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For Website Visit epaper.thesouthindiatimes.com www.thesouthindiatimes.com [/thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in](https://thesouthindiatimes.yahoo.in)**Ready for further talks with CJP either at my office or residence: Nadda**

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SALMAN KHAN URGES STUDENTS TO GO BACK HOME, SAYS PM WILL TAKE ACTION AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAPER LEAK**Allari Naresh, Surabhi's Naa Kanti Meedha Kunuke From Ramba Oorvasi Menaka Unveiled**

CINEMA | PAGE



SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

22-07-2026
Total pilgrims - 77,874
Tonsures - 35,302
Hundi kankabali - 4,92 CR
Laddu sale - 4,16 Lac
Annasradams - 2,63 Lac
Medical treatment - 3,245
Waiting Compartments - Outside line at Silahotnam
Approx. Devan Time for Saverdhanam (with out SSD Tolems) - 20-24 H.

DRDO conducts maiden test of Kusha missile

Kolkata (TSIT): The maiden flight-test of 'Kusha' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM) was successfully conducted by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha on Thursday. According to the DRDO, the test was conducted against an electronic target simulating a high-speed and high-altitude aerial threat, which the missile system successfully intercepted.

**K'ka CM backs NEET protests, says issue is about students****Bengaluru (TSIT) :**

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday voiced support for student protests over the alleged NEET question paper leak controversy, stating that the issue transcends politics and concerns the future of the country's youth.

Addressing reporters in

Bengaluru, Shivakumar

said India is at a critical juncture, and students are facing uncertainty amid repeated allegations of examination paper leaks. He remarked that the Prime Minister had spoken on the issue but should have addressed it earlier.

"Today, the country is at a crossroads. Students and youngsters are in a dilem-

ma. There have been more than 100 instances of question paper leaks. The Prime Minister has spoken on the issue today, but he should have spoken at the very beginning," he said.

Emphasising that the matter should not be politicised, the Chief Minister said India's students are globally recognised for their talent and serve as ambassadors of the nation. He added that every government has a duty to ensure transparent examinations and provide quality education.

Responding to demands for Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation, Shivakumar said there should be no attempt to shield anyone. "There is no question of safeguarding anyone.

INDIA Bloc leaders march to Gandhi Smriti to support students; Rahul's residence barricaded

New Delhi (TSIT) : Amid the continuing standoff over the NEET paper leak and police action against protesting students, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday led MPs and leaders of the INDIA bloc towards Gandhi Smriti, saying the march is to honour students who allegedly died by suicide after the paper leak and to express solidarity with those injured during protests. NewspaperArchives Access

Before leaving for Gandhi Smriti on Tees January Marg, Rahul said the Opposition was marching peacefully to remember the students "we lost" after the NEET paper leak and to stand with those who were allegedly beaten while seeking justice and accountability.



Maintaining that the country's students were not alone, Rahul said the entire INDIA alliance stood firmly with them and supported their demands.

Rahul Gandhi said the students were protesting on the streets and that all INDIA bloc MPs wanted to

stand in solidarity with them. He said they had planned to march to India Gate but were denied permission, following which they decided to proceed towards Tees January Marg. The development came as Delhi Police put up barricades outside Rahul Gandhi's residence,

where Congress workers gathered in large numbers. Several Opposition leaders had assembled at the residence around 6 pm before the march to Gandhi Smriti.

The MPs travelling on the bus include John Brittas (CPI(M)), K C Venugopal (Congress), Manoj Kumar Jha (RJD), Priyanka Gandhi Vadra (Congress), Misa Bharti (RJD), Pramod Tiwari (Congress), and Amrinder Singh Raja Warring (Congress), among others. The protest is part of the Opposition's intensified campaign against the Centre over the alleged irregularities in the NEET examination and the police action on student protesters, an issue that has repeatedly disrupted Parliament during the ongoing Monsoon Session.

CJP protest: MHA suspends internet services till midnight at Jantar Mantar**New Delhi (TSIT)**

The Union home ministry on Thursday suspended mobile internet services till midnight in the 1.5 km radius of Jantar Mantar, where the CJP is holding a protest demanding the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the NEET paper leak.

**Heavy rains cause flood-like situation in Gujarat; 22,000 people relocated, 1,200 rescued**

large part of south Gujarat, where Umbergaon taluka in Valsad district received 1,200 mm of rain in 36 hours, officials said on Thursday.

Navsari and Valsad were the worst affected districts, followed by Surat, Ahmedabad, Kheda, Tapi and Dangs, where persistent downpour since Wednesday threw normal life out of gear.

Ahmedabad (TSIT)

Around 1,200 stranded people have been rescued and more than 22,000 residents relocated to safer places as heavy showers battered a

Amaravati Emerging as Hub for Quantum Research: CM Naidu**Visakhapatnam (TSIT)**

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday said Amaravati is emerging as an ideal destination for quantum computing and advanced technology research. During a meeting with Quantumium CEO Rajeev Hazra at the State Secretariat, the Chief Minister said the government is developing Quantum Valley in Amaravati to position Andhra Pradesh as a global hub for quantum innova-

tion. He said the Amaravati Quantum Computing Centre is expected to become operational by December 2026, while quantum testing facilities have already begun functioning in the state.

The discussions focused on collaboration in quantum skills development, AI-enabled quantum applications, advanced computing research, startup incubation, and building a world-class quantum ecosystem in line with India's National Quantum Mission.

CJP protest: SC lawyers recite Preamble of Constitution; express solidarity with students

A group of lawyers led by Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President Vikas Singh, several senior advocates Indra Jaising and S Muralidhar on Thursday recited the Preamble of the Constitution as part of their "Save Democracy, Save Constitution" campaign to express solidarity with students protesting at Jantar Mantar here.

Those who participated in the Preamble recitation included senior advocates Anand Grover, Anjana Prakash, Sanjay Ghose, Arundhati Katju, Mahalakshmi Pavani, Nandita Rao, P.V. Surendranath, Manali Singhal and Sangeetha Bharti, PV Dinesh, Shadan Farasat, Jayant Thakur, and several other members of the Bar.

The advocates gathered at the Supreme Court lawns and collectively recited the Preamble as part of the "Save Democracy, Save Constitution" campaign,



against the backdrop of the student protests and alleged policy brutalities.

The lawyers—many of them carrying Indian National Flags and copies of the Constitution—gathered during the lunch recess and read aloud the Preamble, reaffirming the constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. WorldNews Coverage "It was a collection to show solidarity with the student protesters who were badly beaten up by the Delhi Police without any provocation," Singh

said. "We are here to stand with the students. We are here to stand on the side of justice. We are here to demand justice for the students. We are not here to agitate for ourselves. This is not about us. This concerns the rights of students, and it is the duty of lawyers to stand before the Supreme Court and demand justice for them. The role and function of the Supreme Court of India is to dispense justice. That is why we are here, in the temple of justice, with our demands," Jaising said.

'Will frame you in drug case': Mumbai cop shunted for threatening CJP protesters; watch viral video

Mumbai (TSIT)

The Mumbai Police have launched an inquiry after a viral video allegedly showed a police driver threatening student protesters with false drug cases if they continued participating in demonstrations linked to the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP). The video, shared by the Mumbai Congress on X, has sparked fresh contro-



versy over the police's handling of protests that have taken place over the past few days at locations, including Shivaji Park, Chembur and Azad Maidan.

Premium petrol ethanol-free, no E0 or E10 revival plan: govt**New Delhi (TSIT):**

Premium grades of petrol sold by state-run fuel retailers will continue to be supplied without ethanol blending, the government said on Thursday, July 23, adding that it has not taken any decision to increase ethanol blending in petrol beyond 20 per cent and there is no proposal to restore the supply of E0 or E10 petrol. Premium petrol grades - Indian Oil Corp's XP100, Hindustan Petroleum's poWer100 and Bharat Petroleum's Speed100 - are not blended with ethanol because they are niche fuels containing specialised performance-enhancing additives and account for only 0.5 per cent of total petrol sales.

**CM Revanth inspects ongoing renovation works at Telangana assembly****Hyderabad, TSIT BUREAU:**

Telangana Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy on Thursday inspected the ongoing renovation and restoration works at the

Telangana Legislative Assembly to review the progress and quality of the works. Chief Minister examined the renovation activities and directed officials to ensure that the

works are completed within the stipulated timeline while maintaining the highest standards of quality and preserving the dignity and heritage of the Assembly building.

Opposition's goal is political, not students' interests: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

New Delhi (TSIT) : Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday welcomed the setting up of fast-track courts for paper leak cases and denounced the Opposition's 'posturing' as the well-wishers of students, claiming that their main agenda was deriving political gain and not safeguarding students' interests. He accused the Opposition parties of 'exploiting' the issue con-



cerning lakhs of students for their own political gains, rather than safeguarding students' inter-

ests and future.

The Union Minister also blasted the Opposition for stalling Parliamentary

proceedings. He said that the government was ready for comprehensive discussion on issues pertaining to aspirations of youth, but the Opposition was continuously changing its stance and shifting the goalpost to derail it. Many other MPs also came down on the INDIA bloc, blaming it for disruptive tactics in Parliament and misleading the students with 'manufactured' anger.

Ready for further talks with CJP either at my office or residence: Nadda

NEW DELHI (TSIT) : Amid the ongoing students' protests led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), Union minister J P Nadda on Thursday said the government is ready for further talks with the protesting youth which can be held either at his office or residence.

Nadda's remarks bear significance as the CJP, which has been spearheading the youth protest at Jantar Mantar over NEET paper leak, has announced that it will hold next round of talks with the government either at protest venue or a neutral place. Two representatives of CJP on Monday held first round of talks with Nadda at his residence where they placed their demands, including res-



ignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Asked if the government is ready for another round of talks with the CJP, Nadda told reporters in the Parliament House complex, "Yes, we are ready". "They can come either to my residence or my office," he said when asked about the venue of meeting. Earlier in the day, Nadda invited the

CJP for talks, but its leaders turned down the proposal, according to sources. On Wednesday too, the CJP had been invited for talks with Nadda, but it turned down the invitation, saying it will hold talks with the government only at a neutral venue.

"An invitation was sent to the CJP by J P Nadda for talks today, but those sitting on the

stage at the protest site turned down the invitation," a source told PTI.

Addressing a press briefing at the Jantar Mantar on Wednesday, where the CJP has been camping since last month demanding accountability over the NEET paper 'leak' and resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, its chief spokesperson Saurav Das said police informed that Nadda invited them to his residence for a discussion. "We refused to go to anyone's house or office. The people's court is here. Ministers should come among the people. If they want to talk, it should be held at the Jantar Mantar," Das said.

El Niño Action Plan to Be Submitted to Chief Minister Soon Minister Tummala

Hyderabad, July 23 (TSIT): Agriculture, Marketing, Cooperation, Handlooms & Textiles Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Thursday said the Telangana Government would prepare a comprehensive State-level action plan based on district-wise recommendations received on tackling the impact of El Niño and submit it to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

Chairing a high-level review meeting at the Secretariat, the Minister said the action plan was being prepared following district-level review meetings conducted under the leadership of in-charge ministers, as directed by the Chief Minister after discussions in the State



Cabinet. Referring to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast, Tummala said El Niño conditions are expected to continue in the coming months, intensify by September, and could become severe by December, affecting both the Kharif and Rabi seasons. He urged farm-

ers to reconsider paddy cultivation, particularly in view of the prevailing rainfall deficit.

The Minister noted that 23 districts have recorded deficient rainfall, while inadequate rains in upstream states such as Maharashtra and Karnataka have reduced the likelihood of substan-

tial inflows into the Godavari and Krishna rivers. He advised officials to discourage paddy cultivation even under borewells, citing rapidly declining groundwater levels and limited water availability in irrigation reservoirs.

Tummala directed officials to create awareness among farmers about the risks of water-intensive crops and encourage a shift towards pulses, millets, oilseeds, vegetables, horticultural crops, and micro-irrigation. He instructed departments to ensure advance availability of seeds, credit facilities, drip irrigation equipment and sprinklers, while making use of Rythu Vedikas as seed distribution centres wherever necessary.

Bank of Baroda marks 119th Foundation Day with digital, MSME initiatives



Mumbai, July 20 (TSIT): Bank of Baroda celebrated its 119th Foundation Day by launching a series of digital, retail and MSME initiatives under the theme "Leading with Trust", reaffirming its commitment to innovation, customer trust and sustainable growth.

The bank unveiled a range of new offerings, including the upgraded bob World mobile banking platform, AAROHAN GCIC (Global Capability, Innovation & Transformation Centre) and ADITI 2.0, an AI-powered multilingual virtual banking assistant designed to deliver intelligent and personalised customer service.

Cricket legend and the bank's Global Brand Ambassador Sachin Tendulkar, who attended the celebrations as the Guest of Honour, inaugurated the new digital initiatives aimed at strengthen-

ing the bank's technology-driven transformation.

The bank also introduced bob Elev8 Home Loan, bob Green PLUG lending scheme for financing EV charging and battery-swapping infrastructure, and the bob Agniaveer MSME Financing Scheme to support small businesses and entrepreneurs. As part of its financial inclusion drive, Bank of Baroda inaugurated 119 new Business Correspondent (BC) outlets across the country to improve banking access in rural and underserved regions.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Debadatta Chand, Managing Director and CEO of Bank of Baroda, said the theme "Leading with Trust" reflects the values that have guided the bank for more than a century. He said the bank will continue to focus on strengthening customer trust, driving innovation.

Municipal Corruption Allegations Surface Over Building Approvals and Property Services

Hyderabad City TSIT July 20: Serious allegations of corruption have surfaced in several municipal circles across the Medchal-Malkajgiri district, with residents claiming that building permissions, property mutations and house number allotments are being processed only after payment of illegal gratification. Citizens have also alleged that senior officials have failed to curb irregularities despite repeated complaints.

Although the State Government introduced the Build Now system to simplify and bring transparency to the building permission process, residents allege that corruption continues unabated in several municipalities and municipal corporations. They claim that online applications for building permissions and land mutations are often approved without proper scrutiny, resulting in violations of planning norms and unauthorised constructions. According to official sources, nearly 5,103 applications related to building permissions and other civic services were



received in municipal circles and municipalities under the Malkajgiri and Cyberabad municipal jurisdictions during the past six months.

Residents have alleged that irregularities are widespread in the Town Planning and Revenue wings, where officials are accused of overlooking mandatory checks while processing applications. Under the existing regulations, applications for residential buildings on plots measuring between 75 and 120 square yards are required to undergo detailed verification, including compliance with setback norms and approved building plans. However,

allegations suggest that permissions are being granted even where these requirements are not fully met.

Citizens further alleged that while applications violating norms were rejected in the past, the Build Now system has made approvals easier without adequate field verification. They claim that some officials and intermediaries are demanding money during assessment and approval processes and that buildings violating planning regulations are being regularised instead of being penalised.

Allegations have also been raised that measurements of commercial complexes and multi-storeyed buildings are being deliberately understated to facilitate approvals, resulting in loss of revenue to local bodies and encouraging unauthorised construction. Residents have urged the State Government to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into the functioning of Town Planning and Revenue wings in municipal circles and municipalities across the district.

Jaggareddy demands Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation over NEET paper leak



Sangareddy, July 23 (TSIT): TPCC Working President T. Jagga Reddy on Thursday demanded the immediate resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, holding him responsible for the alleged NEET examination paper leak, and accused the BJP-led Centre of jeopardising the future of students.

Addressing a Congress meeting at Classic Garden in Sangareddy in support of Rahul Gandhi's nationwide campaign for students, Jagga Reddy alleged that the NEET paper leak had adversely affected lakhs of aspirants across the country. He warned that the people would hold the BJP accountable if students'

futures continued to be compromised.

Following the meeting, Congress leaders and workers, dressed in black T-shirts, staged a five-kilometre protest march from Classic Garden to the Gandhi statue at the Old Bus Stand.

Referring to the case of a Sangareddy student, Jagga Reddy claimed that she scored 444 marks in her first NEET attempt but only 386 marks in the second attempt, resulting in her failure to qualify. He demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi explain the alleged injustice and sought accountability from the Union Government.

CREDAI announces Hyderabad Property Show 2026

The theme of the property show is 'RATE AAGADHU- DEMAND THAGGADHU' highlighting the city's robust real estate ecosystem, strong buyer confidence, sustained demand with steady price appreciation

Hyderabad: 23rd July, 2026: CREDAI Hyderabad, the city chapter of India's apex body of private real estate developers, today announced the CREDAI Hyderabad Property Show 2026, scheduled to be held from 28th - 30th August 2026 at the Hall 1 & 3 at HITEX Exhibition Centre.

The theme for the property show is "Rate Aagadhu - Demand Thaggadhu". The theme underscores the city's robust real estate ecosystem, where strong buyer confidence and sustained demand continue to support steady price appreciation. It is a powerful message that reflects the commitment to empowering homebuyers with a confident call to invest in Hyderabad and make the city their permanent home—credibly and with assurance. This directly addresses the realities of today's market. While global trends shift, Hyderabad's solid infrastructure, booming IT sector, and unique quality of life keep driving property values forward. Instead of waiting for a market

drop that isn't coming, CREDAI is encouraging buyers to step in now and secure assets that will grow with the city. The theme reflects Hyderabad's evolution into a stable, opportunity-rich, and future-ready metropolis, where long-term home ownership offers security, growth, and quality of life.

The announcement was made by senior CREDAI Hyderabad leadership, including President N. Jaideep Reddy, President-Elect B. Jagannath Rao in the presence of other office bearers and Managing Committee Members.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. N. Jaideep Reddy, President, CREDAI Hyderabad, said: "We often see buyers waiting on the sidelines, hoping for property prices to cool down. But the reality of Hyderabad is that our infrastructure is expanding rapidly, and the demand for quality spaces is only multiplying. The theme 'Rate Aagadhu - Demand Thaggadhu' reflects the economic truth in the city, where



the property values are tied directly to the city's incredible growth. By bringing the finest RERA-approved projects under one roof this August, we want to give families the confidence to stop waiting, take the leap, and invest in a secure future today." Adding to this, Mr. Reddy said, "The property show is being meticulously planned by Mr. B. Jaipal Reddy, Convener & Mr. B. Vinod Reddy, Co Convener of

Property Show and team to simplify the entire journey of home buyers. The home buyers can evaluate more than 100 RERA approved projects, speak directly with developers, get immediate financial clarity from top banks, and walk away with absolute peace of mind. The highlight of this property show will be a series of curated discussions with government officials, Industry leaders, real estate

research agencies to provide the realistic view of the city's real estate to the prospective homebuyers. This should help them make informed decisions."

Mr. B. Jagannath Rao, President-Elect, CREDAI Hyderabad, said: "Buying a home is one of the single largest investments a family makes in their lifetime, which is why transparency and credibility must come first. In today's mar-

ket, we see people second-guessing timing due to pricing trends. Just for the reference Gachibowli market rate per sq ft has increased from Rs.5000 - Rs.10000 over the last few years, just in the last 1 year the rates have increased in the range of Rs.600 - Rs. 750 per sqft. So, in the prime locations the property prices will continue to go up and so will be the demand. The longer you wait to buy the house the more expensive it will become. Therefore, we urge to buy now. Our goal with this property show is to provide 100% verified, RERA-approved projects in the city.

The CREDAI Hyderabad Property Show has established itself as a premium, buyer-centric real estate platform, bringing together developers, homebuyers, policymakers, and industry stakeholders from the State. The property show is also designed to take stress out of home-hunting. Rather than spending weekends driving to scattered sites across the city,

families can walk through thousands of verified, RERA-approved options under one roof. The event features everything from budget-friendly apartments and premium gated community villas to commercial spaces and plotted developments, all presented by builders with a proven track record.

Recognizing that financing is the biggest hurdle for most buyers, leading banks and financial institutions will be stationed on-site. Visitors can speak face-to-face with loan experts, get their finances evaluated on the spot, and explore competitive interest rates and home loan structures. The exhibition will feature a wide spectrum of residential and commercial offerings, including apartments, villas, plotted developments, and office spaces across Hyderabad. By curating trusted projects under one roof, CREDAI Hyderabad aims to simplify the homebuying process while strengthening transparency and consumer confidence.

EDITORIAL

What Next? Resignation or a Parliamentary Debate on Paper Leaks?

The country's Parliament is the supreme forum of democracy, where one expects discussion, accountability, and solutions regarding serious issues concerning the public. However, the way the first three days of the Monsoon Session have been lost to constant uproar and adjournments raises a question once again: will Parliament become a platform for resolving issues of public interest, or will it remain merely an arena for political confrontation?

The primary cause of the current deadlock is the series of alleged paper leak incidents across various competitive examinations nationwide. These incidents have cast a serious shadow of doubt over the futures of lakhs of students, their years of hard work, and the credibility of the entire examination system. Viewing this issue not merely as an administrative failure but as a matter of government accountability, the Opposition remains adamant in its demand for the Education Minister's resignation. On the other hand, the government maintains that it is ready for a detailed discussion on the matter in Parliament and that action is being taken against the guilty. In a democratic system, a minister's resignation should not stem solely from political pressure; rather, it should be based on the determination of responsibility and moral accountability. At the same time, the Opposition's argument cannot be dismissed as entirely baseless: if the government claims credit for its achievements, it must also accept moral responsibility for serious administrative failures. This is precisely why the demand for resignation has become the focal point of the political debate.

Conversely, it is equally important that a serious, fact-based, and comprehensive discussion on this entire episode takes place in Parliament. Mere sloganeering or disrupting the House will neither secure the students' future nor bring about improvements in the examination system. The nation wants to know: why do paper leaks keep occurring? Where do the lapses in security lie? Which organized gangs are operating this entire network? How many individuals have faced action so far? What is the government's concrete strategy to prevent such incidents in the future? A detailed debate in Parliament on these issues would serve the interests of both democracy and the students. Such a debate would establish accountability and clarify the path for reform. However, if the discourse remains limited to demands for resignation and political pushback from the government, the greatest loss will be borne by the millions of young people whose futures hang in the balance amidst this entire controversy. Meanwhile, the student protest at Jantar Mantar in the capital, Delhi, appears to be gaining momentum. Students from various states are converging there, demanding an impartial inquiry, strict action against the guilty, and comprehensive reforms to the examination system. When social activist Sonam Wangchuk was detained during his protest some time ago, it was speculated that the momentum of the demonstrations would wane. However, the current student movement indicates that the youth's anger is not confined to any single individual or organization; rather, it has become a symbol of deepening mistrust in the system.

CJP Protest And Opposition's Never-Ending Search For 'Readymade' Revolts

There is an old habit in Indian Opposition politics: mistaking proximity to public anger for ownership of it. Once a protest acquires critical mass, politicians arrive with predictable urgency. They sit on the dharna carpet, condemn the government, meet the injured, offer legal help, and ensure that cameras record their solidarity. None of this is illegitimate. Opposition parties are expected to stand with citizens confronting the state. But the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) agitation has posed a rather more uncomfortable question: why did so many young Indians have to invent a political language of their own before the Opposition began listening? The CJP did not emerge from a Congress frontal organisation, a Samajwadi Party cadre network, or an AAP campaign. It grew as an irreverent, digitally native expression of discontent and then attached itself to issues of enormous seriousness: examination leaks, unemployment, corruption, and the fear that merit itself is being rendered meaningless. This week, tens of thousands came onto Delhi's streets; police used batons and tear gas during the march towards Parliament, and Sonam Wangchuk's hunger strike gave the protest an additional moral weight. By July 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had publicly promised action against those responsible for examination malpractice, while Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan offered reforms and a parliamentary discussion. That a protest created outside conventional Opposition politics has succeeded in forcing the government to respond should worry the Opposition more.



A PROTEST BORN IN POLITICAL VACUUM
At an INDIA bloc meeting in June, Uddhav Thackeray reportedly asked perhaps the most honest question heard in an Opposition conclave for some time: "Have people lost faith in us?" He was referring specifically to the extraordinary traction the CJP had acquired. Akhilesh Yadav, at the same meeting, told Congress to show a "large heart" towards its allies. Omar Abdullah reportedly suggested that the Opposition should engage with the CJP because it was obviously "doing something right". These observations go to the heart of what ails the Opposition. The problem is not the absence of issues. Unemployment, examination irregularities, inflation, institutional questions, and rural distress provide ample political ammunition. Nor is there an absence of prominent leaders. The problem

is the gap between Opposition rhetoric and Opposition conduct. Everyone wants the Congress to fight the BJP nationally, but several parties also need to fight the Congress locally. Congress, meanwhile, wants to be accepted as the natural fulcrum of the Opposition while frequently resisting the compromises that such leadership requires. The current unrest has exposed this contradiction because the students protesting owe no automatic allegiance to any of them. Public anger is not a transferable fixed deposit. A citizen dissatisfied with the BJP does not, by some law of political physics, become a Congress voter. That missing bridge is called trust.

PAWARS AND AMBIGUITY
Few political families illustrate this ambiguity better than the Pawars.

Supriya Sule recently posted a warm photograph with her nephew Parth Pawar on his first day in Parliament as a Rajya Sabha member. Parth belongs to the rival NCP establishment aligned with the ruling side in Maharashtra. There is, of course, nothing improper about an aunt greeting her nephew. Political differences need not become family estrangements.

BUT POLITICS IS ALSO ABOUT SIGNALS.
Soon afterwards, Sharad Pawar and Sule were at Jantar Mantar supporting the. The following day, they met PM Modi in Parliament, amid continuing speculation about the political positioning of the Sharad Pawar faction. Again, meeting a Prime Minister is not political apostasy. Pawar has practised cross-party civility and tactical flexibility for half a century. The larger question is one of political

legibility. Can an Opposition demand an unambiguous verdict against the BJP while some of its own constituents appear permanently available for multiple future arrangements? There was a time when Sharad Pawar's capacity to keep every door ajar was regarded as consummate politics. In today's polarised environment, it can just as easily look like strategic uncertainty. Voters are being asked to choose sides more clearly than politicians themselves seem willing to. This is not merely a Pawar problem. It is an INDIA bloc problem.

AAP'S APPROPRIATING INSTINCTS
Then there is the AAP, which offers an almost perfect political irony. No party in India should understand an autonomous citizens' protest better. AAP itself was born from one. Yet, after Rahul Gandhi,

Priyanka Gandhi, and other Opposition leaders staged a protest near the Prime Minister's residence over the police action against students, AAP leaders accused the Congress of weakening the students' agitation. Atishi called the episode a BJP-Congress "jugalbandi"; Sanjay Singh suggested Rahul's intervention had undermined the protests. Akhilesh Yadav, who joined the protest, was detained along with Congress leaders. There may be legitimate questions about Congress arriving late or attempting to appropriate a protest it did not build. But look at the absurdity produced by competitive Opposition politics: one Opposition party accusing another of damaging an anti-government protest by protesting against the government. Rahul's Opportunity Is Really About Akhilesh Rahul Gandhi nevertheless has an opening. His physical presence in the confrontation and his detention on July 21, gave the Congress visibility on an emotive issue. But the real test of Rahul's politics will not be whether he can occupy Jantar Mantar more effectively than AAP. It will be whether he can build a durable working relationship with Akhilesh Yadav. The Congress-SP partnership in Uttar Pradesh demonstrated its electoral value in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, when the alliance won 43 of the state's 80 seats. Yet with the 2027 Assembly election approaching, seat-sharing remains difficult. The Congress leaders want more space; SP leaders question Congress's organisational strength. Akhilesh has already publicly and privately signalled that Congress must become more accommodative. Rahul must decide what kind of Opposition leader he wishes to be.

A New US-Israel Defence Bill Has Opened An Unexpected Door For India

Claims that the United States has "integrated" its military with Israel have circulated widely following the passage of the House version of the Fiscal Year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The phrase is dramatic, but it does not accurately describe what Congress has approved. The legislation does not merge the two militaries, establish a combined command, or create a NATO-style mutual defence treaty. American and Israeli armed forces will continue to operate under separate national command structures. The bill instead seeks to integrate something that may prove even more important over the long term: the defence innovation ecosystems of the United States and Israel. That shift has received little attention in India despite its potential implications for one of New Delhi's closest defence partnerships. The House approved the NDAA by a narrow 216-212 vote. The legislation must still pass the Senate before the two chambers reconcile their versions and send a final bill to the President for signature. Even so, the House vote marks an important milestone and offers a glimpse of how Washington increasingly intends to organise defence cooperation with trusted partners. A New Model At the heart of the legislation is the US-Israel Defense Technology Cooperation Initiative. It directs the Department of Defence to establish a permanent framework for collaboration with Israel in emerging defence technologies.

The areas identified are revealing. Artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, cyber security, electronic warfare, missile defence, directed energy, quantum technologies, advanced manufacturing, and next-generation sensors all feature prominently. The initiative encourages joint research, co-development, testing, evaluation, procurement, and industrial collaboration across these sectors. Congress has backed these ambitions with resources. The House version authorises approximately USD 750 million for cooperative defence programmes with Israel during FY2027. This includes USD 500 million for missile defence, USD 100 million for counter-drone programmes, USD 100 million for anti-tunnel technologies and USD 50 million for emerging defence technologies. For decades, the US-Israel defence relationship rested largely on military financing and equipment transfers. The new initiative moves beyond that model towards shared innovation, joint production and long-term industrial integration. Why has this happened now? Three developments explain the timing. The first is Israel's recent combat experience. Since October 2023, Israeli forces have fought sustained campaigns against Hamas and Hezbollah, intercepted repeated missile and drone attacks from Iran, and responded to threats from the Houthis. These conflicts have generated an unparalleled body of operational experience in missile

defence, counter-drone warfare, electronic warfare, and AI-enabled targeting. Pentagon planners increasingly regard Israel as a valuable source of lessons for future warfare. The second driver is America's strategic competition with China. Washington believes technological superiority will determine military advantage in the coming decades. Israeli strengths in cyber security, autonomous systems, missile defence, and artificial intelligence complement American priorities in the Indo-Pacific and strengthen the broader US defence industrial base. The third factor is institutional durability. Annual aid packages depend on political negotiations and budget cycles. Joint research programmes, integrated production lines, and collaborative technology ecosystems create relationships that are more resilient and less vulnerable to political change. The legislation reflects a deliberate effort to embed cooperation within institutions rather than annual appropriations. Where The Initiative Came From The proposal enjoys unusually broad bipartisan support. Its origins lie in the US-Israel FUTURES Act, introduced by Representative Ronny Jackson, a Republican from Texas, and Representative Don Davis, a Democrat from North Carolina. Companion legislation in the Senate has been championed by Senators Ted Budd and Kirsten Gillibrand. The House Armed Services Committee subsequently incorporated many of these

ideas into the NDAA. The initiative has also received strong support from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), Washington's most influential pro-Israel advocacy organisation. Through its political action committee and an extensive network of donors, AIPAC-backed candidates constitute a substantial majority of members in the current Congress. Its influence stems less from formal lobbying alone than from its ability to mobilise bipartisan political support for legislation relating to Israel. The coalition supporting the initiative is united by different motivations. Many members of Congress view the legislation as strengthening America's long-term commitment to Israel. The Pentagon sees an opportunity to harness Israeli battlefield innovation and accelerate technology development relevant to competition with China. The defence industry expects larger collaborative programmes, shared development costs, and expanded production opportunities. Each constituency thus supports the initiative for its own strategic reasons. Why "Military Integration" Isn't It The phrase "integration of the US and Israeli militaries" has become popular because it captures attention. It also obscures the more important story. The legislation integrates research institutions, defence companies, production networks, and technology development. Military command, operational planning, and political decision-making remain entirely separate.

Is LBSNAA no longer a training academy but a marriage bureau?

— Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

Can marriage with a batchmate become the hallmark of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration? In the age of social media, forming opinions about any institution, person, or event has become easier than ever before. A viral post, a few photos, or even a few personal incidents can create an image of an entire institution. Recently, a similar debate has unfolded regarding the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA). Questions were raised as to whether this prestigious training institute has now become a "marriage bureau". Some even went so far as to call it a "swamyavar." While this may seem like a mere sarcasm or joke, this comment actually calls into question the dignity of the country's premier administrative training institute, the professional integrity of the officer trainees undergoing training there, and their personal freedom. This question isn't limited to LBSNAA. It also exposes the mindset of our society, which simply can't accept normal friendships between men and women within any institution. If some officers in a batch understand each other and decide to get married, does that change the identity of the entire institution? Definitely not. LBSNAA is no ordinary campus, but the most prestigious training academy for India's administrative system. Officers from the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service

(IPS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS), and other central services are trained here. This training is not limited to books and lectures. It includes a wide range of activities such as Bharat Darshan, trekking, village tours, community life, physical training, cultural programs, policy-making exercises, leadership development, and crisis management. The aim is not merely to impart knowledge, but to prepare administrators who understand India's diversity and can make sensitive and effective decisions even in difficult situations. When young officers from different states, languages, cultures, and social backgrounds live together for months, train, travel, and face challenges, it's perfectly natural for friendships to develop. These friendships can sometimes develop into lifelong relationships. But this is a personal decision, not a result of an organization's culture or objectives. If two people who study or work together at a university, medical college, engineering institute, management institute, military academy, or private company get married, no one calls that institution a marriage bureau. So why is such an approach taken with LBSNAA? The answer lies in our social prejudices. The reality is that many officers entering LBSNAA are already in a relationship. Many marry childhood friends, college mates, or family choices. Many officers remain unmarried even after completing their training. However, some decide to marry after

gaining a better understanding of each other during training. The common thread in all these situations is the individual's decision, not the institution's. Social media often presents certain incidents as the norm. If two officers from a batch marry, it's publicized as if the academy's primary purpose was to arrange marriages. However, thousands of officers are serving in various parts of the country, having completed their training without any such relationship. Their hard work, discipline, and administrative contributions are rarely discussed, while their personal lives become headlines. This trend becomes particularly worrying in the context of women officers. Even today, a section of society views professional friendships between men and women with suspicion. If they are seen together, a romantic relationship is immediately assumed. This attitude not only undermines women's professional identity but also harms a culture of healthy collaboration in the workplace. In the modern administrative system, women and men officers are equal partners. Cooperation, dialogue, and respect between them are essential to democratic governance, not a matter of controversy. Some people even believe that training at LBSNAA breaks existing relationships or creates insecurity in spouses. This belief is based more on fantasy than fact. The success of any relationship depends on trust, communication, and mutual respect. If a relationship is strong, no training institute can weaken it.

And if a relationship is weak, it would be unfair to blame any one institute for it. It's also important to understand that officer trainees are citizens first and foremost. They have the same rights to make friends, choose a life partner, and make personal decisions that the Constitution grants to every citizen. Selection into the administrative service does not entitle a person to lose their personal freedom. Being in public life does not mean that their personal decisions become public decisions. LBSNAA is distinguished by the quality of its training, administrative values, and spirit of national service. It produces officers who administer remote areas of the country, lead disaster relief operations, maintain law and order, implement development plans, and make decisions that impact the lives of millions of citizens. Ignoring this entire contribution and evaluating the institution solely on the basis of a few marriages would be not only unfair but also intellectually deficient. In the digital age, information spreads as quickly as misinformation. In such times, the responsibility of media and social media users increases. Satire is an important medium of democracy, but when it distorts facts and impacts the credibility of a respected public institution, its limits must be considered. Criticism should certainly be directed at the institution's policies, training methods, or administrative procedures, not at the personal lives of officials.



A YEAR AFTER DEADLY JET CRASH AT BANGLADESH SCHOOL, FAMILIES DEMAND ANSWERS



It was a normal day for sixth-grade student Nure Jannat Yusha when suddenly, a Bangladeshi air force jet crashed into her school in the capital, Dhaka, killing 36 people - most of them children. Within minutes, Milestone School and College, a private institution buzzing with student activity, was transformed into a scene of chaos and raging flames. It was the deadliest aviation disaster the country had seen in decades. Earlier this week, families and survivors gathered to mark one year since the incident - many of them students who say they are struggling to return to normal life, Yusha among them. "Even now, if I go to school and see a plane, I feel afraid. I can't sleep at night. In my dreams, someone is throwing me into the fire," she told BBC Bengali. She was one of more than 160 people who were injured in the crash at Milestone School - and among those at the memorial held at a hospital in Dhaka on Tuesday, where the families of some victims say they are still waiting for answers about the deadly crash. Yusha's

mother Yasin Akter says her child had once dreamt of becoming a dancer - an aspiration that has since faded. "My daughter screams all day and is afraid," she says, adding that Yusha has become paranoid about planes falling from the sky. "Earlier she was interested in studies. Now she does not want to study any more." "No one can guarantee another plane will not fall" On 21 July 2025, a training aircraft took off from a Bangladesh Air Force Base in Dhaka at around 13:00 local time (07:00 GMT) and crashed soon after in the Uttara neighbourhood. Images from the scene hours after the crash showed scores of emergency service workers sorting through charred rubble in an attempt to find survivors. Authorities announced that an investigation commission had been formed to investigate the crash, but in the days that followed, hundreds of student protesters took to the streets, clashing with police as they demanded accountability over the disaster and changes to training flights regulations.



■ France evacuates 20,000 as wildfires spread in south-west

SAUDIS MUST RECOGNISE ISRAEL FOR NUCLEAR DEAL, SAYS TRUMP

The deal between the US and Saudi Arabia to help the Gulf kingdom develop nuclear energy is dependent on Riyadh recognising the State of Israel, President Donald Trump has said. "The Civil Nuclear Deal (There will be no enrichment of material)... which pertains only to non-military use... will be approved, but is totally subject to Saudi Arabia joining the very respected and successful Abraham Accords," Trump said in a post on Truth Social. The Trump-brokered Abraham Accords have led to five countries - including two Arab nations - recognising Israel. Saudi Arabia has previously said it will not do so without the establishment of a Palestinian state. During Trump's first term



as US president, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain signed the Abraham Accords, resulting in a historic normalisation of relations between Israel and two Arab nations - the first in decades. Sudan, Morocco and Kazakhstan have since also signed them, too. Saudi Arabia has not so far

responded to Trump's remarks, which come after criticism from experts that the deal announced on Wednesday could run the risk of future nuclear proliferation in an already unstable region. And it was not immediately clear if the condition of joining the Abraham Accords was stipulated in the text of the

nuclear deal - which has not been released - or that Saudi Arabia had agreed to that condition. The BBC has contacted the White House for comment. Meanwhile, Israel welcomed Trump's statement. Posting on X, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Saudi Arabia joining the accords "would be an historic leap forward for peace in the Middle East". The statement did not mention the nuclear deal. However, Israeli Economy Minister Nir Barkat said previously his country "can manage it" if Saudi Arabia had nuclear power for peaceful means. Israel itself is widely believed to have nuclear weapons, but it neither confirms nor denies that this is the case.

Canada's 'powerful' dairy sector is in Trump's trade crosshairs



Canada's dairy industry policy is among the most politically sacrosanct in the country. It has also long been a thorn in the side of Donald Trump. Now, Canada's dairy supply management system is back in the spotlight after the US president singled it out as one of three main irritants used to justify a 50% tariff on \$20bn worth of Canadian goods imported to the US, which is set to come into effect in August. Trump argues the system, which sees production quotas, set pricing, and import quotas on dairy, eggs, and poultry, is "unreasonable" to American farmers who want to sell their product north of the border. Canadian politicians will now have to decide whether to stand firm on its popular supply management system or risk the ire of the public and a politically "powerful" dairy industry by attempting to fix this issue with Trump. So far, they have indicated that dairy is a non-starter.

Quebec Premier Christine Fr chet te, whose province is home to Canada's largest dairy industry, said on Tuesday that supply management was non-negotiable. And last week, US-Canada Trade Minister Dominic LeBlanc told the BBC that the system "is a cornerstone of Canada's economy and our rural communities" that "ensures that Canadians have access to high-quality dairy products made by Canadian dairy farmers". They argue that it supports Canadian farmers and guarantees price and supply stability for food staples. Dairy farmers have also been known to stage protests - complete with tractors and cattle on Parliament Hill - when faced with possible concessions in trade talks. "It is the most powerful political lobby in the country that stretches across all of the major political parties," said David Clement, a Canadian policy director at the international advocacy group Consumer Choice Center. Canada's supply management system has been in place since the early 1970s, and has endured despite other Commonweal nations, like Australia and New Zealand, phasing out similar policies. Farmers hold production quotas that limit how much dairy they can produce. Prices are then set by marketing boards in each province, giving farmers a predictable income while providing a consistent domestic supply. A small amount of foreign dairy is able to enter Canada tariff-free or at low tariff rates under set quota limits. Those that exceed the limit, however, face a levy of 200% to nearly 300%, making it prohibitively costly for both foreign producers and consumers to sell in Canada. Currently, US producers have tariff-free access to only 3.5% of Canada's market, even as the country is among the top importers of US dairy, buying \$1.3bn worth of products in 2025, according to data from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Yemen's Houthis attack Saudi tanker as US launches more Iran strikes

Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi movement has said its forces attacked two Saudi oil tankers in the Red Sea that "violated" its blockade of Saudi ports, as the US carried out a 12th consecutive night of strikes on Iran. The official Saudi news agency confirmed that one tanker was hit late on Wednesday, resulting in a fire on board. On Thursday, US President Donald Trump warned the Houthis that if they did it again, the US would inflict "major military punishment" upon both them and Iran. Iranian state media said two people were killed in the US strikes on Wednesday night, while Jordan and Kuwait reported intercepting missiles and drones launched by Iran. Iran's Revolutionary Guards also said a tanker caught fire following an explosion in a mined route in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway in the Gulf that is effectively closed. Oil prices increased sharply following the latest developments in the region,



with the cost of a barrel of Brent crude hitting \$100 - the highest level since the end of May. Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sarea said the group targeted the Saudi-flagged tankers Encelia and Layla with missiles and drones on Wednesday night because they had violated the blockade of Saudi ports announced earlier this week. Sarea added that the Houthis would "continue their naval operations against the Saudi enemy" and "persist in enforcing the 'siege for a siege' equation". Early on Thursday, the Saudi Press Agency confirmed that the Encelia was

"targeted while sailing in the Red Sea, resulting in a fire at the bow of the vessel". Citing an unnamed official source at the Saudi Transport General Authority, it described the attack as a violation of international laws and conventions. All of the Encelia's crew members were safe, it reported. The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations agency reported that an "unknown projectile" struck a tanker about 130km (70 nautical miles) south-west of al-Shuqaiq, on Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast, at 20:00 GMT (23:00 local time). The attack caused a fire on board but

no casualties, it said. According to BBC Verify, data from MarineTraffic shows Encelia departed the Saudi port of Yanbu on Monday and sailed south, briefly pausing close to the port of Jeddah before continuing towards the Bab al-Mandab Strait, the narrow waterway off Yemen's south-western coast that connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden. Shortly after 19:11 GMT on Wednesday the tanker began to slow down and sail east. At 20:11 the ship reported being "Not Under Command" before coming to a complete stop just before 22:30 close to the Farasan Islands, about 80km south-west of al-Shuqaiq. There has so far been no confirmation of an attack on the other Saudi-flagged tanker, Layla. Data from MarineTraffic shows it departed Yanbu on 14 July and reported its destination as the Saudi port of Jizan, with an estimated arrival date of 16 July. Layla last broadcast its location on Friday about 90km east of the Farasan Islands.

South Korea woman acquitted of murdering newborn after hospital delivery



A South Korean court has acquitted a woman previously convicted of murdering a baby she delivered in hospital - the latest twist in a case that has gripped the country and fuelled debate about its murky abortion laws. The woman had wanted to terminate her pregnancy at 36 weeks, but prosecutors said the baby was born alive and later killed. The woman, identified only by her surname Kwon, was convicted of murder alongside two doctors in March. She was given a three-year suspended jail sentence. While the doctors' murder convictions were upheld, the appeals court reduced

their jail sentences. The surgeon who operated on Kwon had his sentence reduced from four years to two-and-a-half years. The hospital's director, initially sentenced to six years in prison, had his jail term reduced to four. During the trial, both doctors admitted to killing the baby. Warning: This story contains details some readers will find distressing This case came to light in 2024 after Kwon, who was in her 20s, posted a YouTube video about terminating her pregnancy at 36 weeks - just over eight months. The video triggered public uproar and a criminal complaint from the health ministry. Police then launched an investigation into her and her doctors. The trial against Kwon and her doctors marked the first time that murder charges had been pressed against a woman seeking late-stage termination of their pregnancy, as well as the doctors involved in the procedure.

Blocked by censors, China's animal lovers take fight against abuse offline and overseas

When videos showing the horrific killing of a stray dog and her puppies sparked outrage on the Chinese internet in June, Beijing's censorship machine kicked into action. But what was unusual this time was that it pitted the shocked and angry voices against authorities who said they were concerned about the four boys involved, all of them younger than 14. China's Communist Party regime tightly controls media and the internet to suppress criticism of the state and to manage public anger. But in this case authorities cited the age of the boys as they urged people to withhold their comments and scrubbed social media posts about the incident. "We urge the public not to disseminate related information, to



reject cyberbullying, and to work together to create a good environment for the growth of minors," reads an official statement. But the restrictions only seemed to spur the outcry. China's animal lovers have now taken their fight offline and abroad, even putting up billboards in New York to drum up support. In China, posts about the incident are still drawing thousands of com-

ments across social media, three weeks after the incident. There is shock, anger and sorrow, as well as demands for laws against animal cruelty, which China currently does not have. Disturbing footage showing the boys in the city of Jieyang, Guangdong province, hitting three puppies with sticks before setting their mother on fire emerged online at the end of

June. The boys were seen laughing as the dog, named Wang Wang, burned. Jieyang authorities said last month that the boys would not face criminal charges and would instead be sent to a "specialised school", but did not elaborate. Some reports suggest the boys filmed themselves and uploaded the video online, but police have not commented on that. Censors have tried to block the video to protect the boys' identity, although some people argue that it should stay. Their identities have not been revealed, but snippets of the video with their faces visible continue to circulate online. There are also unverified posts claiming to be close-ups of the boys' faces, raising the risk of other children being wrongly identified.



Ghanaians' ICC petition over migrant attacks 'opportunistic', says South Africa

COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2026:

How Boxer Lovlina Borgohain Opened India's Medal Account, Even Before Opening Ceremony

The Commonwealth Games 2026 are yet to begin, but India have already secured their first medal even before the opening ceremony. The 23rd edition of the Games, being held in Glasgow, Scotland, has seen boxer Lovlina Borgohain advance to the semifinals of the women's 75kg category. The Olympic medalist from Assam has booked a podium finish without stepping into the ring after receiving a direct bye to the last four in her weight division. Under Commonwealth Games boxing rules, all losing semifinalists are awarded bronze medals, guaranteeing Lovlina at least a bronze medal before her opening bout in Glasgow. Borgohain, competing in the women's 75kg middleweight category, earned a direct passage to the semifinals after receiving a bye in a field of just five



boxers. With only five athletes in the draw, three competitors, including Borgohain, advanced straight to the last four, while the remaining two were scheduled to contest the lone quarterfinal match. What's next for Lovlina? Lovlina will kick off her campaign on July 31 against Taafaki in the semifinals, with a spot in the gold medal bout at stake. A win would propel the Indian boxer into the final and guarantee her at least a silver medal, while a loss would still see her leave Glasgow with the

bronze medal. India on Day 1 India will officially kick off its Commonwealth Games campaign in Glasgow on Thursday, with a 124-member contingent aiming to make the most of a drastically reduced competition programme. India's campaign gets underway with two lawn bowls matches on the schedule. The fixtures will mark the opening assignments for the Indian contingent at Glasgow 2026, with the quadrennial event officially set to begin later in the day with the opening ceremony.

India Para-Cyclist In 'Emotional Distress' Ahead Of Commonwealth Games 2026, Takes Big Step



India's lone Commonwealth Games para-cycling representative, 16-year-old Lisha Das, has written to top sports officials expressing "emotional distress" over unconfirmed support staff and travel arrangements to Glasgow. Das has written to officials of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), Cycling Federation of India (CFI), Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) and the Sports Ministry. The Commonwealth Games opening ceremony will take place on Thursday night. Lisha said the developments over the past few

days have left her under immense mental pressure as she continues to seek approval for the support team she needs - personal coach Aditya Mehta, female physiotherapist Dr Asha Shaikh and an experienced para-cycling technician. While Shaikh's travel was cleared after repeated requests and court intervention, there is no clarity about Mehta's travel and accreditation. Instead, authorities have proposed K. Dattatraya as a technician/coach, despite his earlier rejection as a member of Lisha's support team.

VAIBHAV SOORYAVANSHI SIZZLES AS INDIA FINALLY OPEN ACCOUNT IN SHREYAS IYER-ERA

Wonderkid Vaibhav Sooryavanshi smashed an 18-ball half century in his first innings of substance in international cricket as an all-round India outplayed Zimbabwe by seven wickets in the first T20I of the three match series in Harare on Thursday. Pacer Mayank Yadav made a successful return to international cricket as India restricted Zimbabwe to 125 for seven. India expectedly gunned down the target in 13.2 overs following a typical knock from Sooryavanshi (50 off 19) that included four boundaries and as many sixes. It was also India's first win under new captain Shreyas Iyer, who endured a run of six losses in his first assignment in Ireland and England. Sooryavanshi's much hyped international debut in England earlier



this month did not go as per the script but made his familiarity with the venue count. In his return to the ground where he made a memorable 80-ball 175 in the U-19 World Cup final earlier this year, the youngest to play for India displayed his rare talent that has been acknowledged by the crick-

eting world. While Abhishek Sharma (1 off 8) struggled at the other end, Sooryavanshi took down the Zimbabwe attack bit by bit. He began with couple of breathtaking sixes off Richard Ngarava in the second over of the chase. The first one was a one legged pull shot that sailed over

deep square leg before he made a slight room to nonchalantly a dispatch a decent length ball over mid-off. Blessing Muzarabani, who did not allow Sooryavanshi to free his arm initially, was also taken to the cleaners in fifth over when the 15-year-old smoked a 90m six down the

ground. He brought his fifty right after powerplay and a ball later he was caught at third man off Ngarava. Following his dismissal, Ishan Kishan (35 off 24) and captain Shreyas Iyer (28 not out off 24) got the job done comfortably. Earlier, Mayank Yadav cranked up serious pace from the get go in his first game for India since October 2024. He had opener Brian Bennett (0) caught behind off a peach the very first ball of the match, beating the batter with a hard length ball that straightened slightly to take the outside edge. The on-field umpire did not hear the nick but a confident India got the decision in their favour via DRS. Mayank, who had a surgery last year following a stress fracture, consistently hit speeds beyond 145 kmph.

Petition To Ban Argentina From FIFA World Cup Nearly Breaks Guinness World Record



Argentina wasn't the team that won over fans by playing beautiful football in the FIFA World Cup 2026. The Lionel Messi-led team did reach the final of the tournament, but en route came plenty of controversies, as well as allegations that FIFA favoured the South Americans. A petition to exclude Argentina from the World Cup was in full swing even before the final, where a heated altercation between players after the referee's full-time whistle further damaged the team's reputation. Before being closed, the petition garnered a mind-boggling total of over 23 million digital signatures, nearly breaking the Guinness World Record. Argentina finished the tournament as arguably the most 'hated team' ever to have participated. Leandro Paredes' post-match actions-including, but not limited to, punching Spanish defender Eric Garcia and throwing Gavi to the ground-made Argentina absolute villains. During the match, Enzo Fernandez was sent off for a tackle on Pau Cubarsi, a moment that arguably played a pivotal role in La Albiceleste's defeat. Argentina's actions in the final meant that the petition to have the team

permanently banned from the World Cup attracted even more attention. It ended up gathering more than 23 million signatures worldwide, becoming one of the most circulated petitions in history. According to reports published by multiple European outlets, the petition was titled "Argentina Out" and drew 23,316,108 signatures from around 170 countries, far exceeding its original target of 5 million. The petition against Argentina was launched amid allegations of refereeing bias during the tournament. "Why should the rest of the teams play in the tournament if the winner is known in advance? Exclude Argentina from the World Cup and give everyone a fair chance," the text of the petition read. Once Argentina lost the final 0-1 to Spain, the organisers of the petition concluded with the message: "FIFA ignored us, but Spain kept its promise... thank you, Spain." The official record for the most-signed petition belongs to the Jubilee 2000 movement, which gathered 24,319,181 signatures. It is fair to say that had the petition continued for a couple more days, it would have broken the record. The Italian soccer federation (FIGC) has

talked to former Manchester City coach Pep Guardiola and Brazil boss Carlo Ancelotti about taking over the crisis-hit national team. It hopes to announce the new Italy coach within the week, with the Azzurri still reeling after failing for a third straight time to qualify for the World Cup. Former Italy and AC Milan defender Paolo Maldini was named as the federation's new technical director at the start of the month and was present at a meeting with the Serie A clubs on Thursday, along with new FIGC president Giovanni Malago and special advisor Leonardo. "Honestly, today we can't give news about what's happening. You've identified one of our targets," Maldini said when asked about Guardiola in a news conference after the meeting. "We can't hide that we also talked with Carlo Ancelotti before talking with Pep. Honestly, it seemed right to start with the best in the world, to see their general availability." Guardiola left Man City at the end of last season, bringing to a close a trophy-laden, 10-year spell in which he established City as a force in Europe and changed the face of English soccer.

"SOME ISSUES BELONG TO ALL OF US":

ABHINAV BINDRA HITS BULLSEYE AMID NEET PAPER LEAK PROTESTS

As students continue to raise their voices in the national capital, demanding the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, a familiar voice from the sporting world has hit the nail on the head. Olympic gold medalist Abhinav Bindra, who is one of the most respected sporting figures in the country, shared a hard-hitting post on social media highlighting why the current issue concerns not just students, but everyone in the country. Bindra, who is not one to meddle in political issues, shared his honest perspective on the topic as enraged students continue to demand the removal of the Education Minister over the NEET paper leak and student suicides. The shooting legend stressed the need to



create an education system that rewards merit and nurtures curiosity, as these traits are essential to propel the country further on the path to development. For him, that is the clear way forward for India's education system. "I have never considered myself a political person. But I do believe that some issues belong to all of us, regardless of where we

stand. Education is one of them. The measure of a nation is found not only in its economy or its achievements, but in the opportunities it creates for its young people," he wrote on X (formerly Twitter). "An education system that inspires confidence, rewards merit and nurtures curiosity is one of a nation's greatest strengths.

Asian Games 2026: India Men's, Women's Kabaddi Teams Placed In Group A



India's men's and women's kabaddi teams have been placed in Group A for their respective events at the forthcoming Asian Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, with the group-stage draws confirmed on Thursday. The Asian Games 2026 are scheduled to take place in Japan's Aichi prefecture from September 19 to

October 4, with the kabaddi competitions set to be held at the Tokai Citizens Gymnasium from September 21 to 26. A total of 10 teams will compete for the men's kabaddi title, with the sides divided into two groups of five. The women's tournament will see eight teams divided into two groups of four, according to

Olympics.com. The Indian men's team will compete against Bangladesh, South Korea, Chinese Taipei and hosts Japan in Group A. Group B comprises Nepal, Thailand, Pakistan, Malaysia and Iran, keeping the two traditional kabaddi powerhouses, India and Iran, apart in the opening stage, according to Olympics.com.

In the women's event, India have been drawn in Group A alongside Iran, Japan and Bangladesh, while Group B features Sri Lanka, Thailand, Chinese Taipei and Nepal. As per the format followed since the 2006 Asian Games, the top two teams from each group at the end of the round-robin stage will advance to the semi-finals.

"We Can Secure 8-10 Medals": India's Weightlifting Coach Eyes Big Haul From Commonwealth Games 2026



India's weightlifting coach Vijay Sharma is hopeful of a strong medal haul at the Commonwealth Games 2026, targeting between eight and 10 medals from the country's 11-member contingent. Speaking about India's medal prospects, Sharma said the team is working hard and is well prepared for the competition. "There's certainly pressure because of the high expectations. However, the team is preparing diligently. With 11 athletes participating, I'm optimistic that we can secure between 8 to 10 medals," Sharma said to ANI. He also said the pleasant weather conditions in Glasgow have helped the athletes, while the team's training camp in Birmingham played an important role in acclimatisation. "The weather is actually quite pleasant. The Birmingham camp really helped the athletes adjust to these conditions. I'm expecting a very strong performance from

them," he added. Sharma also praised the support provided by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) during the team's preparations. According to the coach, SAI and TOPS organised a 25-day camp in Birmingham, which helped the athletes acclimatise to the conditions and focus on their training. "SAI and TOPS organised a 25-day camp for us in Birmingham. This has been instrumental in helping the athletes acclimatise and focus on their training. We've seen a significant improvement in their performance due to this camp, and I believe they will do exceptionally well and bring home as many medals as possible," Sharma said. With 11 Indian weightlifters set to compete, the team will look to turn the high expectations into a strong medal haul at the Commonwealth Games 2026.

How lightbulb moment in Hazard's apartment helped Sheeraz

There was a particular moment that sparked Hamzah Sheeraz's boxing career into life. As an apprentice electrician who stepped away from the sport after missing out on the Commonwealth Youth championships, Briton Sheeraz found himself fixing bulbs and sockets in former Chelsea winger Eden Hazard's apartment. Feeling inspired standing in the middle of the flashy London accommodation, Sheeraz, 27, was back in the gym within two weeks and was signed with Frank Warren's Queensberry on his 18th birthday. After winning the WBO super-middleweight title in May, Sheeraz is gear-



ing up for a first defence against Simon Zachenhuber on Anthony Joshua's undercard on Saturday in Saudi Arabia. But first, Sheeraz reminisces on the lightbulb moment a decade ago. "I was

working in Eden Hazard's apartment fixing his bulbs and sockets and my ego or goals and aspirations kicked in, so I went back to the gym," Sheeraz told BBC Sport. "There was nothing lined up

for me. It wasn't like I had such a good amateur career and it was going to kick off. I just wanted to go back to the gym and see what happened. "After two weeks, I was asked to be a sparring partner for

some professionals at the time and I did well. I hung in there and they asked me to go over to Spain to do some camps with them. "They were signed with Frank Warren at the time and by word of mouth, they trusted my coach at the time, Dominic Negus, to be signed to Frank. "I didn't meet him for the first two or three years. I remember when I first met him, I thought it was crazy. Here we are today." Sheeraz eyes fight with 'Idol' Canelo Alvarez's crowning moment came in a one-sided second-round stoppage win over Alem Begic in May as he captured his first world title. But the hunger from the undefeated fighter hasn't wavered. A fight with

Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez is the dream for almost every boxer and Sheeraz is no different. The Mexican is regarded as one of the all-time greats in boxing after achieving world champion status in four weight divisions - and Sheeraz is keen on testing himself against one of his idols. "I'd love it. A lot of people hear me say it," said Sheeraz, whose record sits at 23-0-1. "I'm under no illusion that he chooses who he fights because he's earned the right, let's be honest. Props to him. "It'd be a pinch-me moment if I got to fight him. I've been watching this guy since I was a kid, trying to learn from him and now you get the opportunity to fight him.

Megastar Chiranjeevi as the chief guest at the pre-release event of the movie "Chennai Love Story"

The movie "Chennai Love Story" is being made by the combination of makers SKN and Sai Rajesh who have given cult classic movies like "Color Photo" and "Baby" to the audience with hero Kiran Abbavaram and Sri Gauri Priya. This film is produced by SKN and Sai Rajesh under the banners of Amrita Productions and Mass Movie Makers. This film is directed by Ravi

Namburi and is narrated by Sai Rajesh. Melody Brahma Manisharma is providing blockbuster music for the movie "Chennai Love Story". The movie "Chennai Love Story" is getting ready for a world wide grand theatrical release on 24th of this month. Today Megastar Chiranjeevi was the chief guest in the pre-release event of this film in Hyderabad.



Allari Naresh, Surabhi's Naa Kanti Meedha Kunuke From Ramba Oorvasi Menaka Unveiled



After exploring diverse roles and content-oriented cinema over the last few years, Allari Naresh is all set to revisit his trademark comic space with a fantasy entertainer that promises a delightful blend of humour and imagination. Directed by Chandra Mohan Chintada, the film is titled Ramba Oorvasi Menaka and is produced by Razesh Danda and Nimmakayala Prasad under the Annapurna Studios and Hasya Movies banners. Designed as a fantasy comedy with a playful twist, the film carries the tagline "Comedy Goes Cosmic," hinting at an unusual story where celestial elements collide with Naresh's signature style of entertainment. The musical journey of Ramba Oorvasi Menaka begins on a delightful note with the arrival of its first single, Naa Kanti Meedha Kunuke. Featuring Allari Naresh and Surabhi, the song offers a glimpse into the film's romantic side while staying rooted in its vibrant rural setting. Framed against lush village landscapes, the song follows a young man hopelessly smitten by the woman of his dreams, expressing his admiration and affectionate moments. The effortless chemistry between Allari Naresh and Surabhi gives the song its biggest strength. Music director Chaitan Bharadwaj delivers a breezy melody infused with earthy flavours and rich instrumentation, creating a tune that feels both pleasant and emotionally resonant.

SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY DROPS A HEARTBREAKING FINAL TRAILER

Spider-Man: Brand New Day is set to release on 30th July in India. The film is set to release in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada. Spider-Man: Brand New Day has unveiled its third and final trailer just days before its highly anticipated theatrical release. Starring Tom Holland, the film marks his fourth solo outing as the beloved superhero and picks up after the events of Spider-Man: No Way Home. The new trailer reaffirms that Peter Parker is still grappling with the heartbreaking consequences of the spell that erased him from everyone's memory, leaving him to navigate life completely

alone. The trailer also explores Peter's pain of not being with the love of his life, MJ. The superhero goes down memory lane, revisiting his fond memories with MJ before accepting his new reality. The trailer reaffirms Tom Holland and Zendaya's tease that Spider-Man: Brand New Day will be an emotional watch. It also confirms that Mark Ruffalo's Hulk will make an

appearance in the film, setting the stage for an exciting new chapter in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Watch the final trailer below: Directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, the film is written by Chris McKenna & Erik Sommers and Justin Kuritzkes. Based on the MARVEL Comic Book by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko, the film has been produced by Kevin Feige, p.g.a., Amy Pascal, p.g.a., Avi Arad and

Rachel O'Connor, p.g.a. Executive Producers are Louis D'Esposito and David Cain. The film stars Tom Holland, Zendaya, Sadie Sink, Jacob Batalon, Jon Bernthal, Trammel Tillman, Michael Mando and Mark Ruffalo. Spider-Man: Brand New Day is set to release on 30th July. The film is releasing in six languages in India. These include English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada. To make this experience truly unforgettable, the film is releasing on multiple Premium Large Format in India like 2D, 4DX 3D, 3D SCREEN X, DOLBY CINEMA 3D, ICE 3D, DOLBY CINEMA 2D, MX4D 3D, 3D, P[XL], and BIGPIX.



TELUGU ZEE5 ORIGINAL "OBJECTION MYLORD" TRAILER OUT NOW

What begins as a father's desperate cry for justice soon transforms into a courtroom battle where every question challenges the very nature of truth. Telugu ZEE5 today unveiled the gripping official trailer of its upcoming original courtroom mystery thriller, Objection My Lord - Notary Parasuram Chapter 1, offering audiences an intriguing first look at a story that blends legal drama, emotional conflict, and psychological suspense. Produced by Rajkumar Akella under the banner of Dream House Productions and directed by Santhosh Ayyappan, the series is set to premiere on July 31, 2026. The trailer opens on a deeply emotional note as Narayana, devastated by the disappearance of his daughter Sameera and unable to find justice through the legal system, takes an unimaginable step outside the Hyderabad High Court. His desperate act sends shockwaves through the city and sets the stage for a case



unlike any other. As the mystery deepens, advocate Parasuram, played by Srikanth Meka, returns to the courtroom to take on a case that appears impossible at first glance. Every witness tells a different story, every piece of evidence raises fresh questions, and every objection only adds another layer to the mystery. Packed with

tense courtroom confrontations, emotionally charged exchanges, and intriguing investigative moments, the trailer carefully builds suspense while keeping its biggest revelations under wraps. Leading the series, Srikanth Meka brings quiet intensity to Parasuram, while veteran actor Mukesh Rishi commands attention as the

formidable Viswanath. Ananya Sharma plays Vedha, with Snehal as Tulasi and Sameer as the investigating inspector. Together, the ensemble hints at a layered narrative where every character holds a vital piece of the puzzle, making the mystery increasingly compelling with every passing moment. Beyond its compelling performances, the trailer stands out for its cinematic treatment and atmospheric storytelling. Surya's striking visuals capture both the intensity of the courtroom and the emotional gravity of the investigation, while Arunn Chiluvuru's powerful background score steadily amplifies the tension, making every revelation feel more unsettling than the last. Directed by Santhosh Ayyappan, Objection My Lord - Notary Parasuram Chapter 1 promises a gripping blend of courtroom drama, investigative suspense, and emotional storytelling.

"ADHE NEEVU ADHE NENU" SET FOR A GRAND THEATRICAL RELEASE ON JULY 31



Adhe Neevu Adhe Nenu", starring Trinath Varma and Yashwanth Pendyala—who gained recognition through Committee Kurrollu, a film that recently won two awards at the 72nd National Film Awards—along with Tanvi Negi (of Siddharth Roy fame) and Sahar Krishnan, is gearing up for a grand theatrical release on July 31. The film is produced by Govindu Kandregula under the Sri Lakshmi Veerabhadra Creations banner and is directed by the young filmmaker Kondal. A romantic thriller, Adhe Neevu Adhe Nenu has completed all formalities, including censor certification, and is now

ready for its theatrical release. The film has been attracting audience attention with its promotional content. Its teaser, launched by renowned producer Dil Raju, has crossed 1 million views and is performing exceptionally well across digital platforms. The song "Manasa Manasa," unveiled by star director V. V. Vinayak, has received a tremendous response. Another song from the film, "Madhurama," is set to be released by creative director Krish. Veteran actor Tanikella Bharani, young hero Aakash Puri, and actress Indira have extended their best wishes to the film's team.

