000) from the man, whose identity was withheld. Rose denied the charges throughout the trial and has consistently maintained that she was raped. Rose had travelled to Hong Kong on 31 January 2024 after meeting the man while in Thailand a month earlier, according to court documents. At the centre of the prosecution case were WhatsApp messages exchanged between the pair in the hours and days after the alleged rape on 1

February at his apartment. In one message sent the following morning, Rose wrote: "Are you annoyed I didn't want to have sex," to which the man replied: "What no of course not. Was impressed by your restraint." Later that day, Rose wrote: "You violated me last night, I didn't wanna have sex." He replied: "I'm really deeply sorry, I was slightly drunk and I misread your signals, it's no excuse and I know it doesn't make it any better." In a later exchange, Rose wrote: "You basically raped me." The man replied: "That's not what I'm into at all and I feel sick." The pair later exchanged messages about money. According to the written judgement of the verdict published in March, the man agreed to reimburse Rose for her travel and accommodation. In one message, Rose wrote: "Send me the right amount you owe me for everything. Think about that. Think carefully." He transferred £5,000 that day and tried to send a further £5,000. Rose subsequently wrote: "You've given 10% of what I'm owed. 100% of my soul gone." In a later message, the man wrote: "But I don't have 100k, I have no way of paying you that." Rose reported the rape to police on 3 February. The man was arrested and questioned before being released without charge. Rose was arrested the following day and later charged with blackmail and perverting the course of public justice.

TANKERS MAKE SHARP U-TURNS AFTER HOUTHI SHIPPING THREAT

At least seven oil tankers have made U-turns close to Yemen since the Iran-linked Houthi group announced a "maritime embargo" against Saudi Arabia on Monday, ship-tracking data shows. All of the ships were travelling either to or from Saudi ports and made sharp changes of course after the embargo was announced. Nearly 15% of global sea trade moves through the Red Sea, which connects the Mediterranean and Gulf of Aden through two choke points - the Suez Canal in Egypt and the Bab al-Mandab Strait between Yemen and the Horn of Africa. The Red Sea has been a key route for exports of Saudi oil since the US-Israeli war with Iran led to the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which has severely restricted the flow of oil and gas from the Gulf. This has played a "major role in relieving pressure to global markets" and if the Houthis further restrict trade then "prices will go up", said Rosemary Kelanic from the US-based Defense



Priorities think tank. The day before the Houthis announced their blockade, 20 vessels entered the Red Sea and 22 exited via the Bab al-Mandeb strait, according to maritime intelligence firm Kpler. Kelanic told BBC Verify that any Houthi attacks on vessels in the Red Sea or Gulf of Aden "will suppress all international traffic not just Saudi-bound vessels". The EU's naval force in the region Aspides recommended on Wednesday that "merchant vessels linked to Israeli, US or Saudi interests avoid transiting the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden until the threat level decreases", according

to an advisory seen by Reuters news agency. Ship-tracking data from MarineTraffic shows the crude oil tanker Rodos, loaded with Saudi crude, departed for India from the Red Sea port of al-Muajiz on Monday evening. The Liberian-flagged ship set off south towards the Bab al-Mandab Strait but about nine hours later made a U-turn and began sailing north instead. The Liberian-flagged oil and chemical tanker Mica departed Saudi Arabia's Jazan port on Monday afternoon and also headed south before reversing course. Ship-tracking data shows at least eight

ships bound for the Red Sea have made U-turns instead of entering the Bab al-Mandab Strait from the south as well. Marshall Islands-flagged vehicle carrier Liu Jiang Kou was sailing to Saudi Arabia's Jeddah port from China before completely changing course on Monday in the Gulf of Aden. A Hong Kong-flagged crude oil tanker sailing from China called New Prime also turned around as it headed towards Saudi Arabia on Monday and now appears to be waiting in the Arabian Sea. While the reasons for each course change cannot be independently verified, "the timing is consistent with the embargo announcement," said maritime risk management company Vanguard. In an email to shipowners on Monday, which the BBC has seen, the Houthis said "vessels are banned from loading or discharging cargo at any Saudi ports". It added that ships "may be subject to targeting in any location within the operational reach".

MODELLING SCOUT LINKED TO EPSTEIN FOUND DEAD IN PARIS



A modelling scout linked to the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein has been found dead at his home. Daniel Siad, 69, was discovered on Monday in Colombes, a north-west suburb of Paris, the Nanterre prosecutor's office confirmed to the BBC. An investigation to determine the cause of death was opened on Monday evening, the office said, adding that a post-mortem examination would be carried out. Siad's name appeared thousands of times in the Epstein files released by the US government. He denied knowing of the threat Epstein had

posed. His lawyer stressed that Siad, who had been the subject of several complaints in France including allegations of rape, had "never been prosecuted". "He is dead and he was innocent," Ménya Arab-Tigrine said in a statement. Epstein victim Anya - not her real name - previously told the BBC that Siad had introduced her to Epstein. "It was a complete set-up," she said, describing Siad as "essentially a professional trafficker". During one email to Epstein released in the files, Siad wrote in badly spelled English: "In This busyness I feel like fisherman some time I cache quick, some time no fish." Ahead of a BBC investigation on the subject published on Saturday, Arab-Tigrine had said her client was not available for comment. However, in a recent CNN interview, Siad said he had not known the women were being abused by Epstein. "I trusted him, I believed this guy is a professional person," he said.



Ukrainian drones hit Russian online giant retailer Wildberries for second time

Iran war has cost US \$37.5bn so far, Hegseth says, as Pentagon seeks billions more

The war with Iran has cost the US some \$37.5bn (£28bn) so far - an increase of nearly \$8bn since the last estimate in May, Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth has said. Hegseth told the Senate Appropriations Committee it was urgent that lawmakers approve another \$87bn in congressional funding for the Pentagon, with \$67bn of that destined for operations in the Middle East. The hearing was disrupted several times by anti-war protesters and ended in a shouting match between the defence secretary and a senator. It was Hegseth's first appearance on Capitol Hill since hostilities between the US and Iran restarted last week and comes after three American soldiers were confirmed killed in the region. The White House asked



Congress in April for \$1.5tn for the Pentagon over the next fiscal year, which would raise American military spending to an all-time high in the modern era. The US carried out an 11th consecutive day of strikes on Tuesday. Iran has been retaliating with strikes of its own against the US and its allies in the Middle East. The defence secretary began Tuesday's testimony by say-

ing, "we live in a dangerous world" and that it required bold and swift action. After being interrupted by protesters, Hegseth went on to say his funding request came at an urgent time. "Without these funds, we face critical shortfalls that threaten our ability to also simply pay our service members, rapidly replenish equipment and munitions, and sustain vital operations without interrup-

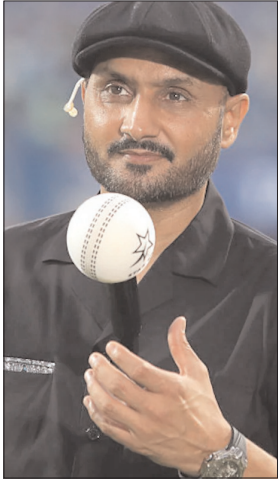
tion," Hegseth said. Every dollar appropriated, he added, would be used to build the "lethality" of US military forces and "reinforce peace through strength". Senate Appropriations Committee chairwoman Susan Collins, a Republican, questioned Hegseth over what the impact would be if the budget needs were not met. Hegseth said current and future training for military members would need to be cut without the funds, as he repeatedly blamed former President Joe Biden's administration for what he said was an underfunded military. The most senior Democrat on the committee, Patty Murray, pushed back on the funding request, saying it "does not make a lot of sense".

LIVERPOOL ISSUE BANS AS £1.2M
SEIZED FROM TICKET TOUTS



Harbhajan Singh Reveals
Sachin Tendulkar's Advice That
Changed His Career

Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh has revealed the most valuable piece of advice he received during his illustrious career, recalling how batting great Sachin Tendulkar urged him to stay focused on cricket and ignore the distractions that come with success. Harbhajan, one of India's greatest off-spinners, said Tendulkar's words have remained with him throughout his playing career and continue to shape the advice he now gives to the next generation of cricketers. "I think our seniors were so good because they wanted us to play well and become better within our limitations. The best advice I ever got was from the great Sachin Tendulkar,"



Harbhajan told Jio Star. "Sachin paaji told me, 'There will be many distractions, many things will come your way, but you have to keep your blinders on, so that you can't look left or right, and only look straight ahead."

Seniors Struggling To Adapt, Communication
Gap Exposes Vulnerable Team India: Report

India's ODI captain Shubman Gill publicly expressed his frustration at repeated injuries after the team concluded a forgettable tour of the United Kingdom. Recurring injuries, especially hamstring injuries, have become a headache for the team management, with many feeling that there seems to be a communication gap between the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru, the players, and the support staff. According to a report, players are struggling to adapt to a new system following a change in personnel last year. "The flurry of recent hamstring injuries suggests that the players may not have been absolutely fit before taking the field. There seems to be a gap in communication about a player's fitness status and workload between the CoE and the team management," a BCCI source told the Times of India. In fact, the



CoE is yet to appoint a head of medical staff since Nitin Patel left. "There has been no update to the SOPs drawn up in 2023. Washington Sundar, Nitish Reddy and Harshit Rana are some of the names that have been injured a little too often. The fact that Reddy worked with English coach Stefan Jones to improve his speed raised a few eyebrows. What was arguably the most surprising decision was the fact that Harshit Rana was called up by the Indian team

despite not being fully fit. "Reddy worked with English bowling coach Stefan Jones to increase his pace. But that needs to be a gradual process when he is with the team leading up to a big event. Instead, he is pushing himself to bowl faster whenever he is with the team," the source said. "It's a bit concerning how Harshit was cleared by the CoE at the insistence of the team management when he had not attained his pre-knee-injury weight.

CWG 2026: WHY INDIA MIGHT
NOT EVEN GET HALF OF 61
MEDALS THEY WON IN 2022

"The 2026 Commonwealth Games have arrived, with India hoping to build on the 61 medals they previously earned. However, a significant change will be seen in the tournament this year, as the number of sports countries will be participating in has been reduced by almost half, from 19 to 10. This alteration was made after Victoria (Australia) withdrew as host for the 2026 edition of the tournament due to ballooning costs. This situation prompted Glasgow to step in with a drastically reduced budget and a streamlined 10-sport format. If we compare the 2026 edition to 2022, a total of nine sports were dropped from the roster, including almost all of India's traditional powerhouses: Wrestling: Dropped (Accounted for 12 medals in 2022, including 6 Gold) Badminton: Dropped (Accounted for 6 medals in 2022, including 3 Gold) Table Tennis: Dropped (Accounted for 7 medals, including Para TT) Hockey: Dropped (Accounted for 2 medals - Men's Silver, Women's Bronze) Cricket (Women's): Dropped (Accounted for 1 Silver) The excluded sports in Glasgow accounted for a whopping 28 of India's 61 medals in Birmingham. Hence, it is going to be tough for India to even breach the 30-medal mark this time. Where Can India's Medals Come From? Athletics is undoubtedly India's biggest bet for medals in the 2026 CWG, backed by its largest athlete contingent in Glasgow. World-class field events lead the charge, headlined by Neeraj Chopra in the men's javelin throw. Beyond throwing events, India boast have some notable athletes compet-

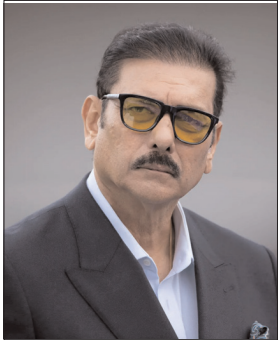


ing in the Games. Long-jumper Murali Sreesankar is a solid bet, alongside other prospects in the triple jump and high jump. Distance events with runners like Parul Chaudhary and Gulveer Singh can also earn India success. Weightlifting remains India's most dependable and efficient source for podium finishes. Anchored by Tokyo Olympic silver medalist and defending CWG champion Mirabai Chanu in the women's 48kg category, the lifters carry high expectations. Complementing her are contenders across both men's and women's divisions, such as Bindyarani Devi, Ajaya Babu, and

Gyaneshwari Yadav, where India historically maintains a high medal-conversion rate. READ | CWG 2026: India's Full Schedule, Time In IST, Telecast, Live Streaming Boxing provides another major pillar for India's tally, with realistic opportunities across multiple weight categories. Led by Olympic medalist Lovlina Borgohain and reigning World Champion Jaismine Lamboria, India enters several women's divisions as top seeds. The overall depth in both men's and women's events does instill hope. Medals from Judo and Lawn Bowls, alongside Para Sports, can't be ruled out either.

Ravi Shastri Calls Rohit Sharma's
Lord's 138 A "Tight Slap"

The Lord's ODI between India and England was touted to be Rohit Sharma's last in the Indian shirt, but the veteran opener's valiant hundred in the match has put the retirement chatter to a halt. On Tuesday, Rohit was in the stands as The Hundred 2026 campaign kicked off with the first match between MI London and Sunrisers Leeds at the Kia Oval. Seeing Rohit watching the match at the Kia Oval, India's former coach and commentator for the match, Ravi Shastri, couldn't resist speaking about the debate around his future. Shastri didn't mince his words over the chatter around Rohit's future, saying his hundred at Lord's was a "tight slap with the bat". "Well, the hitman is in, Ravi. Yes, he'll be nice and relaxed after silencing his



critics. A lot of noise made before that last one-day international, and then a reply, a nice tight slap with the bat. 138. His first hundred at Lord's. Yeah, he's seen it all, five titles for the Mumbai Indians as captain," Shastri said in the commentary box during the match. Several former cricketers have shared their opinions on the future of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. Ravichandran

Ashwin took a rather bold stance, saying the duo can't be touched by the selectors or the team management. "They cannot touch Virat and Rohit if they want to play. It is because of their credentials. Rohit has scored almost 12,000 runs; they cannot touch him. The other thing is that they are batters, and if you touch them, they have an army. People come to see them. If you drop them, it will just break the roof down," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel. Speaking specifically of Rohit, Ashwin said Rohit's motivation is coming from his own desire to feature at the next ODI World Cup rather than from any need to respond to the critics. "The position he is in and the way he batted, it's not that difficult for him.

"It's An Obvious Thing": Vaibhav Sooryavanshi
Opens Up On Rough Start To India Career



Indian batting prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has acknowledged that he has endured "several ups and downs" in the past four months, but his confidence remains intact heading into the T20I series against Zimbabwe, beginning here on Thursday. Riding on his IPL blitzkrieg, the 15-year-old made it to India's T20I tours of Ireland and England. Although he did not feature in the two-match series in Belfast, he made his international debut in the second T20I against England in Manchester, becoming India's youngest-ever international crick-

eter, eclipsing Sachin Tendulkar's long-standing record. Sooryavanshi played the next three matches but managed only modest scores and was left out of the fifth and final T20I as Sanju Samson returned to the XI. India went on to lose the series 0-4. His omission sparked criticism from several former cricketers, who questioned the team management's decision to drop the teenage opener after just three innings. "Yes, there have been several ups and down in the last four months (kaafi ups and downs aaye hain 4 mahine mein). It's part of cricket it will keep happening but I have to follow the process and give my 100 per cent for the team," Sooryavanshi, whose familiarity with the conditions here could strengthen his chances of making the playing XI for Thursday's opener, told 'bcci.tv'. The youngsters was visibly emotional after being left out of the fifth and final T20I against England. Acknowledging the challenges of dealing with setbacks at a young age, he said the support he received from those around him helped him move on and regain his focus. "It's an obvious thing that whatever I want (guidance etc), the coaches are making it available and whatever practice I require I am getting that.

INDIAN SHOOTERS
STUMBLE IN FINAL
ASIAN GAMES TUNE-UP;
CHINA SWEEPS GOLDS



Indian shooters got an early indication of the challenge that awaits them at the Asian Games in Japan less than two months from now as hosts China dominated the opening day of the ISSF World Cup on Wednesday, winning both gold medals on offer while India finished without a podium. In their final global outing before the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya from September 19 to October 4, the Indian shooters endured a disappointing start as neither of the country's two 10m air pistol mixed teams progressed beyond the qualification stage. The pairing of multiple World Cup gold medalist Suruchiinder Singh and Kedarling Uchaganve finished ninth with an aggregate score of 577, with Suruchi shooting 292 and Kedarling managing 285. With only the top four teams advancing, China underlined its superiority by ensuring two final spots with one of them - Yao Qianxun and Hu Kai - smashing the qualification world record with a combined 591. India's second pair of

Sainyam and Kamaljeet also totalled 577 but had to settle for 11th after scores of 288 and 289 respectively. Yao and Hu went on to clinch gold with a world record score of 488.4, ahead of compatriots Shen Yiyao and Bu Shuaihang (485.7), while South Korea claimed bronze and the Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN) finished fourth. There was some encouragement in the men's 10m air rifle, where junior world champion Rakesh Parth Mane qualified second with 633.4, behind China's double Olympic champion Sheng Lihao (637.5). However, Mane was unable to sustain the momentum in the eight-man final, slipping to seventh with 145.5 as Sheng secured the gold with 253.9 ahead of compatriot Zhang Changhong (252.4). The remaining Indians also fell short, with Tushar Mane finishing 12th (630.5) and Himanshu Dhillon 22nd (629.3) in the 88-shooter field, underscoring the gulf India will have to bridge against a formidable Chinese squad before the Asian Games.

Like Tokyo Olympics, India Can End 5-Decade
WC Medal Drought: Harmanpreet Singh

Indian men's hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh believes his side is capable of ending the country's five-decade-long World Cup medal drought, saying the team heads into next month's showpiece event with the same belief and preparation that helped it end a 41-year Olympic podium wait at the Tokyo Games. India had snapped a 41-year Olympic medal drought by winning bronze in Tokyo in 2021 before repeating the feat under Harmanpreet's captaincy at the Paris Games. The ace drag-flicker now wants the team to emulate that success

at the World Cup, to be held in the Netherlands and Belgium from August 15 to 30. "We had similar feelings as before the Tokyo Olympics. Our preparation is equally strong because our only goal is to end the 50-year World Cup podium drought," Harmanpreet told PTI in an interview. "Just as we won an Olympic medal after 41 years in Tokyo, we want to break the World Cup drought as well. We will go with the same mindset and the same preparation. There is no pressure; rather, it is our responsibility." India's only World Cup triumph came in Kuala Lumpur in 1975. The

team had also won bronze in 1971 and silver in 1973 but has not reached the podium since. For several members of the current squad, including those who were part of India's back-to-back Olympic bronze-medal-winning campaigns, the upcoming World Cup could be their final opportunity to make an impact on the sport's biggest stage. "The team's performance, confidence and unity in recent months have strengthened our belief that this is a golden opportunity," said Harmanpreet, who has played 264 internationals for India. "It is especially important for

the experienced players because this could be their last World Cup and there are expectations from them. They want to set an example through their performances and inspire the next generation." The 30-year-old, however, cautioned that success would require sustained hard work. "The path is not easy. A lot of hard work is needed. We play with a never-say-die attitude and that will remain our approach even in the practice sessions." Asked about India's realistic prospects, Harmanpreet said no team could be taken lightly in a tournament of such stature.



THE INDIA STORY UNVEILS POWERFUL NEW POSTER

The makers of The India Story have unveiled a striking new poster that intensifies the conversation around one of the country's most concerning public health issues pesticide farming. Starring Kajal Aggarwal and Shreyas Talpade, the latest poster offers a glimpse into the film's hard-hitting narrative while emphasizing the silent dangers associated with the excessive use of pesticides in agriculture. The newly released poster carries a strong visual message, reflecting the film's core theme of exposing the hidden risks that often go unnoticed in everyday food consumption. With an intense and thought-provoking design, the poster further builds anticipation for the film, which promises to blend compelling storytelling with a socially relevant subject. Kajal Aggarwal and Shreyas Talpade take center stage in a story that aims to raise awareness about an issue affecting millions across generations. Speaking about the film's message, Kajal Aggarwal said, "The India Story is a film that carries an important message for every household. What drew me to the project was its courage to address a subject that directly impacts our daily lives yet often goes unnoticed. I hope the film encourages audiences to think more deeply about the food they consume and the choices they make."



"This story is not just about farming practices; it is about the health and future of generations to come. The new poster reflects the urgency of the issue we are highlighting through the film. We wanted to be part of a project that sparks meaningful conversations, and I believe The India Story has the power to create that awareness among audiences." The India Story has already garnered significant attention for tackling the alarming impact of pesticide farming and its long-term consequences on human health. The film seeks to shed light on how harmful agricultural practices can silently affect present and future generations, encouraging audiences to question what ultimately reaches their plates. Through its powerful narrative, the film aims to spark meaningful discussions and drive greater awareness about food safety and public health.

Presented by Zee Studios in association with MIG Production & Studios, The India Story is directed by Chettan DK and written and produced by Sagar B. Shinde. The film is slated for a worldwide theatrical release on July 24, 2026, and will arrive in theatres in Hindi, Telugu, and Tamil.

Imtiaz Ali Visits Hyderabad to Celebrate the Success

Main Vaapas Aaunga continues its remarkable run in theatres, winning hearts across the country and witnessing extraordinary word-of-mouth appreciation from audiences. Now in its sixth successful week, the film continues to run across 450+ shows in India while also sustaining its theatrical run in 10 international countries a rare achievement for a Hindi film amidst strong competition from both Bollywood and Hollywood releases. Released across 59 countries on 804 screens, Main Vaapas Aaunga has emerged as one of the widest overseas releases for a Hindi film this year. The film has enjoyed an exceptional run not only across traditional Hindi-speaking markets but also in cities like Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Kolkata, highlighting its strong pan-India acceptance and growing audience reach. As the film continues to witness overwhelming love and growing momentum at the box office, filmmaker Imtiaz Ali visited Hyderabad to personally express his gratitude to moviegoers for their immense love and support. Known for crafting emotionally resonant stories, Imtiaz Ali has been deeply moved by the response Main Vaapas Aaunga has received since its release. What began as a



film that steadily found its audience has now grown into one of the year's most remarkable theatrical success stories, powered purely by strong audience appreciation and word-of-mouth. The film has struck a deep chord with viewers across generations, with both Gen Z and family audiences embracing its heartfelt storytelling, memorable performances, and emotional depth. During his Hyderabad visit, Imtiaz Ali interacted with audiences and thanked them for embracing the film and helping it grow into the phenomenon it has become. Their continued love and recommenda-

tions have translated into sustained footfalls, increased shows, and an exceptional theatrical hold across India and overseas. Set in Imtiaz Ali's signature world of love, emotions, and longing, Main Vaapas Aaunga features Diljit Dosanjh, Naseeruddin Shah, Sharvari, and Vedang Raina in pivotal roles. Produced by Birla Studios & Applause Entertainment and Mohit Choudhary & Shibasish Sarkar of Window Seat Films, this Birla Studios Worldwide release is successfully running in cinemas. The music of the film is on Tips Music.

SJ Suryah's Menacing First Look Unveiled From Karthi's Sardar 2



Starring Karthi in the lead, Sardar 2 is the sequel to the blockbuster Sardar, which became a huge success across Tamil and Telugu. The film promises to expand the franchise with a bigger canvas, international action, and high-octane thrills. Directed by PS Mithran and produced by S Lakshman Kumar under Prince Pictures, the film has music by Sam CS.

Sardar 2 is progressing with its shoot. The makers of Sardar 2 have dropped a massive surprise on the occasion of SJ Suryah's birthday, unveiling his striking first-look poster from the much-awaited spy action thriller. Along with introducing the versatile actor's character, the team has also officially confirmed that the film will hit cinemas worldwide on September 10.

MAREMMA GRAND RELEASE ON SEPTEMBER 10



The makers of Maremma, the debut film of actor Maadhav- son of actor Raghu and nephew of Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja, have officially locked the film's theatrical release. The intense rural action

drama will arrive in cinemas worldwide on September 10, 2026, as revealed through a striking new release date poster. The newly unveiled poster presents Maadhav in a fierce and battle-worn avatar, hinting at the raw intensity and emotional depth that define the film.

Nayanthara & Kavins 'Hi' Set for a Grand Worldwide Release on August 14

Release Date Announcement Video Unveiled for the Much-Awaited Family Entertainer. The makers of 'Hi', marking the first-ever on-screen collaboration of Lady Superstar Nayanthara and Kavins, have officially announced the film's theatrical release date by unveiling a special announcement video. The much-awaited family entertainer is all set to hit theatres worldwide on August 14. Directed by debutant Vishnu Edavan, Hi boasts of an impressive ensemble cast including Nayanthara, Kavins, K. Bhagyaraj, Prabhu, Radhika Sarathkumar, VTV Ganesh, Sathyan, Adithya Kathir and Qureshi, among others. The film's technical crew comprises cinematographer Rajesh Shukla, music composer Jen Martin, editor Philomin Raj, and production designer S. Kannan. Bankrolled jointly by Zee Studios, The Rowdy Pictures, and Seven Screen



Studio, the film is backed by producers Nayanthara, Vignesh Shivan, and S.S. Lalit Kumar. Vinodh C.J. and K.S. Mayil Vaganan serve as co-producers, while V.K. Kubeendran is the Creative Producer. The film has already generated considerable buzz following the release of its first single, which garnered millions of

digital views, thereby heightening expectation levels. Building on that momentum, the makers have now confirmed that Hi will arrive in cinemas across the globe on August 14. Speaking about the film, director Vishnu Edavan says, "Hi is exactly as the title suggests is a simple, heartwarming, and feel-

good film. Created as a wholesome family entertainer, the film promises two-and-a-half hours of engaging entertainment that audiences of all ages can enjoy together. Set across Chennai, Coimbatore, and Pollachi, the story unfolds with warmth, humour, and emotions. Much like classics such as Darling Darling, Santhosh Subramaniam, and Yaaradi Nee Mohini, Hi is a family entertainer without a conventional antagonist." Having previously worked alongside Lokesh Kanagaraj on blockbuster films such as Kaithi, Master, and Vikram, Vishnu Edavan makes his directorial debut with Hi. Furthermore, his collaboration that involves the first-time pairing of Nayanthara and Kavins, a stellar supporting cast, and a refreshing family-oriented narrative, the film has already registered itself as one of the most eagerly awaited Tamil releases of the season.

'Yama Kinkarudu' Becomes Telugu Cinema's First AI (Artificial Intelligence)-Based Feature Film



Renowned producer Thummalapalli Ramasatyanarayana is playing the title role while also writing, directing, and producing the innovative film 'Yama Kinkarudu.' The film is set to create history as the

first Telugu feature film made using Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology. Versatile actor Suman plays a pivotal role in the movie. The trailer of Yama Kinkarudu was officially unveiled by veteran producer K.S. Rama Rao, who appreciated the team's unique effort and extended his best wishes. Speaking on the occasion, K.S. Rama Rao said: "Ramasatyanarayana has always been at the forefront of embracing new technologies in Telugu cinema. It is truly commendable that he has made the first Telugu film using AI technology. The trailer looks highly innovative and engaging. Suman's role will undoubtedly be one of the film's major highlights. I sincerely wish this experimental venture becomes a grand success and brings great recognition to the entire team."

Nidhhi Agerwal Is Every Bit A Modern Cinderella

Nidhhi Agerwal looks nothing short of a white Indian Cinderella in her latest photoshoot. Dressed in an elegant ivory lehenga paired with dazzling emerald jewellery, the actress radiates timeless grace. Her soft glam makeup, flowing hair, and princess-like charm make these pictures an instant visual delight.

The intricate embroidery on her outfit, statement choker, matching earrings, and delicate accessories perfectly complement the all-white ensemble. With minimal yet sophisticated styling, Nidhhi strikes a balance between royal elegance and modern glamour, making every frame look effortlessly stunning. On the work front, Nidhhi was last seen in The

Raja Saab, which unfortunately failed to make an impact at the box office. Despite maintaining a strong presence on social media with glamorous photoshoots, the actress currently has no officially announced upcoming film projects, leaving fans eagerly waiting for news of her next big-screen appearance.



NIHARIKA'S DRAMATIC TWIRL MOMENT IS PURE ELEGANCE Social media sensation-turned-actress Niharika NM is currently riding high on the success of her latest Tamil outing, Idhayam Murali, which has struck a chord with audiences. Amid the promotional buzz, the star treated fans to a stunning picture that's now doing the rounds online. She was seen in a striking navy-blue halter-neck gown featuring a structured button-down bodice and a dramatic tie-dye pleated skirt, which she twirled to perfection for the camera.