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Yogi Adityanath blames Opposition for exam scams, backs tougher crackdown on paper leak mafia

NATION PAGE

TRUMP TAKES SWIPES AT PRESS DURING WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS' DINNER



Niharika Konidela Serves Sultry Glam In Statement Saree

CINEMA | PAGE



SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

24-07-2026
Total pilgrims - 78,721
Tonsures - 38,018
Hundi kankaku - 4,98 CR
Laddu sale - 437 Lac
Annaspradams - 2,87 Lac
Medical treatment - 3,682
Waiting Compartments - Outside line @ Silathogam.

Approx. Darsan Time for Sankranti namam (with out SSD Tickets) 20 - 24 H.

RAF bars use of pellet guns till further orders; 16 additional CRPF companies to be deployed in Delhi

The Rapid Action Force (RAF) has barred the use of pellet guns until further orders, with highly placed sources saying the directive was issued during a review of the force's handling of the NEET paper leak protests led by the satirical platform Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) at Jantar Mantar in the National Capital.



Dharmendra Pradhan resigns as Education Minister over NEET-UG row

CJP calls off protest as Centre agrees to demands following Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation



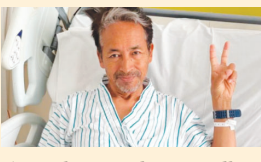
New Delhi: The Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) on Saturday called off its protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar after the Centre accepted its key demands following Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation. The decision was announced at a joint press con-

ference in New Delhi following the third round of talks between Union Health Minister JP Nadda, Union Minister Jitendra Singh, and CJP representatives Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka, during which the Centre agreed to the protesters' key demands. Addressing the media, Nadda said the government had agreed to withdraw all police cases filed against protesting students, provide written confirmation of the FIR withdrawals, and ensure the highest possible compensation for families of students who died in incidents linked to the alleged paper leak controversy.

New Delhi (TSIT):

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has resigned from his post, submitting his resignation to PM Modi on Saturday in a bid to meet the non-negotiable demand of the CJP amid escalating protests over the NEET-UG controversy and growing demands for accountability. His resignation comes ahead of the third round of talks between representatives of the CJP and union Health Minister Jagat

Victory of democracy: Activist Sonam Wangchuk on Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation



As Dharmendra Pradhan resigned from the post of Union Education Minister on Saturday, educator, innovator and climate activist Sonam Wangchuk congratulated the countrymen, calling it a "victory of democracy".

Prakash Nadda and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Jitendra Singh.

The resignation follows weeks of protests at Jantar Mantar over alleged examination irregularities and demands for Pradhan's removal. The agitation intensified after the "Sansad Chalo" march towards Parliament on July 20, 2026, where a police crackdown led to clashes between security personnel and protesters, leaving several people

'Win for democracy': CJP after Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation

President accepts Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation; Pralhad Joshi given additional charge of Education Ministry



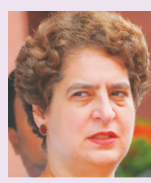
President accepts Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation; Pralhad Joshi given additional charge of Education Ministry. The resignation was formalised barely hours after Pradhan announced it on his X handle. Following several days of demands for the ouster of Dharmendra Pradhan as Education Minister, President Droupadi Murmu today accepted his resignation from the Union Council of Ministers on the advice of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and New and Renewable Energy,

Pralhad Joshi, has been given additional charge of the Ministry of Education. A Rashtrapati Bhavan communication issued today said: "The President of India, as advised by the Prime Minister, has accepted the resignation of Shri Dharmendra Pradhan from the Union Council of Ministers, with immediate effect, under clause (2) of Article 75 of the Constitution of India. Further, as advised by the Prime Minister, the President has directed that Shri Pralhad Joshi, Cabinet Minister, be assigned the charge of the Ministry of Education, in addition to his existing portfolio."

Rahul warns PM after Pradhan exit: RSS has hollowed out education, to take up Shah's role in student violence in Parliament



'Nobody can ever dare to silence youth': Priyanka on Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation



Shashi Tharoor 'proud' of Gen Z, calls Pradhan's resignation 'important' for democracy



Assembly to pass resolution for Gen Z representation: CM Revanth

Hyderabad, TSIT BUREAU:

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday announced that the State Government would move a special resolution in the Legislative Assembly urging the Centre to reduce the minimum age for contesting elections to legislative bodies, enabling greater representation for Generation Z (Gen Z) in politics.

Addressing a candlelight rally organised by the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) from People's Plaza to Necklace Road in protest against the alleged lathi-charge on students at Jantar Mantar and demanding accountability over the NEET paper leak, the Chief Minister said the Assembly would recommend lowering the minimum contesting age to 21 years for the Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha, and 25 years for the Legislative Council and Rajya Sabha. Revanth



Reddy questioned why Indian youth should be denied opportunities available in several developed countries, where young leaders have risen to the highest political offices at an early age. He recalled that former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had reduced the voting age from 21 to 18 years through the 61st Constitutional Amendment, while former Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao had lowered the eligibility age for contesting local body elections from 25 to 21 years.

The Chief Minister pointed out that although Gen Z constitutes nearly 30 per

cent of the country's population, its representation in the 543-member Lok Sabha remains below one per cent. He said the Congress would strive to ensure that young people are given opportunities to enter Parliament and State Legislatures at the age of 21.

Announcing that a special session of the Assembly and Legislative Council would be convened in the first week of August, Revanth Reddy said a resolution seeking amendment of the eligibility age would be passed and forwarded to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Government.

Pradhan's resignation shows youth's future at heart of NDA government: Rajnath

New Delhi (TSIT)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation was the reflection of the fact that safeguarding the future of the country's students and youth is of "paramount importance" for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the NDA government.

Pradhan stepped down as Education Minister on Saturday amid mounting pressure over the NEET paper leak controversy, with the Centre conceding the principal demand of the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP)-led agitation after weeks of protests that spread from the national capital to several parts of the country.

He announced his decision in a statement, saying the developments of the past 10 days had "saddened" him

deeply and that the issue was "not a matter of personal prestige". Rajnath Singh said Pradhan resigned from his post taking into account the views and sentiments of the country's youth and students, "This resignation is a testimony of the fact that for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and our government, safeguarding the future of our students and youth is of paramount importance," the Defence minister said in a post on X. Singh said the



government is addressing "with utmost seriousness and sensitivity" the concerns of the students regarding the NEET exam, paper leaks and necessary reforms in the education system. PrintNewspaper Delivery "Our top priority remains to understand our students' genuine concerns, address them promptly, and ensure that they know their voices are being heard," he said.

Permanent Solution Needed for Tobacco Farmers' Crisis: CM Naidu



Visakhapatnam (TSIT): Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has stressed the need for a permanent solution to the recurring problems faced by tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh, while reiterating that farmers' welfare will remain the government's highest priority. He also called upon tobacco buyers and other stakeholders to cooperate in resolving the crisis.

Responding to the Chief Minister's continuous representations, the Union Government deputed Additional Secretary Nitin Kumar Yadav and Director Mounika Gaur from the Ministry of Commerce to

assess the issues affecting tobacco farmers in the state. The officials met the Chief Minister before his visit to Kurnool district.

Union Minister P. E. M. S. A. N. Chandrasekhar, Ministers Gottipati Ravi Kumar and DBV Swamy, senior officials from the Agriculture Department, MARKFED, and representatives of the Tobacco Board participated in the meeting.

Three proposals aimed at supporting tobacco farmers were discussed, including interest-free working capital loans, financial incentives, and price deficit compensation. The Chief Minister

directed officials to ensure that no decision adversely affects farmers' interests and emphasized the need for short-, medium-, and long-term strategies instead of temporary relief measures.

He said all stakeholders—including farmers, buyers, the Tobacco Board, and the Central and State governments—must work together to find a sustainable solution. The Chief Minister also suggested exploring options for storing tobacco produce for one or two years and selling it when market conditions improve. He called for consultations with traders on marketing strategies for low-, medium-, and high-grade tobacco and underscored the need for an effective regulatory mechanism to prevent similar crises in the future. After the Chief Minister left for Kurnool, Union Minister Pemmasani Chandrasekhar held a virtual meeting with major tobacco buyers along with representatives of the Ministry of Commerce.

Tilak, Kishan, bowlers help India drub Zimbabwe by 90 runs; take unassailable 2-0 lead

Harare (TSIT)

Power-packed fifties by Ishan Kishan and Tilak Varma worked well with bowlers' diligence as India trumped Zimbabwe by 90 runs in the second T20I to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series here on Saturday. IndiaNews Updates Chasing 220 was never going to be easy for the Africans and the fate of the match was sealed when they lost five wickets inside 9 overs.

Eventually they were bundled out for 129, well

short of India's 219 for five, which was constructed around Kishan's 81 and Tilak's unbeaten 60. The series win will also give new T20I skipper Shreyas Iyer a big relief after losing two consecutive series against Ireland (0-2) and England (0-4). However, Zimbabwe started the hunt in earnest through Brian Bennett (32, 19b, 3x4, 3x6), who creamed debutant pacer Yash Thakur for a six and four in a row. But Thakur (2/30) extracted a quick revenge, as an attempted ramp did not go past wicketkeeper Kishan.



Once the first blood was drawn, Indian bowlers did not let the Zimbabwe batters off the hook. There

were little pockets of fight such as 20s by Ryan Burl and Tadi Marumani but nothing good enough to

challenge the Indian bowlers for a sustained period. Even part-timers Tilak and Abhishek Sharma (3/17) found themselves in the list of wicket-takers as India completed the stroll. But circumstances that led to the employment of part-timers might just give India some worries.

Pacer Prince Yadav (2/10 in 1.2 overs) walked off with a clutched hamstring, casting a shadow over such a dominant victory and raising another question about the team's injury management system. The genesis of that landslide

win was in India's intent-filled batting effort led by Kishan and Tilak. Asked to bat first India were in early trouble at 29 for two.

But Kishan first made 66 runs for the third wicket with skipper Shreyas Iyer (25) and then a 94 for the subsequent wicket with Tilak as the tourists overcame the early wobble.

Kishan paced his knock to a nicety as he focused on giving some stability to Indian innings. The left-hander brought his fifty in 31 balls, but the next 31 runs came in 13 balls as he pressed on the accelerator.

Fast track courts to hear paper leak cases on daily basis; New bill in Lok Sabha on Monday

New Delhi (TSIT)

Seeking to amend a two-year-old anti-paper leak law, a bill that proposes to set up fast-track courts in every state for speedy trials of accused and enhances punishment is set for introduction in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

According to the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, investigations into paper leak cases are to be completed within two months. The bill circulated to the



Lok Sabha members ahead of its introduction says that individuals involved in paper leaks or unfair means in exams will get jail terms for a minimum of 5 years and a maximum of 10 years, and a fine of up to Rs 50 lakh.

For organised crimes, the bill proposes a minimum sentence of seven years and a fine of up to Rs 10 crore.



Hyderabad TSIT: As part of its commitment to promoting sustainable solid waste management, the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) is continuing its initiative for the responsible management of furniture waste. The programme aims to minimise the amount of furniture ending up in landfills by encouraging scientific disposal, reuse, refurbishment and recycling, thereby conserving natural resources and strengthening the principles of a circular economy. Under the initiative, CMC is encouraging citizens, residential communities, commercial establishments and institutions to avoid discarding usable furniture and instead prioritise reuse.

Crop diversification vital for farmers' prosperity: Collector Sneha Shabarish

Mahabubabad, July 25: District Collector Sneha Shabarish on Saturday urged farmers to adopt crop diversification to ensure sustainable agriculture, higher incomes and better public health in the face of climate change. Launching the crop diversification programme at Edjerla village in Maripeda mandal, the Collector sowed green gram seeds in the fields of tribal farmers and appealed to cultivators to



Yogi Adityanath blames Opposition for exam scams, backs tougher crackdown on paper leak mafia



New Delhi, Jul 25: Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday accused the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Congress of damaging the future of students by fostering a culture of examination irregularities, asserting that the Narendra Modi-led government has adopted a zero-tolerance approach against those involved in paper leaks and recruitment scams. Addressing a public gathering at Madaripur Kala Ground in Fatehpur after inaugurating and laying the foundation stones for 125 development projects worth over Rs 489 crore, the Chief Minister said protecting students' interests remains a top priority for both the Centre and the Uttar Pradesh government. Emphasising the Centre's efforts to curb examination fraud, Yogi said the government is moving to further strengthen the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024. He noted that the proposed amendments would introduce tougher legal provisions against those involved in paper leaks and other examination-related offences, including long prison terms and the confiscation of illegally acquired assets. The Chief Minister

praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking what he described as decisive measures to restore confidence in the examination system. According to him, the Union government has resolved to impose a minimum prison sentence of 10 years and fines of up to Rs 10 crore on individuals found guilty of orchestrating paper leaks and cheating in public examinations. Referring to the controversy surrounding the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), Yogi said the government acted swiftly against those responsible and ensured that the re-examination was conducted within a fixed timeframe so that students did not lose an academic year. He also said the examination results were declared on schedule to minimise uncertainty for candidates. The Chief Minister alleged that examination mafias were a legacy of previous Congress and Samajwadi Party governments, claiming that such networks had flourished under their patronage. He accused the Opposition of now attempting to portray itself as a champion of students despite, according to him, having failed to protect the interests of young aspirants while in power. Taking aim at the Samajwadi Party's tenure before 2017, Yogi alleged that recruitment processes during that period were marred by irregularities and controversies, depriving deserving candidates of employment opportunities. In contrast, he claimed that the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh has filled more than nine lakh government posts over the past nine years through transparent and merit-based recruitment.

DLSA Secretary Inspects Sub-Jail, Reviews Inmates' Welfare

MAHABUBABAD, July 25 (TSIT): District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Secretary Shalini Shakelli on Saturday inspected the sub-jail and reviewed the welfare of inmates. She visited all barracks, interacted with undertrial prisoners, and enquired about their grievances and well-being. She sought details of inmates who had been granted bail but were yet to be released, as well as newly admitted prisoners. Addressing undertrials unable to furnish sureties despite securing bail, she advised them to request the concerned court to relax bail conditions or reduce surety requirements during the next hearing. She also assured that eligible inmates would be provided free legal aid through the District Legal Services Authority. With the onset of the monsoon, Ms. Shakelli directed jail authorities to maintain strict cleanliness across



the prison premises, particularly in the kitchen and toilets, to prevent seasonal diseases. She also instructed officials to ensure the supply of safe and purified drinking water to all inmates. Jail Superintendent Mallela Srinivas was present during the inspection.

and low-chemical farming, assuring better market opportunities for such produce. The Collector also launched the distribution of Arka Tejasvi chilli seeds, a pest-tolerant variety developed by ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, which will be cultivated on 250 acres in the erstwhile Warangal district this year. Agriculture and horticulture officials, scientists and public representatives participated in the programme.

Centre to send high-level team to assess Assam flood damage, assures full support

Guwahati (TSIT): The Central government will dispatch a high-level team to Assam to assess the damage caused by the ongoing floods and determine the extent of financial assistance required for relief and rehabilitation, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal announced on Friday. The Union Minister said the Centre has assured the Assam government of all possible support as the state battles one of its worst flood spells, which has affected more than 7.42 lakh people across 11 districts. Expressing sorrow over the loss of lives, Sonowal conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families and said rescue agencies were continuing search operations for those still reported missing. "The Centre and the Assam government stand firmly with every citizen affected by the floods. We mourn the lives lost and pray for the safety of those who are still missing," he said in a statement. Sonowal said the flood situation in Assam was



reviewed during the Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, where the Centre reaffirmed its commitment to extending all necessary assistance for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction. He added that the Union government has remained in constant contact with the Assam administration since the onset of the floods and has assured Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of every possible help. According to the Minister, a multidisciplinary team comprising officials from various Central ministries will soon visit the flood-affected regions to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the damage. The team will interact

with the state government and local authorities before submitting its findings to the Centre, based on which additional financial assistance will be provided for relief operations, rehabilitation of affected families and restoration of damaged infrastructure. Sonowal also praised the Assam government's response to the crisis, saying ministers, Members of Parliament, legislators, panchayat representatives and district administrations have been working in close coordination to ensure timely rescue and relief measures. He noted that the floods have inundated more than 2,000 villages, forcing thousands of people to seek shelter in hundreds of relief camps established across the state.

KIMS Fertility & IVF Centre, Banjara Hills Celebrates World IVF Day

KIMS Fertility & IVF Centre, Banjara Hills, celebrated World IVF Day with an awareness program highlighting the latest advancements in fertility treatments and the importance of timely infertility management. On the occasion, Dr. Nimma Pooja Reddy, Consultant Fertility Specialist & Laparoscopic Surgeon, emphasized that modern IVF technologies have significantly improved success rates, offering new hope to couples facing infertility challenges. She encouraged couples to seek expert consultation at the earliest for better treatment outcomes and successful parenthood journeys. Dr. B. Sindhura, Fertility Consultant & Specialist in Reproductive Regenerative Medicine, spoke about the latest developments in repro-



ductive medicine and regenerative therapies that are helping improve fertility outcomes and overall reproductive health. The doctors highlighted that KIMS Fertility & IVF Centre is the first fertility centre in the Telugu States to introduce completely painless, needle-free fertility treatments, offering patients a more comfortable and stress-

free treatment experience. This innovative approach has helped reduce treatment-related anxiety and improve patient comfort during fertility care. The specialists interacted with patients and attendees, addressing common misconceptions about infertility and IVF treatments. The program aimed to create awareness about fertility health,

early diagnosis, and the various advanced treatment options available for couples aspiring to become parents. KIMS Fertility & IVF Centre remains committed to providing world-class fertility care through advanced technology, experienced specialists, personalized treatment plans, and pioneering innovations that enhance patient comfort and treatment success.

Indian student from Punjab strangled to death in Canada, partner arrested

Edmonton, Jul 25: A 23-year-old Indian student from Punjab was allegedly strangled to death at her residence in Edmonton, Canada, with police arresting her live-in partner, also an Indian national, in connection with the murder. The victim, Damanpreet Kaur, was a native of Samrala in Ludhiana district and had moved to Canada nearly five years ago on a student visa. According to the Edmonton Police Service (EPS), officers responded to a residence in the Silverberry neighbourhood of southeast Edmonton on Jul. 9 after receiving reports of an unresponsive woman with suspicious injuries. Emergency responders shifted Kaur to a hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries on July 12. An autopsy conducted



on July 14 confirmed that she died due to strangulation, following which the medical examiner ruled the case a homicide, the EPS said. Police arrested Ritish Kumar (22) on July 22 and charged him with second-degree murder. Investigators said the incident is being treated as an intimate partner homicide and confirmed that no other suspects are being sought in the case.

Books on liver disease awareness launched to promote early detection

Hyderabad, July 25, 2026: In a significant initiative to promote public awareness on liver health, renowned Hepatologist Dr. K.S. Somasekhhar Rao officially launched his two books, "Last Warning" (English) and "Aakhari Hechcharika" (Telugu), at a grand ceremony held on July 25, 2026, at Yashoda Hospitals, Hitec City, Hyderabad. The books were unveiled by former Supreme Court Judge Justice Jasti Chelameswar and Lok Sabha Member of Parliament Dr. Shabari Byreddy, who attended the event as Chief Guests, in the presence of Dr. G. S. Rao, Managing Director, Yashoda Hospitals. The event was attended by eminent medical professionals, healthcare experts, academicians, public representatives, social workers, media representatives, and several distinguished guests. Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries highlighted the growing burden of liver diseases



in India, which have emerged as one of the leading causes of illness and premature mortality. Conditions such as Fatty Liver Disease, Viral Hepatitis, Alcohol-related Liver Disease, and Liver Cirrhosis continue to rise at an alarming rate. However, they emphasized that many of these diseases can be

prevented through timely awareness, healthy lifestyle choices, vaccination where appropriate, and early diagnosis. Driven by the vision of making liver health information accessible to everyone, Dr. K.S. Somasekhhar Rao authored both books in simple and easy-to-understand language, enabling

people without a medical background to understand liver diseases, recognize warning signs, and adopt preventive measures. Each book comprises six chapters, with every chapter beginning with a real-life patient story. These case studies help readers relate to practical situations and understand the importance of recognizing early symptoms, seeking timely medical care, and embracing healthy lifestyle practices. The books comprehensively cover common liver diseases, warning signs that should never be ignored, risk factors, common myths and misconceptions, preventive strategies, healthy dietary habits, the importance of vaccination, safe use of medications, and lifestyle modifications that help protect liver health. Addressing the gathering, Dr. K.S. Somasekhhar Rao said, "The liver is a silent organ, and many liver diseases remain unnoticed until they reach an advanced stage. Through these books, my

goal is to help every family recognize the early warning signs of liver disease, encourage healthy habits, and prevent avoidable liver disorders. Creating awareness before disease develops is the best form of healthcare." One of the highlights of the event was the presentation of the first copies of the books to several 'Liver Health Ambassadors'—patients who had successfully undergone treatment under Dr. Somasekhhar Rao. He dedicated the books to every individual and family who has battled liver disease. During the event, Dr. Somasekhhar Rao also felicitated Mr. Vivekanand Mishra, acknowledging his inspiration, encouragement, and unwavering support in the creation of these books. By releasing the books simultaneously in English and Telugu, the author reinforced his commitment to ensuring that liver health awareness reaches people across different sections of society, irrespective of language barriers.

Madras High Court orders permits for NGOs to clear invasive trees, names Revenue Secretary nodal officer

CHENNAI: The Madras High Court on Friday (July 24) directed the State government to allocate adequate funds for the removal of invasive Prosopis juliflora trees, appointed the Revenue Secretary as the nodal officer to oversee the drive, and ordered officials to process permissions for voluntary organisations within 24 hours.

A Special Bench comprising Justices N Sathish Kumar and D Bharatha Chakravarthy expressed dissatisfaction over the lack of coordination between government officials and the court-appointed committee monitoring the eradication drive.



Revenue Department officials to grant permissions within 24 hours to voluntary organisations seeking to remove the invasive species from government lands. Encouraging broader public participation, the court urged volunteers to emulate MDMK general secretary Vaiko, who has been actively participating in removal drives of invasive trees. The directions were issued on a petition filed by Vaiko seeking the statewide removal of Prosopis juliflora.

Appearing in person, Vaiko submitted that he,

alongside farmers and environmental activists, had taken part in clearing drives across several locations, including Andipatti in Theni district. He informed the bench that exposure to carbon dioxide emitted during the burning and removal process had affected his lungs and throat.

He further contended that despite a change in government, no effective steps were taken to implement the High Court's earlier orders. He requested the court to direct the Chief Secretary to instruct all District Collectors to implement the directions and ensure permissions are cleared within 24 hours.

DMK re-inducts provocative orator Gudiyattam Kumaran

CHENNAI: The DMK on Saturday (July 25) revoked the suspension of its controversial speaker Gudiyattam Kumaran, who had been vocal against the TVK and its president, Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, accepting his apology and withdrawing the disciplinary action initiated against him.

In a statement, DMK general secretary Duraimurugan said the party leadership had decided to reinstate Kumaran after considering his apology.

Kumaran had earlier been suspended following his speeches and conduct, which the party said were in violation of its discipline and organisational norms. The disciplinary action was initiated after his remarks and behaviour drew criticism and sparked controversy on social media.



Madras High Court orders permits for NGOs to clear invasive trees, names Revenue Secretary nodal officer

The DMK's Propaganda Wing deputy secretary remained vocal against TVK and Vijay even after the suspension. The move is seen as the party's move to build a team of stage orators who could attack and try to expose TVK and Chief Minister Vijay. Similarly, the party's controversial stage orator, Sivaji Krishnamurthy, was suspended for making controversial remarks and later reinducted, delivering a speech at a DMK public meeting recently.

No apology or justice, CM Vijay forgot pre-poll stance on custodial deaths: MK Stalin

The DMK president recalled that before elections, Vijay had demanded explanations from the then government over custodial deaths and questioned whether merely expressing regret was sufficient.



CHENNAI: DMK president MK Stalin on Saturday alleged that Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay had remained silent over the death of a 24-year-old man from Thoothukudi who allegedly died after being subjected to police custody, and demand-

ed that the Chief Minister respond to the incident. In a post on social media platform X, Stalin accused the State government of failing to show accountability or compassion following the death of Arunachalam, a resident of Amudha Nagar in

Thoothukudi district. Condemning the incident, Stalin alleged that custodial deaths had become a matter of serious concern under the present dispensation and questioned when the Chief Minister would break his silence on such incidents.

The DMK president recalled that before elections, Vijay had demanded explanations from the then government over custodial deaths and questioned whether merely expressing regret was sufficient.

Stalin alleged that after assuming office as Chief Minister, Vijay had failed to even offer an apology or publicly express condolences to Arunachalam's family.

"The Chief Minister, who once sought accountability from the previous government, has now remained silent despite repeated allegations of custodial deaths. The people deserve an explanation and the victim's family deserves justice," Stalin said.

He urged the State government to order a fair and transparent investigation into the incident, ensure that those responsible are brought to justice, and take stringent measures to prevent the recurrence of custodial deaths in Tamil Nadu.

Hanok had the privilege of performing alongside Ravi Basrur, the acclaimed KGF music director,

Mysore : Hanok demonstrated exceptional control, clarity, and expression throughout his violin performance. His polished presentation and confident stage presence earned appreciation from the audience. The programme was presented during the Dasara Concert at Mysore Palace



Grounds. His expressive recital added charm to the prestigious musical celebration. Hanok had the privilege of performing alongside Ravi Basrur, the acclaimed KGF music director, during the concert. The performance concluded with warm applause and appreciation from music lovers.

Dharmendra Pradhan's Resignation: B.Y. Vijayendra Defends the Decision

Bengaluru: BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra strongly condemned the Congress for attempting to derive political mileage from the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan. He said the Congress leaders' claims that the resignation was a "victory for the Congress party" were purely politically motivated. Vijayendra maintained that Pradhan took the decision solely in the interest of students.

Dharmendra Pradhan's Commitment to Students

Recalling Dharmendra Pradhan's political journey, Vijayendra said that Pradhan has consistently fought for students' rights since his days in the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP). He described Pradhan as a leader who has represented the voice of millions of students across the country. Referring to the alleged NEET question paper leak and the tragic incidents of student suicides, Vijayendra termed them extremely unfortunate developments. He stated that Pradhan respected the sentiments of students and, acknowledging their concerns and struggle, decided to resign.

Congress Accused of Political Opportunism

Allegation of Political Exploitation

Vijayendra alleged that while students in Delhi were protesting

against irregularities in the NEET examination, Congress leaders attempted to exploit the movement for their own political gains under the guise of supporting the students. Instead of working towards a genuine solution to the students' issues, he accused the Congress of using the protests as a political weapon against the Central Government.

Criticism of Rahul Gandhi

Vijayendra also criticized Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, alleging that while students across the country were facing uncertainty about their future, Rahul Gandhi was abroad enjoying himself. Even after returning, instead of instilling confidence among students, he allegedly chose to politicize the issue further through speeches rather than offering constructive solutions.

Reforms in the Examination System

Vijayendra stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, recognizing the seriousness of the NEET controversy and the students' protests, has announced several transparent and far-reaching reforms to India's examination system. He said these measures demonstrate the Central Government's commitment to ensuring that incidents such as question paper leaks and examination malpractices do not recur.

Manipal Hospital, Bengaluru Installs India's First Elekta Evo, Advancing AI-Enabled Adaptive Radiotherapy in India

Bangalore : In a significant advancement for cancer care in India, Manipal Hospital, Yelahanka, Bengaluru has become the first healthcare institution in the country to install Elekta Evo, the company's AI-enhanced adaptive CT-Linac platform. The installation enables clinicians to deliver Online Adaptive Radiotherapy (ART), supporting more personalised and precision-led radiation therapy for patients.

The milestone builds on Evo's India debut at AROICON 2025, the country's premier conference for radiation oncology, held in Kolkata.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India continues to witness a growing cancer burden, with an estimated 1.46 million new cancer cases diagnosed annually. As more patients require radiation therapy and many present with complex or advanced-stage disease, the need for technologies that enable greater treatment precision and personalisation has become increasingly important.

For Manipal Hospital,



the installation significantly strengthens its radiation oncology capabilities by bringing adaptive radiotherapy into routine clinical practice. This enables clinicians to personalise treatment throughout a patient's care journey, supporting more informed treatment decisions while streamlining clinical workflows. By making adaptive radiotherapy more accessible in routine practice, the platform allows more patients to benefit from personalised radiation therapy without compromising efficiency or precision. The department has already begun translating this capability into clinical

practice, successfully treating its first patient with locally advanced rectal cancer using online adaptive radiotherapy (oART) on the Elekta Evo platform. The patient completed neoadjuvant chemoradiotherapy with minimal radiation-related side effects, demonstrating the potential of daily adaptive treatment to precisely target tumors while sparing surrounding healthy tissues.

Feras Al Hasan, Head of Region TIMEA at Elekta, said, "The installation of India's first Elekta Evo at Manipal Hospital marks an important milestone in expanding access to adaptive radiation therapy in

the country. Since introducing Evo at AROICON last year, our ambition has been to make this next generation of precision radiation therapy available to clinicians treating increasingly complex cancers. By combining AI-enhanced imaging with online adaptive capabilities on a highly versatile CT-Linac platform, Evo enables clinicians to make more informed treatment decisions throughout a patient's care journey. We are proud to partner with Manipal Hospital in bringing this innovation to India and reaffirm our commitment to advancing high-quality cancer care across the region."

Dr Vikram Maiya, Lead Consultant- Radiation Oncology, Manipal hospital Yelahanka added, "At Manipal Hospital, we are committed to bringing the latest advances in cancer care to our patients. Becoming the first hospital in India to install Elekta Evo reinforces that commitment. The platform enables our radiation oncology teams to adapt treatment to changes in a patient's anatomy during therapy, supporting more

individualised treatment decisions while enhancing our ability to deliver personalised, high-quality cancer care. We have already seen its clinical value in patients undergoing online adaptive radiotherapy, where daily treatment adaptation has helped achieve precise tumor targeting while minimising radiation exposure to healthy tissues. Our initial experience across rectal, cervical and prostate cancer patients has been encouraging, with treatments progressing well and minimal side effects observed so far."

Powered by Iris™ high-definition AI-enhanced imaging, Elekta Evo enables clinicians to visualise tumors and surrounding healthy anatomy with exceptional clarity. Combined with online and offline adaptive capabilities, the platform supports a broad range of radiation therapy techniques on a single system, enabling clinicians to deliver highly precise treatment while helping minimise radiation exposure to surrounding healthy tissue.

NEET exam question paper leak puts lakhs of students in danger: S. Manohar

Bengaluru: The NEET exam question paper leak and serious failures in the examination system have put lakhs of students in danger, and students, parents and the public across the country are demanding resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan said KPCC general secretary S. Manohar.

Speaking after participating in a signature collection campaign from the public and students against the central government's education policy and the failure of the NEET examination system, he demanded that Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan be immediately dismissed from the cabinet and that Prime Minister Narendra Modi apologize to the students and parents.

It is condemnable that Dharmendra Pradhan has clung to power without resigning despite such serious developments. The central government's efforts to protect him are like playing with the future of the students. Therefore, Prime Minister



Narendra Modi should dismiss Dharmendra Pradhan from the cabinet and apologize to the students and parents.

Today, students and parents across the country are taking to the streets to fight for their rights, which is a testament to the people's dissatisfaction with the education policy of the central government. The allegations that police force is being used against the protesting students and parents are also a very worrying development.

Through this campaign, the demand for Dharmendra Pradhan's

resignation and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to apologize to the students and parents of the country is being recorded as a nationwide referendum.

The resignation of the Prime Minister and Union Ministers is the only solution to a failed administration. He said that the country will not forgive those who play with the future of students. During this signature collection campaign, G. Prakash, spokespersons Anand Kumar, Murali, Kushal Haruvegowda, Aditya, Putta Raju, Chinni Prakash, Ranjith, Madhav Hanur, Ajay, were present.

EDITORIAL

‘Musafir Cafe’: An Earthy Relationship Drama Embedded In Frothy Affectations

Eventually, Sharanya Rajgopal’s Musafir Cafe settles into the cosiness of a novel found in a railway station book-stall. Those unintimidating 200-page paperbacks, which one buys for an overnight journey. Here, it happens in the seventh episode of this eight-episode series. Sudha (Vedika Pinto) is a pretty, impulsive, recklessly-ambitious girl from Bhopal – a version of a metropolitan idea of a small-town firebrand. The kind who discovered ‘Carpe Diem’ in her adolescence and never looked back. She has a job offer from Mumbai, which she reluctantly accepts. Unfortunately, she’s in love with Chander (Vikrant Massey), who she met a few months ago, and is currently vacationing with, in Mussoorie. Chander, a US-returned engineer who harbours dreams of owning a cafe on a hill station, is the opposite of Sudha. He’s excited about Mussoorie, his boss has agreed to become his loan guarantor, and he might have also found a business partner. Sudha hasn’t told Chander about her plans yet. And when she does – he quashes his plans, and talks about moving with her to Mumbai. This disappoints her. In a rather pragmatic moment in the show, Sudha shames Chander for flippantly giving up on his dreams, and choosing to follow her instead. Some of her respect diminishes for him. This scene is what the entire series is building towards – and it reveals a sincere relationship drama embedded within the glossy design of a staple Netflix rom-com. Based on Divya Prakash Dubey’s novel of the same name, Rajgopal’s series doesn’t begin with the same assurance. There’s an inherent clash between the show’s earthy source material and the frothy, urban Netflix aesthetic (that makes Bhopal look like Andheri). The actors, Pinto as Sudha and Massey as Chander, look (and sound) very protagonist-y. They’re not ‘ordinary’ by any measure. Chander has been asked to meet with Sudha at a cafe, as an arranged-marriage prospect. Sudha is transparently cruel as he tells him marriage is not on her radar, and that she does this to please her mother. Chander, a pragmatic nerd with low self-esteem, finds himself charmed by her lack of filter. An unsuccessful arranged marriage meet-up improvises into an unintentional first date. Directed by Ruchir Arun, who spearheaded the walk-and-talk relationship dramas on India’s Youtube (like Little Things), even Musafir Cafe has plenty of the genre’s ‘relatable’ affectations. Massey, usually an effortless actor, initially looks at sea with the narrative sparseness. There’s very little to Chander beyond his desire to get married, and his infatuation with Sudha. A quirk added for effect, where he’s particular about his coffee, never feels like an innate part of him. Pinto is unconvincing as a girl from Ratlam, especially with that body language that belongs in Soho House. The humour, and the abrupt relationship expediency, feel contrived at first. Things become more easy-going in the third and fourth episode. However, things become more easy-going in the third and fourth episode, when Chander’s mother (Anubha Fatehpuria), shows up unannounced. A scene featuring Sudha’s roommate, a staple scene in such shows, when the two girls giggle over Sudha’s brand-new partner.

CJP CALLS OFF PROTEST AMID JUBILANT CROWDS AT JANTAR MANTAR

New Delhi: The Cockrorach Janta Party (CJP) and Union government held a joint press conference on Saturday (July 25) in which the agitation at Jantar Mantar was called off. “Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan has sent in his resignation, which means that our first demand has been met,” said CJP spokesperson Saurav Das as the press conference began. He said it was being done “in good faith and on the agreed-upon terms”.The second demand, that FIRs should be withdrawn against all the protesters and no new cases should be registered or action initiated against them in the future, has also been accepted, Das said. “The government has said they would be withdrawn and no action would be taken against the organisers either,” he said. The FIRs that have already been filed, he said, would be shared with the CJP within a few days. Das said that a draft of a “guarantee” related to immunity for student-agitators had been shared with the government and he hoped it would be agreed to as-is. The government has assured it would respond to that draft by Tuesday (July 28). The families of students who died by suicide due to the NEET undergraduate paper leak earlier this year have also been assured of compensation. This would be done as per “rules and regulations” for compensation, said Das. On the five-point demand related to examination reforms and reforms in the education sector, the government has asked for four weeks’ time to respond, which the CJP has accepted, Das said. Speaking after the CJP at the press conference, Nadda said, “The demand for no FIRs to be filed and no action to be taken on FIRs that have already been filed have been accepted by the government.” He said in the future as well, they would not face cases related to the protests. He also accepted the compensation-related



request of the agitation. “We are also sympathetic to those who are bereaved due to exams and we will give them what is the maximum allowed under the law,” Nadda said. He said the government would “try to do” whatever was possible in consultation with the CJP team. There was no reference to the apology – demanded by the CJP as well as opposition parties – from the security forces for the violence of July 20 during the ‘Sansad Chalo’ march. Education minister resigns Earlier today, Pradhan stepped down from his post in a letter on Saturday afternoon that he posted on social media. This is the first resignation under public pressure under Narendra Modi’s prime ministership. “Considering the situation at Jantar Mantar and elsewhere in the country, and so that anti-national forces do not take advantage of the circumstances, national unity is maintained, no student’s future gets entangled in legal complications, and our children can focus on their studies and building their careers, I have submitted my resignation to the Hon’ble Prime Minister. I sincerely

thank the Hon’ble Prime Minister for his guidance, trust, and continuous support. I also express my gratitude to all my esteemed colleagues in the Council of Ministers, the officers and employees of the Ministry, and everyone with whom I had the privilege of working. Serving the nation has always been the highest priority of my life, and I shall remain dedicated to it. With the blessings of Lord Jagannath, I will continue to dedicate myself in every possible way to serving Mother India, the people of Odisha, and fulfilling the aspirations of the youth of our nation.” While Pradhan has hinted at “ant-national forces” being responsible for what has happened, calls for his resignation have become a nationwide cry in the last few weeks. What began as an internet movement started by Abhijeet Dipke and the Cockroach Janata Party is now a movement that has brought together students, the youth, their well wishers and opposition parties across the country. Public sentiment has turned even further after the students’ peaceful protest was met with severe brutality

from the Delhi Police and RAF on Monday (July 20). The Union government has been in talks with spokespersons from the CJP, who had made clear that Pradhan’s resignation was a non-negotiable. They had also promised a larger and more intense stir across the country if Pradhan did not resign in a day or two. The opposition too had stood by this, saying that while they want a serious discussion around paper leaks and educational matters in parliament, this can be done only after Pradhan’s resignation. The Cockrorach Janta Party (CJP) on Saturday (July 25), called off the agitation at Jantar Mantar after a third round of talks with the government. The outfit said all its demands were met. CJP spokesperson Saurav Das said the Jantar Mantar protest was being called off “in good faith and on agreed-upon terms” with the Union government. Its demands included the resignation of Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the withdrawal of FIRs against all the protesters and no new cases being registered or action initiated against them,

“The government has said they would be withdrawn and no action would be taken against the organisers either,” Das said at a joint press conference with Union ministers J.P. Nadda and Jitendra Singh. The CJP has prepared a draft of a “guarantee” assuring immunity for student-agitators that the government has assured it would respond to by Tuesday (July 28). The families of students who died by suicide due to the NEET undergraduate paper leak earlier this year will be provided compensation as per “rules and regulations”. On the five-point demand related to examination reforms and reforms in the education sector, the government has asked for four weeks’ time to respond, which the CJP has accepted, Das said. At the press conference, Nadda reiterated that each of these demands had been “accepted by the government”. Nadda said, “The demand for no FIRs to be filed and no action to be taken on FIRs that have already been filed has been accepted by the government.” He said in the future as well, the protesters and organisers of the agitation

would not face cases related to the protests. “We are also sympathetic to those who are bereaved due to exams and we will give them what is the maximum compensation allowed under the law,” Nadda said. He said the government would “try to do” whatever was possible in consultation with the CJP team with respect to education reform. There was no reference to the apology – demanded by the CJP as well as opposition parties – from the security forces for the violence of July 20 during the ‘Sansad Chalo’ march. There was also no reference to the alleged use of pellet guns by security forces during the march to parliament. Hours before the resignation, both the CJP and Lok Sabha leader of opposition Rahul Gandhi had made it clear that nothing less of Pradhan’s resignation or sacking from the cabinet would be acceptable to the youth and students of the country. “This is democracy. He has resigned. We have two more demands. We won’t go like this. Dharmendra Pradhan has resigned. But the families of the children who committed suicide should receive compensation of one crore rupees. They should get it. One crore rupees compensation to all those families. And second, these police goons who acted on the 20th. Action must be taken against the police officers for that. Remember, do not mess with cockroach,” said CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke after Pradhan’s resignation. After the march to the parliament on July 20 was brutally cracked down upon by police, the protest against the failure of the education system under the Modi government had snowballed into a larger show of anger and protest against the system. After a previous round of talks with the Union government, the CJP had said on Friday (July 24) that it will give another national call for protest if Pradhan doesn’t go in the next 1-2 days.

When slogans become abusive



The most beautiful hallmark of democracy is that dissent is not considered a crime. Asking questions here is not rebellion, but evidence of being a conscious citizen. Taking to the streets to speak out, demanding answers from those in power, and raising voices against injustice is the very soul of democracy. But that very spirit begins to be wounded when slogans replace ideas with abuses, when the voice of protest abandons decorum and takes on the form of insults, and when the language of revolution deviates from civility and becomes the language of bitterness. A slogan isn’t just a collection of words. It’s the face of a movement, the voice of its soul. Future generations remember movements by their slogans. Slogans like “Inquilab Zindabad,” “Do or Die,” and “Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan” became immortal because they didn’t insult any individual, but rather represented an idea, a resolve, and the call of an era. When words connect with purpose, they become history, and when they become mere insults, they become nothing more than momentary noise. Today is a time of noise. Social media has

given every voice a platform, but it has also amplified every provocation. Now, those who speak the most sharply are heard the most. The mistake of mistaking restraint for weakness and decency for inaction is growing. This is why, in many movements, taunts replace arguments, satire replaces dialogue, and abuse replaces protest. This is not just a decline in language, but an erosion of democratic values. Abuse can never be a substitute for thought. Those who have run out of arguments often resort to abuse. In a battle of ideas, the higher the language, the higher the movement will rise. But if the language itself degrades, even the most noble cause loses its dignity. The moral strength of any movement is measured not by the loftiness of its slogans, but by the dignity of its language. Indian civilization has called speech austerity. Our sages said that words can be both arrows and balm. They can both unite and divide society. Therefore, restraint in speech is considered an ornament of character. If politics is a mirror of society, then the language of movements is a reflection of that mirror. If the reflection reveals only bitterness, then it is a concern not just for the movement but for the entire society. It’s also true that every movement involves thousands or millions of people. It wouldn’t be fair to judge the entire movement based on the inappropriate behavior of a

few individuals. However, leadership is tested in moments like these. Guiding a crowd isn’t just a matter of delivering a speech from a stage; it’s also the leadership’s responsibility to maintain respectful language. Leadership that remains silent on offensive slogans unwittingly accepts them. History shows that the most influential movements addressed even their opponents with dignity. Mahatma Gandhi’s struggle was against British rule, not against the British people. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, despite sharp differences, did not abandon constitutional language. Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan spoke of systemic change, not the humiliation of individuals. This is why the memory of his movements lives on with respect. The need today is not just to change governments, but to preserve the language of public discourse. Democracy lives as much on the streets as it does in Parliament. If dialogue dies on the streets, parliamentary debates will also become hollow. If protest becomes merely an insult, there will be no possibility of consensus. The greatest asset of democracy is dialogue, and the first condition of dialogue is respect. We also need to understand that children and youth learn not only from books but also from society. When they hear abuses on TV and mobile screens, and during protests, they form the impression that perhaps this is the language of

struggle. This poses the greatest threat to the next generation of democracy. If we don’t provide them with a culture of ideas, they will accept the culture of noise as the norm. Democracy is not about victory or defeat. It is the art of coexistence amidst differences. Here, the opponent is not an enemy, but merely an ideological rival. Therefore, decorum in words is not merely a matter of linguistic etiquette, but a testament to democratic maturity. The time has come to restore our movements to their original spirit. Let slogans spark thought, let anger be expressed with restraint, and even disagreement be expressed with respect. History doesn’t remember who cursed the loudest; history remembers those who preserved the dignity of their language even in the most difficult times. Democracy operates not on the edge of a sword, but on the credibility of words. If words are wounded, even institutions cannot remain safe for long. So, the next time a movement takes to the streets, it should have placards in hand, hope in eyes, and determination in voice—but its words must be dignified. Because ideas triumph not through insults, but through dialogue; and the loudest voice of democracy is one that embraces disagreement but not indecency.

(Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

Tech Platforms That Farm Rage With AI Fakes Cannot Claim Neutrality

In the space of a few days, a senior minister appeared to say something inflammatory he never said. A prime minister appeared to make comments he never made. A protest leader appeared to call off a movement he never called off. All three videos were fake. All three were generated by AI, and all three spread on social media before anyone could stop them. That is the real story of the recent Gen Z-led protests: not just what people were angry about, but how easily that anger could be weaponised and set loose at scale. AI misinformation is a live governance problem, and India needs a serious national conversation on regulating such synthetic content. Not to restrict innovation, but to ensure AI does not supercharge misinformation and hate speech capable of disturbing public order in a country as socially, culturally, and linguistically diverse as India. Traditional misinformation required real effort to scale. AI collapses that cost, as anyone can now produce a realistic fake video, voice clip or image in minutes, publish it instantly, and watch algorithms push it to hundreds of millions before any fact-checker or law-enforcement agency notices. It is this combination of cheap creation, instant publication and algorithmic virality that makes generative AI different in kind, not degree. By the time authorities identify one fake, several variants may already be circulating across languages and regions, which is why this can no longer be treated as a content-moderation problem alone. Once harmful AI con-



tent reaches millions, it becomes a law-and-order challenge, and sometimes it is already too late. India’s law-enforcement machinery is structurally outmatched here: cybercrime units are stretched thin across a twenty-plus-language information space, forensic verification takes hours a viral clip will not wait for, and jurisdictional friction (platforms headquartered abroad, complaints filed in one state about content viewed nationwide) slows things further. Police can register an FIR and courts can eventually establish the facts, but none of that stops the first few hours of unchecked spread, when the real damage is done. The goal must be to intervene before content goes viral, putting the burden on platforms that control amplification, not on police left cleaning up afterwards. Accountability Must Sit with Big Tech Platforms There are three points in the life cycle of AI content where responsibility could apply: creation, pub-

lication and viral amplification. Creation itself should not be heavily restricted. Generative AI has enormous legitimate value in education, creativity and business, and society should not stifle it because it can be misused. Real accountability should begin at publication. Platforms already deploy sophisticated systems to catch child sexual abuse material and terrorist content, and can build comparable safeguards for high-risk synthetic content: deepfakes that impersonate public figures, fabricate riot footage or incite communal hatred. Most important, though, is virality. Even after harmful content slips past initial moderation, platforms have rich signals once it starts spreading: engagement spikes, abnormal sharing, coordinated behaviour and user reports. AI systems are themselves capable of flagging synthetic media after the fact. If they can detect it post-virality, it is unacceptable that they lack the capability to catch

much of it during its spread. The trouble is that commercial incentives cut the other way. Emotionally charged, divisive content drives more engagement, a dynamic often called ‘rage farming’. Platforms cannot claim to be neutral hosts while running algorithms that decide what millions see. Once a platform makes that editorial choice at scale, responsibility must extend across the content’s entire life cycle, not end at hosting. AI-generated misinformation does not manufacture division out of nothing. It exploits existing fault lines, lending fabricated narratives more credibility and speed, which is precisely why this has become a public-order issue, not merely a technology one. Equal Safeguards for India Big Tech and AI platforms do not apply uniform safeguards everywhere. During US elections, these companies invested heavily in election-integrity operations, fact-checker partnerships and rapid-response detection.

Mumbai court orders Flipkart to refund iPhone buyer sent beard oil

Mumbai: A consumer court here has directed Flipkart and the seller to refund over Rs 1.11 lakh to a customer who received beard growth oil instead of the Apple iPhone he had ordered, and to pay Rs 70,000 in compensation and litigation costs. The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Additional DCF, Mumbai (Suburban), in its order passed earlier this month, held that repeated closure of the customer's complaints without granting any effective relief amounted to "unfair trade practice". It noted that the order was placed through the online platform by making the necessary payments. "Therefore, the opposite party No 1 (Flipkart) owed a corresponding duty to ensure that the consumer received the product ordered and to provide an effective mechanism for redressal of consumer grievances," the commission said. An e-commerce entity cannot simply distance itself from a transaction after facilitating the sale,



particularly where the consumer immediately reports that a completely different product has been delivered, it said. The failure to investigate the complaint, recover the wrongly delivered parcel, provide a replacement or refund and repeatedly close the complaint without granting any effective relief "amounts to a clear cut deficiency in service and also constitutes an unfair trade practice", the commission said. The panel also emphasised that the failure on the part of the seller, International Value Retail Pvt Ltd, to deliver the contracted product and rectify the griev-

ance despite repeated requests clearly establishes deficiency in service on its part. Thus, both the platform and the seller are jointly and severally liable for the loss and inconvenience caused to the complainant, the commission ruled. Purchased in 2023 The complainant, a resident of Mumbai's Powai area, had purchased an Apple iPhone 14 Pro (128 GB) on April 22, 2023, via Flipkart for Rs 1,11,793 using a no-cost EMI scheme. While a separately ordered charger and cover were delivered successfully, the main package delivered the following day contained "beard

growth oil" and packing material instead of the high-end smartphone. The complainant alleged that despite repeatedly approaching Flipkart's customer support between April and May 2023 and submitting all required documents, the company failed to resolve the issue. Instead, the complaint was repeatedly marked as "resolved" without any refund or replacement being provided. The consumer forum directed Flipkart and the seller to refund the principal amount of Rs 1,11,793 with an interest of 9 per cent per annum from April 22, 2023, until actual realisation. Additionally, they were ordered to pay Rs 50,000 as compensation for mental agony and harassment, and Rs 20,000 as litigation costs within a period of 45 days. Complaint not maintainable: Apple India Apple India, also a party in the case, had filed a written statement, contending that the complaint was not maintainable either in law or on the facts and deserved to be dismissed.

INDIA'S GODAWAN WINS THE TITLE OF 'SINGLE MALT OF THE YEAR' AND 'SPIRIT OF THE YEAR' AT GLOBAL SPIRITS AWARDS 2026

THE AWARD-WINNING INDIAN SINGLE MALT ADDS TWO PRESTIGIOUS TITLES TO ITS GROWING LIST OF OVER 125 INTERNATIONAL ACCOLADES

Telangana, July 2026: Godawan Artisanal Single Malt Whisky by Godawan Distilleries, in Rajasthan, has won two major awards at the Bartender Spirits Awards 2026 held in Chicago, USA. Godawan 02 Fruit & Spice was named Spirit of the Year – India and Indian Single Malt Whisky of the Year, taking the brand's total international awards to over 125. The Spirit of the Year – India award recognises the highest-ranked Indian spirit across all categories at the competition and is the competition's most coveted title awarded to the spirit with the highest aggregate performance overall. Along with these two awards,

Godawan 02 Fruit & Spice also received a Double Gold Medal, while Godawan 01 Rich & Rounded won a Gold Medal. These awards recognise the quality and consistency of Godawan's whiskies. Organised by the Beverage Trade Network, the Bartender Spirits Awards are among the few global competitions judged by those who work closely with spirits every day - bartenders, bar managers and hospitality professionals. Spirits are blind tasted for their liquid quality, aroma, flavour, balance and overall character, and then evaluated on packaging and value. Commenting on the achievement, Vikram

Damodaran, Chief Innovation Officer, Diageo India, said, "We have always believed that the liquid has to speak for itself. From the beginning, our ambition was to create the finest single malt that could stand alongside global whiskies. To be recognised as Spirit of the Year – India and Indian Single Malt Whisky of the Year by bartenders and spirits professionals who work with some of the finest spirits in the world every day is a powerful endorsement of the whisky itself and the distinctive identity we have worked hard to create." Crafted in Rajasthan, Godawan draws its unique character from one of the world's most

demanding whisky-making climates. The region's intense heat and dry conditions create a rich, concentrated flavour profile, while the whisky is finished in specially treated casks infused with Indian botanicals, including Rasna and Jatamansi, giving it a flavour profile that is uniquely its own. Since its launch in 2022, Godawan has steadily built a reputation as one of India's most celebrated single malts, earning recognition across leading international competitions including Monde Selection Awards, One Club Pencil and Merit Awards 2026, Spikes Asia 2026, Clio Awards 2026, and more, for its liquid, design and innovation.

Kritagnya: Anvayaa Kin Care Honours India's Bravest and Turns 10 with Three New Launches for India's Elders

Hyderabad, July 2026: Ten years ago, when most of India's startup ecosystem was chasing food delivery and e-commerce, Prashanth Reddy made a quieter bet. He decided to care for India's parents. Today, that bet has become Anvayaa Kin Care, a platform that supports over 1.5 lakh seniors across 38 cities, has delivered more than 80 lakh hours of home care, and has managed over 5,000 medical emergencies with a 97% lives-saved record. On July 24, Anvayaa marked its 10th anniversary not just by looking back, but by looking forward with the launch of three new services designed to address the full spectrum of a senior's life: their body, their wellbeing, and their faith. Kritagnya: Celebrating 10 years of Anvayaa & Founders' vision. Anvayaa named the evening Kritagnya, a Sanskrit word that means gratitude and it was a fitting frame for everything the night held. This was not a corporate milestone event. It was a thank you: to the families who trusted Anvayaa with their parents, to the Care Managers who showed up every single day, to the families who made a phone call when asking for help felt hardest, and to a decade of quiet, unglamorous work that has genuinely changed lives. The celebration brought together senior



citizens, their families, Anvayaa's Care Managers and employees, partners, and invited guests, a room that, in many ways, told the Anvayaa story better than any slide deck could. The programme included the felicitation of Gallantry awardees & Padma Shri awardees for their contributions to country and a Anvayaa Kritagnya Showcase – a walk of confidence and self-esteem by Anvayaa Elderly Members showcasing a deliberate, joyful reminder that ageing is not the end of self-expression. The evening was attended by Chief Guests Shri Brahmanandam (Celebrated Comedy Actor, Padmashri and Guinness book record holder), alongside Shri. Jayesh Ranjan (Special Chief Secretary, Govt. of Telangana), Shri. S.K. Joshi, (Former Chief Secretary, Govt. of Telangana) and Shri

Mahender Reddy (Former DGP, Telangana), and other distinguished guests from across the senior-care ecosystem. **GIVING BACK TO THOSE WHO KEPT INDIA SAFE** The most quietly powerful moment of the evening had nothing to do with a product launch. Anvayaa announced lifetime complimentary emergency response assistance for a select group of Gallantry Award and Padma Shri recipients along with Anvayaa's patented Emergency Response System and its senior smartwatch, gifted to their families as a mark of respect and care. Families of recipients of the Gallantry Awardees (Param Vir Chakra, Vir Chakra, and Sena Medal) & Padmashree awardees were present at the event to receive this recognition. The gesture was a natu-

ral extension of everything Anvayaa stands for. Anvayaa's business is built on caring for elderly Indians in their own homes ensuring they are never alone in a moment of crisis, never left without a hand to hold or a voice to call. Extending that protection, without charge and without condition, to the families of those who sacrificed their safety so that India could be safe, was not a marketing decision. It was a responsibility. India's gallantry awardees and Padma Shri recipients have given this country something that cannot be repaid. The least Anvayaa could do was ensure that as they age, they are never alone in an emergency. The patented Emergency Response System, paired with Anvayaa's senior smartwatch, provides real-time monitoring, instant SOS

access, and coordinated emergency response bringing the same infrastructure that Anvayaa has used to achieve a 97% lives-saved record across 5,000+ emergencies directly into the homes of India's most honoured citizens. **Three Launches - Three Gaps Filled.** The evening saw Anvayaa introduce Curapod, a wearable pain-management device; a therapeutic wellness range from 3000 BC Therapeutics; and Punyaka, a digital platform for devotional services, each chosen because they address something real that families and seniors have been asking for.

CURAPOD: PAIN MANAGEMENT Curapod is a compact, wearable device that uses red and near-infrared light therapy to address joint and muscle discomfort, one of the most common and quietly debilitating challenges for seniors living at home. Users place the device directly on affected areas such as the knees, back, neck, shoulders, or hips using adhesive patches or adjustable straps. A mobile application allows users to select the pain area and begin a targeted session from home, without drugs, without a clinic visit, and without disrupting the daily routine that gives a senior their sense of independence.

New Economist Enterprise research supported by Brembo reveals a potentially dangerous gap between public confidence and expert assessment of road safety across the world's largest vehicle markets. Nine in ten people say they feel safe in their day-to-day road travel. Less than half (45%) of the transport professionals who design, build and operate mobility systems agree. New research from Economist Enterprise, supported by Brembo, reveals a striking "trust gap" between public confidence and expert assessment—which is widest in the markets with the poorest road safety records. The study, Safety in motion: Driving trust in modern mobility, surveyed road users and transport professionals across ten major vehicle-producing markets—Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea, the UK and the US—together accounting for around 75% of global vehicle production. With 1.2 million people killed on the world's roads every year, the study argues that misplaced confidence is an overlooked barrier to progress, calling on industry and policymakers to close the gap by grounding public trust in evidence, transparency and measurable outcomes.

"The research makes clear that road users are far more confident in the safety of their daily travel than mobility experts. This is a serious concern," said Jean Todt, UN secretary-general's special envoy for road safety. "Trust is essential for mobility, but overconfidence can cause people to take unnecessary risks." **USERS FEEL SAFEST WHERE ROADS ARE MOST DANGEROUS** The gap between user and industry confidence is greatest in Brazil, China and India, where 94% of users say they feel safe—the highest among the markets surveyed—compared with just 18% of transport professionals. Yet these markets combined record an average road fatality rate of 16.2 deaths per 100,000 people, around double the study average. "In Brazil, China and India, public confidence has grown alongside rapid, visible infrastructure—new infrastructure, smarter vehicles, better technology," said Pratima Singh, principal of policy and insights at Economist Enterprise, who led the research. "But confidence has outpaced actual safety performance. When people believe systems are safer than they are, they often do not exercise the necessary attention to keep

them safe on the road." **SAFETY IS FELT UNEVENLY** Trust in mobility safety is not felt equally across demographics. Low-income users are nearly twice as likely as middle- and high-income users to report low or mixed confidence in their daily travel safety. Generationally, Millennials are the most confident (94% report high trust), while Gen Z and Baby Boomers are the least trusting—12% and 16% respectively express low or mixed confidence in their day-to-day safety. **THE NEW FRONTIER OF SAFETY RISK: HUMAN-SYSTEM INTER-ACTION** As vehicles become more advanced, the way people interact with increasingly automated mobility systems emerges as a key safety concern. Today, only 3% of industry professionals identify mechanical failure as a leading cause of incidents. Instead, 30% cite misuse or misunderstanding of driver-assistance systems as the greatest cause of mobility safety issues, while 24% point to features that distract users from the road as being the most serious safety risk. Users themselves rank their own behaviour on the road as their biggest concern.

Hyundai Motor India Celebrates 1.5 Million Sales Milestone for Hyundai i20 in India

Iconic Premium Hatchback Continues to Shape Customer Aspirations Across Generations Hyundai i20 achieves cumulative sales of over 1.5 million units in India Brand i20 has evolved across three generations since its introduction in 2008 Continues to be recognized in design, technology, connectivity and safety features Milestone reinforces i20's position as one of India's most successful premium hatchback brands Gurugram | July 2026 - Hyundai Motor India Limited (HML) today announced a remarkable milestone of its Premium Hatchback - Hyundai i20, surpassing 1.5 Million cumulative sales mark in India. Since its debut in 2008, the i20 has consistently redefined the premium hatchback segment through its combination of progressive design, advanced technology, superior quality and comprehensive safety features. Celebrating the milestone, Mr. Sunil Moolchandani, National Sales Head, Hyundai Motor India Limited, said, "The



Hyundai i20 has been one of the most iconic products in Hyundai Motor India's portfolio and has consistently represented innovation, aspiration and premiumness. Crossing the milestone of 1.5 million cumulative sales is a testament to the immense trust and loyalty that customers have shown towards the brand over nearly two decades. We thank our customers for making the i20 a preferred choice in the premium hatchback segment and remain committed to delivering products and experiences that exceed expectations."

stone significant? The Hyundai i20 has played a pivotal role in shaping the premium hatchback segment in India. Over nearly two decades, the i20 has evolved alongside the aspirations of Indian customers, earning a strong reputation among young professionals, urban families and customers seeking a premium ownership experience. Since its launch in 2008, the model has consistently introduced features and technologies that elevated customer expectations and redefined segment standards. The 1.5 million sales milestone reflects the enduring trust that Indian customers

have placed in the brand and reinforces Hyundai's commitment to delivering products that exceed customer expectations. **How has the Hyundai i20 evolved over the years?** Over three generations, the Hyundai i20 has continuously evolved to meet changing customer expectations and market trends. From introducing premium features that were previously uncommon in the hatchback segment to offering advanced connected-car technologies and comprehensive safety equipment, the i20 has remained at the forefront of innovation.

Pharma Pro & Pack Expo concludes its largest edition yet, raising the benchmark for industry engagement and experience

Hyderabad, July 2026: Pharma Pro & Pack Expo 2026, jointly organized by Messe Muenchen India and the Indian Pharma Machinery Manufacturers' Association (IPMMA), concluded at HITEC, Hyderabad, after three days of technology showcases, product launches, business meetings and industry knowledge exchange. It attracted 19,206 visitors, brought together 353 exhibiting brands and occupied more than 35,000 square metres across all seven halls of HITEC. Beyond its scale, the 2026 edition delivered a more comprehensive experience for exhibitors and visitors. A broader technology showcase, stronger international participation, structured business matchmaking, a dedicated International Pavilion, an expanded software solutions segment and three days of conferences gave participants more opportunities to evaluate technologies, meet decision-makers and advance business discussions within one platform. Compared with the previous edition, exhibition space increased by 30

per cent and there has been more than 100 per cent growth in visitor attendance. The 2026 edition delivered the scale, market reach and business value exhibitors had been looking for. There was participation from over 30 countries, including Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Singapore, the United States, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, Switzerland, South Korea, Thailand, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. This reinforced the show's growing position as a platform connecting the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry across India with international markets. "The response to the 2026 standalone edition has confirmed the growing role of Pharma Pro&Pack Expo in the industry's investment and technology-evaluation processes. The scale of participation, the quality of business discussions and the presence of buyers from India and international markets have raised the benchmark for the platform. We believe the experience created this year will establish Pharma

Pro&Pack Expo an important date on the industry calendar in the years ahead," said Bhupinder Singh, President – IMEA, Messe München, and CEO, Messe Muenchen India. **A MORE COMPLETE PLATFORM FOR BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY DECISIONS** Pharma Pro&Pack Expo 2026 brought together pharmaceutical processing machinery, packaging systems, water-treatment solutions, automation, quality-control solutions, clean-room technologies, digital technologies, software platforms and production infrastructure. The expanded format allowed visitors to move from technology discovery to detailed technical evaluation and supplier discussions during the same visit. Pharmaceutical manufacturers, production and packaging teams, engineers, procurement professionals and business leaders could compare multiple solutions, examine equipment and engage directly with suppliers on ongoing and upcoming projects. The

International Pavilion gave overseas companies a focused platform to present their technologies to Indian buyers. The stronger presence of software and digital solution providers also highlighted the growing use of manufacturing execution systems, track-and-trace platforms, data integration, digital quality systems and production analytics in modern pharmaceutical manufacturing. The exhibition additionally served as a launch platform for more than 120 new products and technologies. These introductions reflected the sector's focus on automation, regulatory compliance, data-led manufacturing, production efficiency, patient-centric packaging and sustainable operations. For exhibitors, the larger standalone format provided greater visibility and wider access to buyers from different pharmaceutical markets. "Pharma Pro & Pack Expo proved to be a highly valuable platform for strengthening our presence in one of the world's fastest-growing pharmaceutical manufacturing markets.

Trump takes swipes at press during White House Correspondents' Dinner



US President Donald Trump took swipes at the media at the White House Correspondents' Association (WHCA) dinner, a night celebrating press freedom, after the first event was cancelled by a shooting three months ago. The president sat as reporters from outlets he has sparred with and even sued, including the New York Times, CNN and the Wall Street Journal, came up to be honoured with awards. Typically the president takes a lighter-hearted tone at the annual dinner, and Trump joked "the second time is always better" and praised the media - saying he respects "most of them". But the tone shifted as he aimed barbs at "fake news" and accused many in the room of having "Trump Derangement Syndrome". In her remarks, WHCA President Weijia Jiang of CBS News said the event would return to the scene of the April shooting, the Washington Hilton, next year. Friday's rescheduled event was held at the Waldorf Astoria a few miles away from that site, following criticisms that

security at the Hilton was inadequate. The outgoing WHCA head said she would "refuse to let an act of violence have the final word", referring to the gunman tackled at the first dinner in April. The officer shot at the scene, officer Victor Gonzalez of the US Secret Service, was given an award by Trump for his actions on the night of the shooting. "As I said three months ago, the show must go on," Trump said. "Just like my presidency, the second time is always better - and the third time will be better yet ... I'm only kidding," Trump said, joking that he would run for a third term in office. Trump stood and shook hands with award winners, including a Wall Street Journal team who was given an award for coverage of Trump's links to disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein. Ahead of the event, many in the White House press corps theorised that Trump - who often criticises many of the reporters seated just metres away in the room - would deliver a stern rebuke of the media.



Ten killed in Russian attack on drone exhibition near Kyiv

Spanish PM warns of 'complex hours' ahead as wildfires displace 270,000 in Spain and France

A French-American mother has described how "there was ash falling from the sky like snow" after a wildfire broke out near her holiday home in Biscarrosse, southwest France. Rebecca Papin tells the BBC's Today programme she saw "an entire wall of fire" when she returned to her home after first seeing smoke in the distance from a nearby beach. Papin says since the fire did not seem close on Thursday night she put her "exhausted" children to bed and got some rest to prepare for a tiring day ahead. "Apparently during the night when I was asleep with my ear plugs in they evacuated the city and I did not hear it," she explains, adding that she was advised to remain in her home on Friday morning. Papin says the main roads nearby have



been closed, while a road down towards the beach has been "overwhelmed with cars". The final leg of the Tour de France - due to take place tomorrow - will be shortened from 133km (83 miles) to 89km (55 miles) so that security forces can be redeployed to areas affected by wildfires, organisers and police have said. In a statement shared on social media, they say the decision

is "in the spirit of national solidarity". The race passed through Bordeaux earlier this month before the current fires broke out, and will conclude in Paris tomorrow. Fans were urged to stay away from the finish line of the third stage earlier this month because of wildfires in Les Angles in the south of France. France's Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez has given an update on efforts by

other European countries to help France. He says resources have been bolstered by: Forty personnel from a Romanian forest fire team A Croatian Canadair water-bombing plane Two Portuguese and two Swedish Air Tractor planes Two heavy helicopters from Germany, one from the Czech Republic and another from Slovakia Four Swiss light helicopters, alongside 30 ground team personnel Nuñez thanks the European countries for their support. The prefect of Landes says the situation in the area is "slightly less" critical than yesterday, as conditions are more humid on Saturday. But embers are creating new hotspots hundreds of metres from the main fire in the area, Gilles Clavreul tells French broadcaster Ici.

ICC top prosecutor removed over sexual misconduct allegations



Members of the International Criminal Court (ICC) have voted to dismiss Karim Khan as chief prosecutor for alleged sexual misconduct. Elected the ICC's third prosecutor in 2021, Khan was suspended last month. The decision to remove him was passed with 82 votes in favour. The court's oversight body found in June he had committed a "serious breach of duty and serious misconduct" by engaging in an improper sexual relationship with a junior ICC staff member and seeking to stop her pursuing her complaint. Khan has repeatedly denied all the allegations against him. His lawyer said he would challenge "the lawfulness and fairness of the decision through all available legal mechanisms". It was not immediately clear what legal avenues remained open to the ousted prosecutor. In a statement after the vote, the ICC "took note" of the decision of the Special Session of the Assembly of States Parties - the 125 member states which voted to remove Khan. "The Court will continue to attach the utmost importance to maintaining a safe, inclusive, and respectful working environment for all personnel," the ICC statement said. The entire process, however, goes beyond the fate of a single prosecutor and could reshape the world's only permanent war-crimes tribunal. The misconduct investigation has put the institution under a glaring spotlight, intensified divisions inside it and played out

alongside an unprecedented campaign to weaken, and in fact dismantle, the ICC in its entirety. The fear among its supporters is that the court will emerge weakened and less able to face the gravest global threats. Khan, a prominent British lawyer, has been on voluntary leave to fight the allegations since May 2025. He remains suspended from practising law in the UK, after the Bar Standards Board imposed an interim ban while it conducts its own inquiry. He was unable to attend the vote, held in the United Nations headquarters in New York, because he is barred from entering the United States under sanctions imposed by the Trump administration over the ICC's investigation into alleged war crimes by Israeli officials in Gaza. Regardless of his removal, the controversy is unlikely to end there. The decision follows a highly sensitive process that has left the court under intense scrutiny. In May 2024, allegations that Khan had engaged in sexual misconduct involving a female staff member were reported to the ICC by a third party. The court's Independent Oversight Mechanism (IOM) opened an investigation, but the case was later closed after the alleged victim declined to participate. Critics of the process argued that the investigation had been mishandled, undermining confidence in the IOM. Investigators ultimately said there was insufficient evidence to substantiate the allegations.

Zelensky tries to fix crisis over removal of defence minister and counts the cost

With an acting defence minister in place and a new commander-in-chief in charge of the military, Ukraine's recent political crisis is over, right? Not so fast. The political fallout from President Volodymyr Zelensky's 15 July decision not to re-appoint Mykhailo Fedorov as defence minister, as part of a cabinet reshuffle, continues to reverberate about Kyiv and beyond, even as air raid sirens wail and Russian drones and missiles are intercepted overhead. Fedorov's mostly young supporters are still mounting daily street protests, demanding that Zelensky reinstate the popular young innovator widely credited with driving much of Ukraine's recent technological innovation. On Thursday, Fedorov said he had rejected Zelensky's offers of alternative posts in government, saying there were only three positions worth having to influence the course of the war: minister of defence, commander-in-chief of the military or



president of Ukraine. "If you don't have a ministry under you, you don't have a budget," ex-deputy defence minister Alina Prolova said, "and you don't actually have the authority to do something." Fedorov's reference to the presidency did not go unnoticed. Was this the first public sign that the ousted minister sees himself as a rival to Zelensky? One former defence official suggested he became a real candidate for the presidency the moment he was dismissed. But with the country at war and no elections scheduled - Ukraine's constitution still prevents them in wartime - how useful is it to put your

head above the political parapet so far in advance? "He's being childish," one opposition MP told me, on condition that he remained anonymous. "He's looking to further his political career, which I think is just stupid in the circumstances where we are." The president's supporters say Zelensky has gone to great lengths to resolve the crisis, especially over the question of who to replace the unpopular commander-in-chief, Oleksandr Syrskiy. Eventually he decided on Maj Gen Mykhailo Drapatyi, 43, a highly respected former commander of Ukraine's land forces. "He consulted

pretty much every significant figure in the Ukrainian army," former government adviser Yuriy Sak told the BBC earlier this week. "So the decision that he has taken now is very well informed, and I support it because General Drapatyi is a young, battle-proven, modern general who will take our defences to a new level, hopefully." But while Drapatyi's appointment has been generally welcomed, it only represents a partial fix by a president scrambling to repair the damage caused by his removal of Fedorov. Ironically, for a president whose youth and apparent dynamism propelled him to power in 2019, Zelensky seems to have misjudged the mood of young Ukrainians, eager for their leaders - political and military - to represent their values and aspirations. "It's quite natural that people want to see someone who is a warrior against corruption, who is very modern, who is young," Oleksandr Merezhko, an MP from Zelensky's Servant of the People party, said.

Texts reveal 14-year-old allegedly murdered by singer D4vd had pregnancy and abortion



Texts between singer D4vd and Celeste Rivas Hernandez, the 14-year-old he is accused of murdering, reveal she had been pregnant and had had an abortion before her death. The messages were shown during a hearing for a judge to determine if the singer, whose legal name is David Anthony Burke, should go on trial for the teen's death last year. "What [if] the first abortion didn't work?" Celeste texted Burke in June 2024, according to prosecutors. She was 13 years old at the time and he was 19. Prosecutors say Burke killed her after she threatened to reveal he had been abusing a minor and

destroy his career. He has pleaded not guilty to charges of murdering and sexually abusing the girl. In an exchange from January 2024, Burke apologised to the teen for "putting her through this", according to messages shown in the Los Angeles court on Friday. She responded, "neither of us are capable of watching and taking care of the baby. it's for the best no?" Burke asked, "also my mother always told me to ask this question if I was ever in this situation ... it is mine right?" Celeste replied "of course it's yours David", according to testimony from a detective.



Iran-backed Houthis claim missile attack on Saudi Arabia

TRUMP ORDERS SMITHSONIAN TO POST WARNINGS ABOUT 'INACCURATE' US HISTORY

President Donald Trump has ordered signs to be placed outside the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, to caution visitors about exhibits his administration views as "inaccurate". The order directs the Department of Interior to issue the warnings, and also to direct people about where they can find "accurate information regarding America's history". The Trump administration has often accused the Smithsonian Institution, the world's largest research museum, as well as other academic organisations of harbouring an anti-American bias. The Smithsonian did not immediately respond to the BBC's request for comment. The order on Friday - titled Restoring Trust in the



Smithsonian Institution - accuses museum leadership of not doing enough to celebrate America's founders on the country's 250th anniversary of independence, which took place on 4 July. It says the museum's leadership team "views American history as a 'prime tool' to advance ideas of social justice and the radical transformation of our society". An accompanying White House statement

also accused the museum of veering "toward extreme political activism, rooted in Marxism, to divide, dispirit, and discourage Americans". Democrats who oversee the Smithsonian condemned the order. "This EO is a clear political overreach, driven by an ideological agenda to rewrite American history," congresswoman Melanie Stansbury, ranking member of the House Administration

Committee, wrote on X. "Our Smithsonian institutions do not belong to the President, but to the American people and so does our nation's history." The executive order comes just days after Smithsonian director Anthea Hartig was grilled by Republican lawmakers in two congressional hearings, where the museum was accused of being "infected by a woke ideology that seeped into public displays, educational materials and planning documents". Earlier this month, the White House Domestic Policy Council released a scathing report, claiming that the museum "erases our heritage". Trump has set out to radically reshape American culture, which he says has been contaminated by "woke" left-wing ideology.

PM's Message For Para Powerlifter Jhandu Kumar's CWG 2026 Bronze Goes Viral

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday congratulated para powerlifter Jhandu Kumar after the Bihar-born athlete won India's first medal at the Commonwealth Games 2026, securing bronze in the men's heavyweight event in Glasgow. Taking to X shortly after the podium finish, the Prime Minister praised Jhandu's perseverance and said his success had brought pride to the nation. "A spectacular performance by Jhandu Kumar, who has opened India's medal tally at the #CWG2026 by winning a Bronze in the Men's Heavyweight Para Powerlifting event!" PM Modi wrote on X. The bronze medal marked India's first podium finish of the Glasgow Games, with Jhandu producing a best lift of 130.9 to finish third in the overall standings. Nigeria's Riluanw Idris claimed the gold medal with 132.8, while England's Matthew Harding took sil-



ver after recording 131.0, leaving Jhandu just 0.1 short of second place. Congratulating the para athlete on the achievement, the Prime Minister highlighted the dedication behind the performance. He also underlined the wider significance of Jhandu's achievement, saying it would inspire aspiring athletes across the country. "Congratulations to him. His achievement is a powerful reflection of immense strength, unwavering determination and years of disciplined effort. By overcoming every challenge and excelling on the

international stage, he has made the entire nation proud and inspired countless Indians," Modi said. Jhandu had topped Group B ahead of Uganda's Dennis Mbaziira and Australia's Ben Wright before his lift proved good enough for an overall bronze in the combined classification. The 29-year-old's journey to the Commonwealth Games podium has been shaped by resilience. Born in Harnaut in Bihar's Nalanda district and affected by polio since birth, Jhandu grew up in a modest household as the son of a vegetable vendor.

Why Did Jhandu Kumar Miss Out On Commonwealth Games 2026 Gold? Coach Reveals 'Miscommunication'



Rajinder Singh Rahelu, coach of Indian para powerlifter Jhandu Kumar, said that their target was a gold medal but Kumar missed out on the top spot at the Commonwealth Games 2026 due to a 'slight miscalculation and miscommunication'. Jhandu Kumar clinched the bronze medal in the men's heavyweight category after lifting 190kg on his second attempt. Rahelu said that the team had already calculated the lifts required for the gold medal and were quite confident of winning.

"It's a very good thing, feeling very good. We already knew, we had done the calculations. We had targeted gold, but for some reason, it was missed," Rahelu told ANI. However, they ended up missing the gold due to a 'slight error in communication'. "The competition for gold was very tough, as we saw. But it wasn't that; it was just miscommunication. I was a bit far, and there was some difficulty in calculation. As you saw, the medal was missed by just two points," he said.

CWG 2026: Indian Swimmers Fail To Qualify For 400m Final, 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball Team Loses



Indian swimmers endured a disappointing outing at the Commonwealth Games on Saturday as both Dhakshan Shashikumar (3:58.09s) and Aryan Nehra (4:00.26s) failed to qualify for the final of the 400m freestyle event. Shashikumar (3:58.09s) and Nehra (4:00.26s) finished 15th and 16th respectively amongst the 27 swimmers in the 400m freestyle heats at the Tollcross Swimming

Centre. Shashikumar had moved into seventh position at the halfway stage, but could not do enough to clear his heat. In heat 4, Nehra was placed last at the halfway stage, and ended in the same position. Dhakshan Shashikumar was in heat 3. India suffer heavy defeat against Wales in wheelchair women's basketball. India suffered a heavy defeat in the wheelchair

women's 3x3 basketball competition at the Commonwealth Games on Saturday, going down 1-16 to Wales in their Group B match. The Indian side struggled to match Wales' intensity and scoring efficiency, falling behind early and failing to close the gap. Wales dominated the match from start to finish as India were found wanting in attack, converting just one of their 12 scoring attempts.

FLU SCARE AT COMMONWEALTH GAMES? INDIA'S MEDICAL CHIEF BREAKS SILENCE

As wet weather and cold temperatures settle over the 2026 Commonwealth Games, India's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala, has issued a strict health advisory to the Indian contingent. Since upper respiratory infections present a continual threat at major international events, Dr. Pardiwala stressed that strict personal hygiene and preventive care should form India's first line of defence against possible flu outbreaks. Navigating chilly Scottish conditions is one of the primary hurdles for athletes arriving from warmer climates. To prevent illness before competition even begins, the medical team implemented firm protocols around outdoor exposure and ceremonial duties. "The weather is cold and it is raining. So the advice is primarily to just protect yourselves,



don't get wet and we are making sure that each of the athletes who doesn't need to be out, doesn't need to be out. So try and protect them as far as possible," Dr. Pardiwala told IANS. "So therefore even in the opening ceremony we made sure that none of the athletes who were participating immediately afterwards were part of the opening cere-

mony. We don't want to land up with colds and flus etc. just before participation." Preventing illness across a multi-sport contingent requires daily vigilance. According to Dr. Pardiwala, simple habits remain the most effective shield against viral spreads in shared athlete facilities. "Just simple health and hygiene, making

sure that everyone is keeping their hands clean and hand hygiene is being followed and that is the best way I think to just prevent any outbreak amongst the teams," he noted. "We get a morning update everyday amongst the Chief Medical Officers of the contingents and fortunately we don't have any outbreak of any flu or any colds and

coughs amongst any of the contingents right now. So that is a good sign and we hope that it continues that way." "In most large continental events, usually it is the upper respiratory tract infections that is the biggest blow to athletes performing at their best and fortunately this time it is under control." To ensure athletes maintain peak physical condition, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) established an independent, fully equipped sports science and recovery facility directly at the games village. "You know whenever you have got a large contingent going out for the Olympics or the Asian Games or Commonwealth Games, you need sports science, you need injury management, you need preparation recovery services for the athletes.

'Even Leftover Food Tastes Like Wedding Meal': Ex-India Star On Shreyas Iyer's First Win As Captain



Shreyas Iyer won his first game as T20I captain on Thursday after a run of six defeats since replacing Suryakumar Yadav at the helm earlier this year. The defending T20 world champions lost 2-0 to Ireland, in what was a major upset, before a 4-0 thrashing at the hands of England in a five-match series. However, the wait was finally over for Shreyas as India beat Zimbabwe by seven wickets

in the first T20I of a three-match series in Harare. The victory came as a big relief for the under-fire India captain Shreyas, and former cricketer Sadagopan Ramesh warranted the celebrations, considering the recent results. "Many are saying India shouldn't be so excited for just a win over Zimbabwe. Yet, when you are starving for a victory for so long in T20Is, even leftover food will

taste like a wedding meal. Shreyas Iyer will be relieved, considering India's fall under his captaincy. He would have reached a point where a win over anyone would have been enough for him," Ramesh said in a video uploaded on Instagram. Ramesh also praised VVS Laxman for delivering results as India's interim head coach, especially when the team is losing elsewhere.

Gautam Gambhir Labelled 'Foolish', Brutally Slammed For Treatment Towards Vaibhav Sooryavanshi



Vaibhav Sooryavanshi shattered the record books in India's first T20I against Zimbabwe on Thursday, becoming the youngest player ever to slam their maiden T20I half-century. After failing to cross 15 in his first three senior games for India, Sooryavanshi came good on his fourth outing, hammering an 18-ball fifty. Following Sooryavanshi's explosive knock, former BCCI selector and 1983

World Cup-winner Krishnamachari Srikkanth expressed surprise that the 15-year-old had been dropped from the Indian side after just three failures in the England series. After scores of 14, 13 and 15 in three games against England, Sooryavanshi was left out for the fifth T20I of the tour. India head coach Gautam Gambhir, who is not with the team for

the Zimbabwe series, was slammed by Srikkanth for dropping Sooryavanshi. "He (Sooryavanshi) has an effortless range of shots, yet, not one shot was cross-batted. This boy is really something special. How did Gautam Gambhir foolishly drop him, of all people, after three failures to crush his confidence?" said Srikkanth, speaking on his YouTube channel, as quoted by Sportskeeda.

"Last Year Was Really Tough, This Medal Means A Lot": Shooter Sainyam Vij Reflects On ISSF World Cup Silver



India's Sainyam Vij described her silver medal at the ISSF World Cup in Hangzhou, China, as a reward for months of perseverance after enduring a challenging 2025 season, saying the podium finish has reinforced her belief ahead of the World Championships later this year. According to a press release, the Chandigarh shooter, who clinched India's first medal of the World Cup, revealed that making the final itself was a significant milestone after failing to reach any finals last year. "It's really special to me because this is my first ISSF World Cup medal at the senior level. It came after such a long wait. Last year was really tough for me as I

wasn't able to make any finals, so this means a lot," Sainyam said after her silver-medal finish. Sainyam remained unfazed despite competing against a formidable field featuring an Olympic champion, the reigning world No. 1, and two Chinese shooters on home range; she insisted that her focus never shifted from executing her own plans. "There was nothing in my mind about who I was shooting against. My only thought was to do my work and perform my best. Whoever performs better deserves to win," she said. Sainyam endured a slow start to the final, opening with a 49.7 that left her in fifth place. She responded emphatically in the second series, producing the field's best score of 51.9 to draw level with China's Qianxun at the top of the standings. From there, the Indian remained firmly in medal contention, trailing Qianxun by just 0.6 points before the final series.

Lionel Messi Has Ancestry In Brazil? New Study Reveals Argentina Icon's Historic Link

A new study has revealed an ancestral connection between Argentina's 2022 FIFA World Cup-winning football icon Lionel Messi and Brazil's Sao Paulo, tracing a part of his family's journey before they settled in Argentina. As per Brazilian outlet Globo quoted by Goal.com, Italian researcher Fiorenzo Santini's study has concluded that one of Messi's ancestors was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, before family later made a move to Argentina. The research also highlighted changes in the family's surname during their migration journey.

Santini, who is a specialist in tracing genealogy and spent several years studying the superstar footballer's family tree, was curious by the origin of his surname Messi during his early days with Barcelona. As per the study, Messi's great-grandfather on his father's side, Angelo Messi, left the Italian city of Recanatì and moved to Argentina's Rosario in 1893 with his wife. On his mother's side, the story goes back to his great-grandfather Ranieri Cocchietini. He was born in the Italian region of San Severino Marche and immigrated to Brazil with

his wife Rosa Ricchezza on a ship named "Washington", which arrived at port of Santos in September 1899. As per historic documents, the family's journey to Brazil saw a change in their name and surnames as difficulties were faced in writing foreign names at that time, with Ranieri becoming "Ramiero Conchietini", a change common amongst immigrants in that time frame. Settling in city of Sao Paulo, the great-grandfather worked on farms of Rincão region before moving to the city of Ribeirão Preto, where two of the family's children

were born, including Ardirigo in 1904. About a year after Ardirigo's birth, the family left Brazil for Argentina and settled near the city of Rosario, where they began a new phase of life. Antonio Cocchietini, Messi's grandfather, was later born, and then his mother Celia Maria Cocchietini, was born. Messi was born on June 24, 1987. Santini explained that his research went between 2019 and 2022, after he noticed that there was no record of "Cocchietini" surname in Italy. Through documents and relatives of Messi's moth-

er, the researcher was able to trace the change of name and surname during the family's time to Brazil. These findings, he added, helped the iconic footballer earn the title of 'honorary citizen' of the Italian city of San Severino Marche in 2022, in recognition of his family roots. No records suggest that Messi's relatives stayed in Brazil's Ribeirão Preto after the family moved to Argentina in 1905, as per the study.



THE WEDDING SONG" FROM VISHWANTH & SONS IS OUT NOW

After the massive success of the chartbusting first single Neno Butterfly, the Vishwanth & Sons team is back with another treat for fans "The Wedding Song" is out now and it's already being hailed as the perfect celebration anthem of the season.

A high-energy, festive number, the song sees Suriya and Mamitha Baiju light up the screen with their infectious dance moves, capturing the joy and warmth of a big fat family wedding. Adding a special touch, Suriya himself has lent his

■ After the massive success of the chartbusting first single Neno Butterfly, the Vishwanth & Sons team is back with another treat for fans "The Wedding Song" is out now and it's already being hailed as the perfect celebration anthem of the season.

voice to the track, making it an even more personal and heartfelt musical moment. The music is composed by G. V. Prakash Kumar, with lyrics penned by Ramajogayya Sastry giving the song its distinct festive and celebratory flavour.

With two back-to-back chartbusters Neno Butterfly and now The Wedding Song, expectations for Vishwanth & Sons continue to soar. Directed by Venky Atluri and produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under Sithara Entertainments & Fortune Four Cinemas. Presented by Srikara Studios, the family entertainer is all set for a grand worldwide theatrical release this Independence Day weekend on August 14th.



"THE MAZE" FIRST LOOK POSTER UNVEILED



Actor Sriram (Srikanth), who has earned a strong fan base among Tamil and Telugu audiences, is starring in the upcoming film The Maze. The movie also features Priyanka, Hrithika Srinivas and Kamal Kamaraju in key roles. Presented by Dr. Naimisha Reddy Kasireddy, the film is being produced under the Srousha Kamala Arts and UR Creations banners by Dr. Uday K. Reddy Palvai, Dr. KSR (Kareddy Sridhar Reddy), Dr. Bharath Reddy Gopu and Dr. Anirudh Reddy Soma. Directed by Dr. Ravikiran Gadalay, The Maze is being crafted as a unique psychological thriller. Currently under production, the makers today unveiled the film's first-look poster. It showcases the lead actors in intense avatars against

the backdrop of a sprawling metropolis. Their striking black costumes add to the intrigue, while the overall design creates the impression of a stylish new-age commercial thriller, raising curiosity about the film. Speaking about The Maze, director Dr. Ravikiran Gadalay said, "The Maze is a gripping psychological thriller that blurs the boundaries between reality and illusion, taking audiences on an exhilarating journey like a giant wheel ride. Every moment is designed to challenge your thoughts, while the unpredictable narrative keeps you guessing until the very end. Each twist in the story is crafted to captivate viewers, and the film promises an experience that will stay with audiences long after they leave the theatre."

CINEMATOGRAPHER PAWAN CHANNA TURNS 'TRIKAAL' INTO A VISUAL WONDER



Cinema is not just about storytelling- it is an experience. And the one who transforms that experience into an unforgettable visual journey is the cinematographer. One such rare visual storyteller is Pawan Channa, who has elevated his craft to a whole new level with the mythological fictional thriller 'Trikaal – Script of God'. His exceptional cinematography has become one of the most talked-about aspects of the film, making "Pawan Channa, the man who turned Trikaal into a visual wonder" a trending topic in the Telugu film industry. Starring Shraddha Das in the lead role, Trikaal is set against the mysterious backdrop of Sanatana Dharma and was released worldwide on May 28, receiving positive reviews and an impressive response from audiences. Directed by Mani Tellaguti, jointly produced by Radhika and Srinivas, and presented by Chaganti Productions LLP, the film has won appreciation for its gripping narrative as well as its breathtaking visuals. One statement is repeatedly echoed by audiences and critics alike: "The cinematography has transformed this film into a

visual spectacle." Every Frame Breathes Divinity and Suspense Pawan Channa is regarded as one of the most promising cinematographers setting new visual benchmarks in contemporary Telugu cinema. Rather than merely capturing performances, he transforms every frame into a carefully crafted canvas that communicates powerful emotions. In Trikaal, he presents mythology with epic grandeur. His large-than-life compositions, meticulously balanced framing, and immersive visual depth keep audiences completely engaged. Through masterful use of lighting and shadows, he creates dramatic visuals that heighten the supernatural tension throughout the film. His high-contrast lighting setups perfectly amplify the haunting atmosphere and mystical energy, making every scene visually compelling. The Magic of Color Theory One of the film's strongest visual achievements lies in its symbolic use of color. The battle between the consuming darkness and the divine light of protection is beautifully portrayed through a combination of deep black tones and radiant golden light beams.

GRAND BLOCKBUSTER SUCCESS MEET FOR KIRAN ABBAVARAM"CHENNAI LOVE STORY"



Hero Kiran Abbavaram and Sri Gouri Priya's Chennai Love Story has emerged as a major success with audiences across all sections. Viewers have been praising the film as a beautiful and emotionally engaging love story. Along with widespread appreciation, the film has also registered impressive box office collections. Including premiere shows and worldwide Day 1 collections, Chennai Love Story earned ₹12.3 crore. To celebrate this achievement, the makers hosted a grand Blockbuster Success Meet in Hyderabad.

"AMMA...NAAKU AA ABBAYI KAAVALI SET FOR AUGUST 7 RELEASE



Introducing Pawan Mahaveer as the lead actor, GSR Movie Makers is all set to release its unique romantic entertainer "Amma... Naaku Aa Abbayi Kaavali" on August 7. Produced on a prestigious scale by noted entrepreneur G. Sailaja Reddy, the film is directed by Shivala Prabhakar. A unique highlight of the project is that Pawan Mahaveer is pursu-

ing his medical education in London while simultaneously making his debut as a hero. The film features Varshika and Suhana as the female leads, with Suman, Rao Ramesh, Rajeev Kanakala, Sathya Krishna, Sujatha, and others playing pivotal roles. Having completed all post-production formalities, the makers released the film's trailer ahead of its

theatrical release on August 7. The trailer launch event was held in a grand manner at Prasad Labs, Hyderabad, in the presence of several prominent personalities. Renowned filmmaker and Directors' Association President V.N. Aditya attended as the Chief Guest, while directors C. Ram Prasad, Shivanagu, and producer Tummalapalli Rama Satyanarayana graced the occasion as Guests of Honour. The guests appreciated the trailer, describing it as highly promising, and remarked that it was hard to believe this was Pawan Mahaveer's debut film because of his confident screen presence. They wished producer Sailaja Reddy and hero Pawan Mahaveer a bright and successful future.

Ameer Log on August 21: Director Ramana Reddy Soma at Release Date Event

Ameer Log is an out-and-out youthful entertainer produced by Madhavi Reddy Soma under the Awwal Number Productions banner. The film is directed by Ramana Reddy Soma, with Manohar Reddy Manchuri serving as co-producer. It stars MC Hari, Manoj, and Sasidhar in the lead roles, while Vedha Jalandhar, Raavan Nitturu, Vishwender Reddy, and Saiyogi play important characters. Presented by Rana Daggubati's Spirit Media, the film will have a grand Telugu release on August 21. The makers also released the lively 'Awwal Dawath' song at a media event held to announce the release date. Director Ramana Reddy Soma said: "I am from Raghavapuram near Nalgonda. I came to Hyderabad in 1997 and have lived in many parts of the



city. I made Ameer Log because I wanted to show the real people of Hyderabad on screen. We first screened the film for our team, and later for the Spirit Media team. They liked it and came forward to release it. After watching the film, people will understand who the real 'Ameer Log' are, those with money or those who live happily. The film

carries a meaningful message, but it never feels preachy. After watching Ameer Log, audiences will have even more love and respect for the people of Hyderabad. Our film releases on August 21. Please watch it and support us." Producer Madhavi Reddy Soma said.* "I was born and brought up in the same basti shown in Ameer Log.

Ashika Ranganath Proves White Is Her Signature Shade

Actress Ashika Ranganath recently caught attention online after sharing her take on Christopher Nolan's The Odyssey. She said the film reminded her of themes from the Mahabharata, particularly the transition from the Dwapara Yuga to Kali Yuga described in the Indian epic. Her comment struck a chord with fans, especially as many others online had already been drawing parallels between Nolan's film and Indian mythology.



Niharika Konidela Serves Sultry Glam In Statement Saree

Actress and Producer Niharika Konidela is having an emotional high point in her career. She revealed that deciding to make Committee Kurrollu was the most fulfilling moment of her life, sharing that what began as director Yadhu Vamsee's dream eventually became her own. The film, made on a modest budget, has now brought her two National Awards, and she credits the trust of her team and cast for this big win. Meanwhile, Niharika turned heads in a stunning deep purple saree paired with a strapless, embellished corset blouse. She kept her hair sleek and

open, added statement drop earrings, and let the rich jewel-toned drape do all the talking. It was a bold, glam departure from her usual soft, girl-next-door looks. Adding more excitement for fans, Niharika is now teaming up with her brother, actor Varun Tej, for her production Bhari, a rural sports drama centered around volleyball, directed by Yadhu Vamsee. Niharika called launching the film with her brother "very special," and the movie is expected to hit screens around Sankranti. Her caption read, "It was a happy day." Niharika Konidela's fans were ecstatic to see her recent post and showered

her with love and praise. A fan wrote, "You are such a stunning woman, Niharika!" Another fan commented, "Oh my god! You lovely lovely girl!" A user commented on her smile and wrote, "Uff, such a beautiful smile." It is interesting to note that Niharika wore this saree during the Sankranthi celebrations and posted these snaps on Instagram. In the photos, she can be seen posing with Sai Dharam Tej, Vaishnav Tej and Allu Sirish as well. Niharika Konidela hails from the mega family of Chiranjeevi. She is the daughter of actor-producer Nagendra Babu and Padmaja Konidela.

