

No chance of Bangladeshis misusing Khasi surnames during SIR: East Khasi Hills DC

Shillong, July 24: East Khasi Hills Deputy Commissioner Abhilash Baranwal has dismissed concerns that Bangladeshi nationals could misuse Khasi surnames to get their names included in the electoral rolls during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

Addressing the media, Baranwal said the verification process put in place by the Election Commission of India (ECI) is robust enough to prevent ineligible persons from being validated as voters. He acknowledged that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are working under a tight schedule and are facing challenges in completing the exercise within the stipulated timeframe.

“The BLOs are indeed facing difficulties. It was a steep timeline for them to cover all households within one month and also ensure digitisation. Ideally, electors are supposed to fill the forms themselves, but many are requesting BLOs to do it on their behalf, which is taking additional time,”



he said. The Deputy Commissioner said BLOs were extending all possible assistance to ensure that no eligible Indian citizen is left out of the final electoral roll. Explaining the safeguards built into the SIR process, Baranwal said only those who were already registered as electors in the 2025 electoral roll are being issued

enumeration forms. “If a person was not a registered elector in 2025, they will not even receive an enumeration form because this is not an enrolment exercise. It is only meant to validate those who are already enrolled,” he said. He added that another layer of verification requires the elector or an immediate family

member, such as a parent, to have been enrolled in the 2005 electoral roll. “I absolutely see no possibility wherein non-Indian citizens who have adopted Khasi surnames, as apprehended by certain pressure groups, will be able to pass the SIR exercise,” Baranwal asserted. He further said that even if an ineligible person

had been inadvertently included in the 2025 electoral roll, the ongoing revision would identify and remove such names. “This exercise is meant to identify genuine Indian citizens, validate their enrolment and ensure that such cases do not take advantage of the Indian electoral process,” the Deputy Commissioner added.

Meghalaya VPP, NEHU students back CJP protest, seek minister's exit

Shillong, July 23: Meghalaya's principal opposition party, the Voice of the People Party (VPP), and the North-Eastern Hill University Students' Union (NEHUSU) on July 23 extended support to the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) nationwide agitation over the alleged NEET paper leak, describing the movement as a fight to protect public institutions and restore trust in the country's education system.

VPP spokesperson AW Rani said the issue was not limited to alleged irregularities in the NEET examination but reflected deeper concerns over corruption, nepotism and political interference in public institutions. “To the VPP, this protest is not confined only to the alleged irregularities in the NEET examinations. It is about protecting public institutions from corruption, nepotism and undue political interference, and safeguarding the interests and future of millions of our youth across the country,” Rani said.

The opposition party also condemned the alleged use of force against protesters



and questioned the Meghalaya government's silence on the issue. “We believe that peaceful dissent and constitutional demonstration on genuine issues such as this must be met with dialogue, not force,” he said, urging the state government to clarify its stand on the controversy.

Meanwhile, the North-Eastern Hill University Students' Union (NEHUSU) also expressed solidarity with activist Sonam Wangchuk and students protesting across the country, calling the alleged NEET paper leak a serious blow to public confidence in India's examination system. In a statement, the union said students continue to suffer due to systemic failures and condemned reports of peace-

ful protesters being beaten and detained.

Demanding accountability, NEHUSU called on Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to accept moral and political responsibility for the controversy and resign. “Restoring public confidence in the country's education system begins with accountability, not assurances,” NEHUSU president Melamlynti Markhap said. He said students were seeking “fairness, justice and accountability,” rather than sympathy. The students' union has appealed to students and research scholars to participate in a peaceful solidarity gathering at 2 pm on Friday near the Central Library on the NEHU campus.

BJP, Congress hold rival protests over NEET row; Congress seeks Pradhan's resignation

Imphal, July 24: The ongoing nationwide protests over the alleged NEET paper leak echoed in Manipur on Wednesday, with the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress holding separate demonstrations and trading sharp political accusations. Chief Minister Nymnam Khemchand Singh, along with BJP MLAs and senior party leaders, participated in a sit-in protest at Thambal Shanglein in Nityapat Chuthek, accusing the Congress of creating political unrest instead of engaging in constructive debate.

Addressing party workers, Singh said students deserve “solutions, certainty and responsible leadership, not political theatrics.” He



alleged that the Congress was attempting to disrupt Parliament rather than participating in a comprehensive discussion on the examination controversy.

The Chief Minister also said democracy should not be undermined through “manufactured chaos, deliberate disruption or mis-

information.” Reiterating the BJP's commitment to constitutional values, he said the party would continue to oppose any attempt to create unrest or weaken democratic institutions. In a post on Facebook, Singh said the BJP remains committed to protecting the rule of law, safeguarding

democratic institutions and working for the welfare, peace and progress of every citizen.

Meanwhile, the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) staged a protest in Imphal against the detention of senior Congress leaders, including Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and MP Priyanka Gandhi, during demonstrations in New Delhi over the NEET paper leak issue. The Congress demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, alleging that repeated examination paper leaks had jeopardised the future of thousands of students aspiring to pursue medical education.

Centre to send team to Assam, CM Sarma confirms flood assessment

Guwahati, July 24: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah has informed him that an Inter-Ministerial Central Team will soon visit the state to assess the damage caused by the recent floods. The Chief Minister stated that the team will conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the destruction to infrastructure, agriculture, and livelihoods. Their findings will form the basis for relief packages and rehabilitation measures to be extended by the Centre. Sarma emphasized that the assessment will ensure that assistance is tailored to the actual needs of affected communities and



that resources are allocated efficiently. The floods, triggered by incessant rainfall and overflowing rivers, have disrupted daily life, damaged roads and bridges, and submerged vast tracts of farmland. Rescue and

relief operations are being carried out by the Army, Air Force, and state agencies, with drones deployed to deliver essential supplies to stranded residents in remote areas. Despite these efforts, the scale of devastation has

made the task increasingly challenging. The Chief Minister expressed gratitude to the Centre for its swift response and reiterated the state government's commitment to working closely with the inter-ministerial team. He assured citizens that every effort will be made to restore normalcy and provide relief to those affected. Sarma also urged people to remain vigilant and cooperate with rescue teams as weather forecasts indicate further rainfall in the coming days. With the Centre's intervention, authorities hope to accelerate recovery efforts and strengthen long-term resilience against recurring flood disasters in Assam.

Assam govt schools lose 7.35 lakh students, private surge



Guwahati, July 23: Student enrolment in Assam's government and provincialised schools has dropped by more than 7.35 lakh over the last nine years, while private schools have added nearly 9.41 lakh students during the same period, the Assam Assembly was informed on July 23. In a written reply to a question raised by Rajjor Dal MLA Akhil Gogoi, Education Minister Ranaj Pegu said enrolment in government and provincialised schools from pre-primary to Class XII declined by 7,35,446 students between the 2016-17 and 2025-26 academic sessions. During the same

period, enrolment in private schools increased by 9,40,566 students, indicating a significant shift towards private education. Pegu also informed the House that the number of government schools in the state has reduced by 8,591 over the nine-year period. The minister said government schools have lost 15,326 teachers, while private educational institutions have added 51,214 teachers, reflecting the changing education landscape in the state. Sharing the current staffing status of government schools, Pegu said Assam has 3,031 single-teacher schools, 15,270 schools

with two teachers, and 8,115 schools with three teachers. The minister also highlighted infrastructure gaps in state-run schools. According to the data presented in the Assembly, 676 government schools do not have electricity connections, while 730 schools lack internet facilities. Additionally, 12,353 government schools across Assam continue to function without ceiling fans in classrooms, affecting students during hot weather. The figures were presented in response to a question by Akhil Gogoi during the ongoing Budget Session of the Assam Assembly.

Manipur Governor, CM Attend 1st Foundation Day Of Electricity Regulatory Commission

Imphal, July 24: The Manipur Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) celebrated its first Foundation Day today in Imphal, with Governor Anusuiya Uikey and Chief Minister Dr. N. Biren Singh gracing the occasion as chief guests. The event marked a significant milestone in strengthening the state's power sector governance and regulatory framework. In her address, Governor Uikey emphasized the importance of transparent regulation and consumer-centric policies in ensuring reliable electricity supply. She noted that the Commission's role is vital in balancing the interests of consumers, utilities, and the state government, while promoting sustainable energy practices. Chief Minister Dr. Singh highlighted the government's commitment to improving power infrastructure and ensuring affordable electricity for all households. He praised MERC for its efforts in establishing a fair and accountable



system, and urged the Commission to continue innovating in areas such as renewable energy integration, tariff rationalization, and grievance redressal. The Foundation Day program featured technical sessions with

experts discussing challenges and opportunities in Manipur's electricity sector. Topics included renewable energy adoption, grid modernization, and consumer rights. Officials from the power department, industry represen-

tatives, and civil society members participated actively, underscoring the collaborative approach needed to strengthen the sector. The event concluded with the release of a commemorative publication outlining MERC's

vision, achievements, and roadmap for the future. The Commission reaffirmed its mission to ensure efficiency, transparency, and sustainability in electricity regulation, contributing to Manipur's overall development.

Meghalaya BJP youth leader calls for student protesters in Delhi to be shot, VPP seeks action

Shillong, July 23: The youth wing of Meghalaya's opposition Voice of the People Party (VPP) on Wednesday strongly condemned state BJP Youth president Mewaker Lyngdoh Pakma, who courted controversy by demanding that Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protestors in New Delhi "be shot". In a statement, VPP Youth Wing President Marbud Dkhar objected to Pakma's alleged social media post, "Shoot them! Tear gas ain't enough!", describing it as inflammatory and unacceptable. The BJP youth president also shared the hashtag #UAPA_Sedition (UAPA is the draconian Unlawful Activities Prevention Act). Accusing the BJP youth leader of promoting violence against unarmed protesters, Dkhar said such statements were incompatible with democratic values. "A leader who casually asks for student protesters to be shot has lost all moral right to lead the youth. This is not leadership, this is a dangerous display of fascist ideology," the VPP Youth Wing leader stated. Demanding for immediate and strict action against Pakma for his inflammatory social media remark, the VPP said, "If the BJP does not act, it proves that this is not his personal view, but the party's official policy." However, the Meghalaya unit of the BJP has dismissed Pakma's statement, describing it as 'false' and asserting that the party does not endorse any such remarks. BJP Meghalaya spokesperson Arnab Das said the party had sought clarification from its Yuva Morcha president, who categorically denied making the statements attributed to him. The BJP's clarification came amid criticism from the Opposition Congress, pressure groups and civil society organisations, which had condemned Pakma's alleged controversial social



media post. "The party strongly denies making any such irresponsible statements. Official statements of the party are always issued through proper channels," Das said. Stating that the Meghalaya BJP respects the fundamental right of students to hold peaceful protests, including the ongoing demonstration at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, Das said the party, however, opposed what it described as attempts by political parties to "hijack" the students' movement and derive political benefit from it. He said the party has condemned incidents of violence against police personnel and appealed to the protesting students to maintain peace and not allow opposition parties to take advantage of the situation for political purposes. The BJP further criticised the Congress for allegedly attempting to enter the official residence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying

such actions raise concerns about the security of the prime minister. "This questions their intent and the threat posed to the PM's security who heads the world's largest democracy," it said. On the NEET paper leak controversy, Das said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had stated that 13 arrests had been made in connection with the case. The party maintained that the Union government had acted promptly and that comprehensive reforms would be undertaken to strengthen the examination system. "The country needed to remain patient as implementing such reforms would take time, given India's large population and federal administrative structure," he said, adding that Prime Minister Modi remained committed to bringing about lasting reforms in the education system to secure the future of students.

Nagaland University Partners Farms for Student Internships

Dimapur, July 23: Nagaland University signed agreements on Wednesday to launch one-year agricultural internships in Japan. The deal links the university with Kumugai Farm Co., Ltd. in Tokushima Prefecture and



Hagumi Farm Co., Ltd. in Kochi Prefecture. Officials held the signing at the School of Agricultural Sciences in Medziphema. Students from the Department of Vocational Stud-

ies and Skill Development will travel to Japan for the 12-month program. They will gain hands-on training in modern farming. The university will handle student selection and credit recognition. This training counts toward their academic curriculum. Pauline Alila, dean of the school, opened the ceremony. She highlighted the value of international cooperation. "This collaboration reflects our common aspiration for

innovation and knowledge exchange," she said. The event featured representatives from the Government of Nagaland, the Investment and Development Authority of Nagaland, and university officials. Takeo Kumagai of Kumugai Farm and Yamamoto Seiya of Hagumi Farm joined the talks. Kumagai suggested the deal will grow over time. He expects it to create more Dipak Sinha, pro vice-chancellor of the Medziphema campus, closed the event. He requested that the partners look into online programs to teach students about Japanese agricultural technology. The school aims to use these internships to bridge the gap between classroom theory and global career demands.

The death toll from the floods in Assam has increased to 41, as heavy rainfall poses a risk of further flooding

Dimapur, July 23: Assam continues to grapple with severe flooding, with the death toll rising to 41 as fresh rainfall and overflowing rivers have worsened the situation across several districts. Authorities have warned that more heavy rain in the coming days could further aggravate the crisis. According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), 10 people lost their lives in flood-related incidents during the 24 hours ending Wednesday. The latest fatalities were reported from Sivasagar, Jorhat, Charaideo, Karbi Anglong and Dhemaji districts.

The floods have affected more than 6.53 lakh people across 11 districts. Sivasagar remains the worst-affected district, with nearly four lakh people impacted. Charaideo has over 1.11 lakh affected residents, while more than 97,000 people have been affected in Jorhat. ASDMA said floodwaters have



inundated 939 villages and damaged nearly 24,897 hectares of agricultural land, affecting livelihoods across the state. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an Orange Alert for parts of Assam, warning of thunderstorms, lightning and heavy rainfall. A Yellow Alert has also

been issued for the following four days, indicating the possibility of continued heavy showers at isolated places. The worsening weather has raised concerns that river levels may rise further. According to ASDMA, the Buridihing River at Khowang, the Dikhou River in Sivasagar, the

Dhansiri River at Numaligarh and the Kushiyara River in Sribhumri are flowing above the danger level. The Disang River at Nanglamuraghat has crossed its highest recorded flood level. Relief and rescue operations are continuing across the affected districts. State authorities are operating 487 relief camps and distribution centres in 10 districts, providing shelter and assistance to more than 24,400 displaced people. The Army, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), police and other agencies are engaged in rescue efforts. More than 8,500 people have been evacuated to safer locations as floodwaters continue to threaten vulnerable areas. The state government has appealed to residents in flood-prone regions to remain alert and follow official advisories as rainfall is expected to continue over the next several days.

Criminals detonate a bridge and set fire to a telecommunications vehicle in Manipur

Dimapur, July 23: A bailey bridge in manipur Kamjong district was destroyed late Tuesday night by a powerful bomb suspected to be an IED (improvised explosive device), police and local reports said. The vital bridge over the Namban Lok River between Phange and Chatric villages under Sahamphung Block was reduced to debris around 10.30 p.m. A Bolero pick-up vehicle belonging to the telecom department, parked nearby, was also found torched. Farmers in the vicinity reported earing a loud explosion and later discovered the destruction. The bridge, constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), served as the only alternate lifeline connecting Ukhrul-Imphal via Chatric village and was crucial for more than 10 villages along the Indo-Myanmar border.

On receiving information, Kamjong district police rushed to the site and registered a suo motu case at Chasad police station.

Meanwhile, Khanuithot-Khon (Voice of the Naga Youth), an Ukhrul-based body, strongly condemned the incident, blaming "Kuki narco-terrorists" and alleging involvement of Assam Rifles personnel. It demanded a judicial or independent probe, registration of criminal cases against those responsible, and suspension of personnel found directly involved pending investigation. The body further pressed for immediate restoration of the destroyed bridge to ensure uninterrupted civilian access, warning that any attempt to shield perpetrators or delay justice would erode public trust.

Khanuithot-Khon noted that for the past five months, people of Ukhrul



and Kamjong have faced immense hardship as movement along NH-202 (Imphal-Ukhrul Road) remained restricted under armed escort, forcing thousands to rely on the Chatric route for healthcare, education, markets, and essential services. "The destruction of infrastructure essential to civilian life cannot be normalized or justified under any circumstance," the body asserted, urging decisive action from the Manipur government.

Sikkim tunnel collapse incident, 13 bodies have been recovered thus far out of a total of 20

Namchi, July 23: The body of one more worker was recovered from the under-construction NHPC Teesta Stage VI Hydropower Project tunnel in Sikkim's Namchi district on Wednesday, taking the number of bodies retrieved so far to 13, officials said.

Twenty workers were killed after the tunnel collapsed following an explosion suspected to have been caused by methane gas.

Earlier in the day, search and rescue operations resumed after being temporarily suspended due to the accumulation of mud and water inside the tunnel, officials said. The

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the Asansol rescue team resumed operations early in the day, with efforts focused on pumping water out of the tunnel, they said.

Rescue teams continue to carry out intensive search and recovery operations under extremely challenging conditions, with sustained efforts focused on locating and retrieving the remaining trapped persons. According to an NHPC statement, a sudden burst of suspected methane gas trapped/embedded inside the rocks led to the explosion, generating dense fumes and toxic gases. Medical teams and ambulances re-

mained stationed at the site to provide emergency assistance to rescue personnel, officials said. Meanwhile, the NHPC on Wednesday announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh for the next of kin of each person who died in the accident. "NHPC will provide an ex gratia payment of Rs 5 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased in this unfortunate incident," the company said in a statement. Expressing profound grief over the loss of lives, the corporation conveyed its condolences to the bereaved families. It said round-the-clock rescue operations were continuing at the under-construction tunnel in coor-

dination with the district administration, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), NHPC, Patel Engineering Limited (PEL), Eastern Coalfields Limited, Western Coalfields Limited, local authorities and other agencies. On Tuesday, Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang announced Rs 4 lakh ex gratia for the next of kin of each of those workers who died in the accident and Rs 50,000 for every injured person. The PM also announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh for each of the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 each to the injured persons.

Gun culture can never bring peace: Manipur CM

Imphal, July 23: Forty-six cadres of the proscribed Kangleipak Communist Party-People's War Group (KCP-PWG), including the chairman of the faction, laid down arms during a homecoming ceremony hosted by the Inspector General of Assam Rifles (South) at its premises in Imphal's Mantripukhri on Tuesday. A total of 28 weapons, including AK series rifles, RPGs, pistols and other war-like stores comprising grenades, IEDs, detonators, ammunition and wireless sets were surrendered to the security forces were also displayed during the ceremony. Manipur chief minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh, who attended the ceremony, said that the decision to renounce violence and join the national mainstream by the cadres was a significant step towards lasting peace and stability. "I commend the 46 cadres of KCP-PWG for returning to the mainstream by surrendering 28 weapons along with a large quantity of magazines, ammunition, and explosives," Singh said. The chief minister asserted that Manipur had enjoyed a peaceful environment before the unfortunate incidents of May 3, 2023, with people in both the hills and the valley living together peacefully. He observed that the violence had led to the emergence of an alarming gun culture, which has unfortunately affected the state. The chief minister said that sustained efforts by the Central and state security forces have resulted in the recovery of more than 8,000 weapons. He further stated that since the formation of the present government on February 4 this year, over 1,200 firearms have been recovered, including

around 600 weapons looted from the government armoury. He appreciated all citizens who voluntarily surrendered weapons, describing them as peace-loving individuals committed to restoring normalcy. Stating that conflict and gun culture can never bring peace, he welcomed the surrendered cadres for choosing the path to the mainstream and contributing towards a peaceful future. Singh also assured full support for the implementation of the revised scheme for Surrender-cum-Rehabilitation of Militants in the North Eastern States, 2018, including rehabilitation assistance and stipend for surrendered cadres. The chief minister lauded the dedicated and concerted efforts of the Army, Assam Rifles, BSF, CRPF, Manipur police and other security agencies in maintaining law and order and protecting civilians. He noted that during the crisis in May 2023, more than 47,000 displaced persons belonging to both Meitei and Kuki communities were safely evacuated and provided protection in relief camps and other secure locations by the security forces. Later, Singh interacted with the surrendered insurgents and thanked them for choosing the path of peace.

He assured chairman (KCP-PWG) L Ranjit all possible help.

State home minister Govindas Konthoujam informed that as per the Revised Surrender-cum-Rehabilitation Scheme, a monthly stipend of up to Rs 6,000 for three years and a rehabilitation grant of Rs four lakhs as a fixed deposit will be provided to the surrendered cadres.

Students hold protest over NEET paper leaks



Aizawl, July 23: Hundreds of students from various institutions and schools in Mizoram staged a demonstration here on Wednesday to express solidarity with those who have been protesting in New Delhi over NEET paper leaks.

During the protest in front of Vanapa Hall in the state capital, the agitators raised slogans - 'Modi ko hatao, Desh Bachao', 'We want freedom from poverty, we want freedom from unemployment', demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over paper leaks in the medical entrance test. On Monday, thousands of people converged near Parliament in the national capital on the first day of the Monsoon session to push for

the resignation of Pradhan over the NEET paper leaks. They clashed with the police personnel. The protestors in Aizawl also demanded stringent punishment for wrongdoers and sought justice and compensation for students who had been victimised by the paper leaks. While extending solidarity to activist Sonam Wangchuk in his fight for student rights, the protestors blamed the BJP-led NDA government for allegedly infringing on their rights and jeopardising their career. Apart from indigenous Mizo students, several non-Mizo students also took part in the protest. Opposition Mizo National Front (MNF) extended support to the students, saying the demonstration was a "courageous effort to safeguard

students' rights and demand accountability". The party said the students were justified in opposing any attempt to undermine their rightful opportunities through abuse of power. It also commended the protestors for raising their voices on behalf of those allegedly affected by irregularities. The MNF, which is an ally of the NDA at the Centre, said that the large turnout reflected the youth's opposition to corruption and misuse of authority, adding that their demand for punishment of wrongdoers and justice for victims was legitimate.

Mizoram's apex student organisation, Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZP) announced a protest over NEET paper leaks to be held on Thursday.

IIT Madras requests that students remove a pro-protest Instagram video

New Delhi, July 23: A student body at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has claimed that senior institute officials denied permission for a peaceful gathering and asked it to remove an Instagram video that was posted in support of students protesting irregularities in exams, claiming that doing so could “disrupt” the institute’s relations with the Center and “tarnish” IIT Madras’ reputation.In support of students impacted by paper leaks and irregularities in national-level entrance exams like NEET-UG and UGC-NET, as well as those taking part in ongoing protests in Delhi and elsewhere, ChintaBAR, a recognized independent student body, reportedly requested permission on July 20 to hold a nonviolent gathering. ChintaBAR claimed that students had experienced “severe academic, emotional, and financial stress” as a result of frequent exam anomalies, cancellations, and re-examinations in an email to the administration that HT was able to view. It stated that the planned event would adhere to institute regulations, be peaceful, and not interfere with academic activity.A ChintaBAR student claimed that following the submission of the



proposal, representatives were invited to meet with Prof. Sathyanarayana N. Gummadi, the dean of students, on July 20 in front of Annapureddy Suresh, the chosen general secretary of the student body. ”IIT Madras did not want to disturb and disrupt its relations with the central government over the ongoing student protests,” the student claimed. “The dean asked us to take down the Instagram video we had posted on July 17 in support of protesting students in Delhi and denied permission for the gathering.”After explaining to other students via WhatsApp groups why the video was being taken down, the student body claimed to have complied. Students from IIT Madras were seen in the video carrying signs that highlighted problems with paper leaks and other irregularities in exams.Another student said that they were

informed by officials that they were “not allowed to protest” because doing so would “tarnish the image of IIT Madras.” IIT Madras director V Kamakoti, along with Prof Gummadi and the students’ general secretary, did not respond to a request from BTech and MTech students planning a peaceful protest on July 20. The administration suggested students delay the protest, prepare demands for “accountability in education,” and discuss them with the director.

A student message acknowledged IIT Madras’s efforts to enhance examination systems after issues with NEET and the CBSE exams. Meanwhile, IIT Roorkee advised students against participating in political activities, clarifying the advisory was routine. Despite the lack of permission, over 150 students gathered in solidarity with protests in Delhi.

Due to a question paper leak, Uttarakhand Technical University cancels two exams

New Delhi, July 23: Due to a possible paper leak, two subjects’ exams at a public university in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, have been canceled, according to an official notice.An investigation revealed that Veer Madho Singh Bhandari Uttarakhand Technical University (VMSB-UTU) Dehradun’s external question paper setter allegedly exchanged questions with students prior to the test. The university has mandated new exams for Electromagnetic Field Theory (subject code ECT043) and Machine Learning for Internet of Things (subject code IOTT004), which were administered as part of the even-semester exams for the 2025–2026 academic year.

The university order states that the decision was made in response to a complaint about the analysis of machine learning for the Internet of Things. On the Vice-Chancellor’s directives, the university then established a high-level inquiry committee, and Shivalik College of Engineering, Dehradun, where the external paper setter

in question was employed, also carried out an internal investigation.According to the judgment, the investigation revealed that Ashish Kumar Gupta, an assistant professor at Shivalik College of Engineering in Dehradun, who set the external question paper, had shared the identical questions with students on WhatsApp and the institute’s internal portal prior to the test. The institution characterized the purported question exchange as a grave breach of its examination system’s secrecy, integrity, and academic norms.The investigation also discovered a high likelihood of identical inconsistencies and a confidentially violation in the Electromagnetic Field Theory question paper, which Gupta had previously authored. The institution announced that it had immediately canceled both exams in order to “maintain the credibility, purity, and student interest of the examination system paramount.”The third week of August 2026 is when the re-examinations for the two topics are planned. According to the directive, the

test center list and comprehensive date sheet will be made available separately on the university’s official website. In order to give students enough time to prepare, the university has instructed associated institutions to promptly notify all relevant students of the cancellation and re-examination. For the benefit of the students, the institutions have also been urged to post the ruling on their own websites. Additionally, the institution has immediately prohibited Ashish Kumar Gupta, an assistant professor at Shivalik College of Engineering in Dehradun, from working for the university on any exam-related projects for seven years. Additionally, Shivalik College of Engineering in Dehradun received a severe warning from the university for allegedly failing to maintain sufficient institutional monitoring and control systems. In order to avoid any repetition, it instructed the institute to make sure that its faculty members carefully comply to the examination system’s secrecy and integrity requirements.

Amid a stormy session, the center and opposition staged a protest showdown outside the parliament

New Delhi, July 23: Amidst a turbulent Monsoon Session and the Cockroach Janta Party’s march, the ruling NDA and opposition MPs held counter-protests at the Makar Dwar inside the Parliament premises over the NEET paper leaks problem.The protest against the Congress sit-in near Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s home on July 21 due to exam paper leaks was organized by the NDA MPs. “Yuvakon ko mat bhadkao, Rahul Gandhi hosh me aao (Don’t incite the youth, Rahul Gandhi wake up)” was written on posters they carried and shouted. However, the Opposition MPs persisted in calling for Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan’s resignation because of purported irregularities in the NEET-UG 2026 and other competitive exams. Additionally, they criticized the administration for the problems they had been bringing up repeatedly throughout the Monsoon Session.Congress leaders Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Rahul Gandhi, and Sonia Gandhi also participated in the protest.”Pradhan sack” and “Jaan bachao, NEET band karo” (Save lives, stop NEET exams) were written on signs carried by the opposition MPs. Some Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde faction) and NDA MPs attempted to steal a placard from Congress MP Prashant Padole’s hand during the Center vs. Opposition match. Padole is seen in a video clutching a “Sack Dharmendra Pradhan” banner. A few seconds later, Padole was mobbed by three or four ruling party figures, including a female MP, who attempted to take the placard from him. They eventually produced a poster of their own and chanted anti-opposition sentiments. Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a powerful message to the nation’s youth on Thursday as the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) members



persisted in their sit-in at Jantar Mantar, stating that “nothing is more important” than their future and well-being.In order to guarantee prompt and severe punishment for those responsible for paper leaks, we have made the decision to establish fast-track courts. have instructed the relevant officials and authorities to take all appropriate action in this regard.

This completes our set of actions to protect students’ interests. In a post on X, he declared, “Those who attempt to undermine the future of our youth will not be spared.” However, the opposition retaliated against PM Modi, accusing him of “harming” students’ futures, according to Rahul Gandhi.The future of our young people has been most negatively impacted by you. “You enabled and promoted the complete seizure and devastation of our educational system, and you shielded all those accountable,” he declared.Gandhi also restated the demands of the students, which included firing the Education Minister, offering an apology to the students, and taking action against those who had “assaulted” them during the protests.

MK Stalin requests that the NEET exam be abolished and charges the Center

New Delhi, July 23: MK Stalin, the president of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and a former chief minister of Tamil Nadu, declared on Thursday that NEET should be abolished since it has not lived up to its three main promises of lowering student burdens, doing away with commercialization, and raising standards.Stalin claimed in an X post that NEET has only moved the learning center from schools to coaching centers.NEET has always had structural issues rather than just procedural ones. That worry has been validated by recent events,” he stated.Stalin asked the Union Government to “trust the states” and do away with NEET, saying that the ongoing student protests should be a “wake-up call” for the government.

Earlier on Wednesday, Stalin backed the protesting students in the national capital and called for the “abolition of NEET”, saying that “only scrapping” the medical entrance exam can provide a lasting solution to the issues raised by students.In a post on X, Stalin said that the students’ protest in New Delhi had

“now captured the attention of the entire country”, adding that they were the ones who first warned that NEET was designed to “enable large-scale irregularities”.

”The entire nation is now paying attention to the students’ demonstration in New Delhi. We were the first to point out that large-scale anomalies were made possible by NEET’s design. Because of this, the DMK has fought NEET from the start, constantly highlighting the risks it presents,” Stalin stated.Stalin went on to say that the “abolition of NEET” ought to be the focal point of the current CJP demonstration at Jantar Mantar in Delhi. ”The single demand from Tamil Nadu, which spearheaded India’s social justice movement and helped draft the First Constitutional Amendment, is the elimination of NEET. The elimination of NEET must be the primary goal of these demonstrations, above any other demands. The only long-term solution to all of these issues is to do away with NEET. Stalin declared, “Ban NEET, Save Students.”

At Sukhna Lake, BRICS delegates participate in a walkathon

New Delhi, July 23: Chandigarh, On Thursday morning, the participants in the sixteenth BRICS Health Ministers’ meeting participated in a walkathon at Sukhna Lake.”The ‘BRICS Mission for a Healthy Lifestyle’ is one of the agenda items for this BRICS meeting,” stated Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava, who also participated in the walkathon.On Wednesday morning, she claimed, there was a yoga class, and on Thursday, they went for a stroll around Sukhna Lake.This walkathon’s goal is to encourage healthy living, emphasizing both exercise and a balanced diet, so that we can spread the word about “Stop Obesity” to everyone,” she stated.

According to her, the delegates enthusiastically participated, walking considerably farther than the intended path.

We are optimistic and convinced that the message of preventing obesity and adopting a healthy lifestyle will spread throughout the entire world through these events, the yoga classes, and the walkathon,” she stated. The sixteenth BRICS Health Ministers’ meeting, which India is hosting from July 22–24 as part of its BRICS chairmanship 2026, will bring together senior health officials and health ministers from the bloc nations to strengthen collaboration on pandemic preparation, digital health, and health security.In order to accomplish the

health-related Sustainable Development Goals, greater multilateral cooperation is required, according to Srivastava, who opened the meeting of senior officials on Wednesday. Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa are among the key emerging economies that make up BRICS, an international organization.As part of its BRICS 2026 chairmanship, India successfully held the BRICS meeting on Traditional, Complementary, and Integrative Medicine here on Tuesday.

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Ayush collaborated to organize the four-day BRICS Health Track events in Chandigarh, which included the summit.

Prahlad Joshi predicts that India would surpass the 300 GW renewable energy target by the end of August

New Delhi, July 23: Union minister for renewable energy Prahlad Joshi stated on Wednesday that India is expected to surpass the goal of installing 300 GW of renewable energy by the end of next month, adding that significant expansion through energy storage will support the nation’s quick development in the clean energy industry. Speaking at a sustainability event, the Minister stated that by 2035–36, the nation is anticipated to have 786 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity, which will make up almost 70% of India’s installed power capacity.

India will exceed 300 GW of non-fossil sources in about a month. When PM Modi assumed office, this amount was 81 GW, including hydropower. In 2014, solar capacity was 2.66 GW; currently, it is 162 GW. At the event, which featured participation from industry executives and experts on the green transition, Joshi stated, “This too is likely to touch 175 GW in another two to three months.”According to forecasts for 2035–36, solar energy will surpass coal as India’s primary source of installed power capacity for the first time, the minister continued. “It will surpass coal by almost 200 GW, i.e. 315 GW coal & 510 GW of solar,” he continued, adding that battery storage will go hand in hand with the goal of establishing 174 GW storage capac-



ity by 2035–2026, or 888 GW hours of energy storage capacity and 94 GW of pumped storage production. According to the most recent data provided by MNRE, India’s capacity for renewable energy was 288.58 GW as of June 30,

2026, according to a response given in parliament on Tuesday.

This comprised 162.15 GW of solar energy, 57.44 GW of wind power, 57.24 GW of hydro power, and 11.75 GW of biopower.

As the CJP protest in Delhi intensifies, Jantar Mantar is under heavy security

New Delhi, July 23: At Delhi’s Jantar Mantar, where the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) is still protesting and calling for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan due to the recent controversy over paper leaks, heavy security has been put in place.To ensure peace and order, a police detachment was stationed there. On Wednesday, some miscreants attacked police in Connaught Place with stones and bottles, injuring a Delhi Police officer, according to officials.ACP Connaught Place Vivek Bhagat was hurt when some miscreants attacked the police with stones and bottles at around 8:30 p.m. near Tolstoy Marg in Connaught Place, according to Delhi Police. Senior officers took him to RML Hospital. The situation was tense for a few minutes, but now there is peace, police officials said. A group of opposition MPs was allegedly prevented by police from meeting activist Sonam Wangchuk at Medanta Hospital.”This protest was going on for 22



days before the session began.” JMM MP Mahua Majhi told reporters. We went to meet Sona Wangchuk today. Where was the Delhi administration at the time?

Why couldn’t we meet him? At the gate, we were halted. According to his wife, there was no court order that forbade anyone from meeting him.Sanjay Yadav, an RJD MP, claimed that the government’s policies were “suffering” the youth. ”Even after such a massive public outcry, if the government

insists that student issues shouldn’t be politicized, this is the height of this government’s arrogance... This is not the work of any political party or any organization.

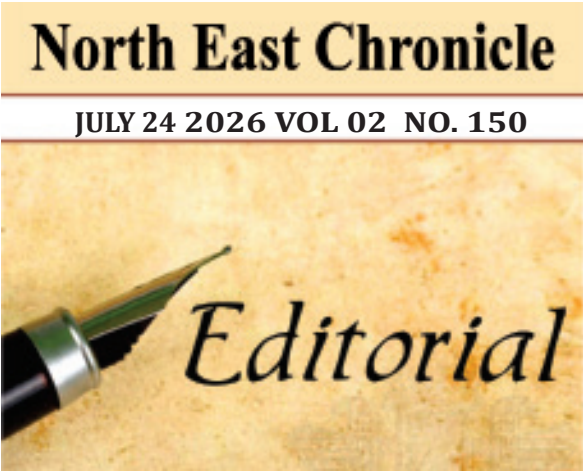
The youth, suffering from your policies and tortured by your lathi system, are sitting here protesting...”, he told reportersIn order to end his 25-day hunger strike, activist Sonam Wangchuk has reaffirmed his demand that there be no legal action taken against demonstrators.

JP Nadda’s J&K paper leak is fact-checked by Omar Abdullah



New Delhi, July 23: Omar Abdullah, the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, fact-checked Union Minister JP Nadda on Thursday on the latter’s remarks regarding a document leak in the Union Territory.Speaking at a news conference on Wednesday night, Nadda responded to Rahul Gandhi, the leader of the opposition, who claimed that 150 paper leaks had occurred over the previous ten years without any convictions.Nadda enumerated several instances of paper leaks that took place under the administrations of Congress and its allies.Jammu and Kashmir was mentioned once. “If I talk about the paper leak in the Service Selection Board examination in Jammu and Kashmir... the government is of Congress and NC, National Conference,” Nadda said during the press meet.The chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir quickly verified that. Omar Abdullah pointed out that while Nadda was right about the paper leak, he got the date and the government wrong. Correcting the Union Minister, Abdullah stated that the paper leak happened in 2022 when the Union Territory was under Central rule with the Lieutenant

Governor in charge. ”You are 100% right regarding the SSB paper leak in J&K, @JPNadda ji, but the date is incorrect. The year was 2022. The NC and Congress were not the government. “It was a government led by the Lieutenant Governor,” Abdullah jokingly said on X, “but thank you for reminding everyone of this failure.”Omar Abdullah intensified the assault by including the J&K High Court’s findings in his tweet.The administration was then instructed by the High Court to form a high-level committee led by a retired High Court judge to investigate the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board’s actions. It involved the J&K High Court’s opinions and directives. What became of the High Level Committee and its report is unknown to us. The Chief Minister included a note from the High Court’s judgment in his tweet and said, “Maybe you can share that with us in your next press conference.”After ten years, elections were held in Jammu & Kashmir in 2024. In October 2024, Omar Abdullah was appointed Chief Minister after the National Conference-Congress combination won the elections.



Europe Should Not Ignore Kemi Badenoch's Warning Signs

From Brussels to European capitals, political observers have often viewed Britain's internal Conservative Party debates as a domestic matter with limited relevance beyond Westminster. With a Labour government now pursuing closer relations with Europe after years of tension following Brexit, many European policymakers may be tempted to ignore the latest arguments within the UK opposition. After all, the Conservatives suffered a historic defeat in the 2024 general election, remain far behind in public support and are struggling to rebuild their political identity. It may seem easy to dismiss the party's internal battles as a sideshow.

However, that would be a mistake. The direction being taken by Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch has significant implications for Britain's future relationship with Europe. Her recent statements on withdrawing the United Kingdom from the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and reconsidering climate commitments have signalled a much harder political position that could reshape the country's approach to international agreements.

Badenoch has argued that those who oppose leaving the ECHR or abandoning certain policy commitments should not be considered serious candidates for the Conservative Party. Her decision to remove the party whip from Conservative peer Gavin Barwell after he criticised her position has intensified comparisons with previous Conservative conflicts over Europe, particularly the internal divisions that followed Brexit.

In Westminster, many have interpreted Badenoch's approach mainly as an attempt to prevent further support from moving towards right-wing challenger parties such as Reform UK. By adopting tougher positions on sovereignty, immigration and international agreements, the Conservative leadership appears focused on appealing to voters who feel the party has not gone far enough in distancing itself from European institutions.

Yet the consequences of such a policy could extend far beyond domestic politics. If the Conservatives were to return to government, particularly through cooperation with Reform UK, a commitment to leaving the ECHR could reopen many of the unresolved tensions created during the Brexit process.

The reason is that membership of the ECHR is closely connected to Britain's wider post-Brexit arrangements with the European Union. The Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the UK and EU contains commitments to shared values, including respect for international human rights obligations. These commitments were

considered essential safeguards during negotiations and form part of the foundation of cooperation between both sides.

The issue is especially sensitive because of Northern Ireland. The Good Friday Agreement, which helped end decades of conflict, includes commitments connected to human rights protections and the role of the European Convention. Any move by Britain to withdraw from the ECHR could therefore raise difficult questions about whether the UK would still meet its obligations under that historic peace agreement.

The same concerns apply to the Windsor Framework, which was designed to reduce post-Brexit tensions over trade between Great Britain and Northern Ireland while protecting the open border on the island of Ireland. Supporters of continued ECHR membership argue that human rights protections are not simply legal arrangements but part of the political balance that helped secure peace.

Beyond Northern Ireland, the ECHR also supports other areas of international cooperation, including agreements on security, data sharing and criminal justice. Even recent arrangements involving Gibraltar rely on continued commitments to human rights standards. As a result, leaving the convention would not be a simple change to domestic law; it could affect a much wider network of relationships built over decades.

Supporters of withdrawal argue that concerns about the consequences are exaggerated and that European governments would not risk damaging trade and cooperation over a disagreement about human rights law. However, critics say this argument underestimates the importance Europe places on shared democratic standards and legal commitments.

The European Union has repeatedly demonstrated that it is willing to take action when it believes fundamental rights are under threat. Disputes with member states over issues such as judicial independence and equality policies show that human rights principles remain central to European politics.

For Britain, the debate is therefore not only about the powers of domestic courts or the role of international institutions. It is about whether the country wants to maintain the commitments that support its relationships with neighbouring countries.

Badenoch's position may appear to many European policymakers as a British Conservative Party issue, but its consequences could be international. A future government committed to leaving the ECHR would force difficult questions about trade agreements, Northern Ireland, security cooperation and Britain's place in Europe.

Inside London's Comeback: How Britain's Capital Is Fighting Crime and Changing Perceptions

For years, London has been the subject of intense debate. Across social media platforms, political discussions and sections of the press, a picture has emerged of a city supposedly overwhelmed by crime, disorder and decline. Some portray Britain's capital as a place where residents no longer feel safe, where visitors should be cautious, and where everyday life has become increasingly difficult. Yet behind these dramatic claims lies a more complicated reality — one shaped not by online rumours or sensational headlines, but by evidence, statistics and the experiences of millions of people who live, work and visit London every year.

During the summer months, millions of visitors are expected to arrive in London to experience everything the city has to offer. From world-famous museums and galleries that welcome visitors for free, to major sporting events, concerts and cultural celebrations featuring some of the biggest names from around the world, London remains one of the most attractive and influential cities on the planet. Tourists come to explore its history, enjoy its diversity and experience the energy of a global city that has played a central role in international culture, business and politics for centuries.

Despite this, London has increasingly faced a wave of negative portrayals online. Social media platforms have become filled with claims that the city is unsafe, lawless or in irreversible decline. Videos, posts and comments often present isolated incidents as evidence of a wider collapse, creating an impression that does not reflect

the broader reality. These narratives can spread rapidly, influencing how people outside the city view London and sometimes causing potential visitors to question whether it is a safe place to travel.

However, official crime data paints a different picture. According to figures released by the Metropolitan Police, neighbourhood crime across London has fallen significantly. Offences including burglary, robbery, theft and vehicle crime have reduced compared with previous years, showing measurable progress in tackling some of the crimes that most directly affect people's everyday lives.

This reduction in crime is not the result of chance. It reflects years of investment, policing strategies and efforts to address both immediate criminal activity and the deeper social issues that contribute to violence and offending. Significant resources have been directed towards strengthening the Metropolitan Police, improving technology and supporting officers working on the streets of London.

Modern policing has increasingly adopted new tools and approaches to respond to changing forms of crime. In a city where millions of people travel every day and where crowded streets can provide opportunities for criminals, technology has become an important part of enforcement. Police have used tools such as drones, improved intelligence systems and specialist operations to target offenders, particularly those involved in crimes such as phone theft and robbery.

At the same time, investment has also focused on community policing.

Effective policing is not only about responding after crimes happen; it is also about preventing crime before it occurs. Officers who understand local communities, build relationships with residents and identify problems early can play an important role in making neighbourhoods safer.

One example of this approach can be seen in Westminster, an area that combines residential communities with some of London's most famous tourist destinations. As one of the busiest parts of the capital, Westminster faces unique challenges, including high numbers of visitors and opportunities for theft. Through increased police presence and targeted operations, neighbourhood crime has fallen significantly in the area.

The West End, one of London's most famous entertainment districts, has also seen improvements. Known for its theatres, restaurants, shops and nightlife, the area attracts millions of visitors every year. Efforts to tackle phone theft and robbery have contributed to a substantial reduction in these offences, helping restore confidence among residents, workers and tourists.

The fight against crime, however, cannot rely on policing alone. Preventing violence requires addressing the factors that can push young people towards criminal activity. Poverty, lack of opportunities, social inequality and exploitation can all contribute to situations where individuals become vulnerable to involvement in violence.

This is why prevention programmes have become an important part of London's approach to reducing crime. The Violence Re-

duction Unit (VRU), established in 2019, focuses on tackling violence through early intervention and support. Rather than only dealing with the consequences of crime, the programme aims to prevent young people from entering cycles of violence in the first place.

Through partnerships with communities, schools, charities and public services, the VRU has worked to provide positive opportunities for young Londoners. These initiatives include support programmes, mentoring, education and activities designed to help young people develop skills and confidence. The goal is to create alternatives to crime and ensure that young people have access to opportunities that allow them to build successful futures.

The impact of prevention work can be seen in important measures such as reductions in serious youth violence. Hospital admissions following knife assaults among young people have declined significantly since the introduction of these programmes, suggesting that long-term investment in prevention can make a real difference.

Despite these improvements, it is important not to ignore the challenges that remain. London, like every major city in the world, continues to experience crime. Every victim matters, and every incident represents a failure to protect someone. Reducing crime does not mean declaring victory or becoming complacent. Instead, it means continuing to invest, adapt and respond to new challenges.

Large cities are complex places. London's size, diversity and international importance bring enor-

mous benefits, but they also create difficulties. A city of millions of people will always face pressures related to housing, inequality, public services and safety. The solution is not to deny these problems, but to address them with evidence-based policies and practical action.

The perception of London abroad has also been affected by the spread of misleading information online. In an age where social media algorithms often reward shocking or controversial content, negative stories can travel faster than balanced information. A single incident can be viewed millions of times, creating a distorted impression of everyday life.

For the millions of Londoners who go about their daily routines — commuting to work, attending schools, visiting parks, enjoying cultural events and meeting friends — the city remains a vibrant and welcoming place. London continues to be one of the world's great multicultural capitals, where people from different backgrounds live, work and contribute to a shared urban experience.

The city's identity has always been built on diversity and openness. Its neighbourhoods, traditions, languages and communities reflect centuries of migration and global connections. This diversity is one of London's greatest strengths, attracting businesses, students, artists and visitors from every corner of the world.

Crime statistics matter because they provide a clearer understanding of reality than online rumours. While challenges remain, the evidence shows that London has made progress in improving safety. Claims that the city has

become an ungovernable or dangerous place do not accurately reflect the experiences of most residents or the available data.

London remains a city of opportunity, innovation and culture. It is home to some of the world's leading universities, businesses, museums, theatres and sporting venues. It continues to attract millions of visitors because of its unique combination of history and modernity.

For anyone considering visiting London, the message is clear: the city they encounter in reality is very different from the exaggerated images sometimes presented online. Visitors will find a city full of energy, creativity and welcoming communities. They will discover historic landmarks, cultural experiences and a population proud of the place they call home.

The future of London depends on continuing to confront its problems while recognising its achievements. Safety must remain a priority, and authorities must continue working with communities, police officers and public organisations to reduce crime further. But progress should also be acknowledged.

London is not a city defined by fear or decline. It is a city constantly changing, adapting and improving. It is a place where millions of people live their lives every day, where visitors arrive from across the world, and where innovation and culture continue to flourish.

The facts show a city that is facing challenges but also making progress. Behind the headlines and online debates is the reality of London: a diverse, dynamic and resilient global city that remains one of the safest major cities in the world.

Behind the Chicken Factory Boom: The Hidden Cost to Britain's Rivers

For years, environmental campaigners, scientists and concerned citizens have warned that Britain's natural landscapes are under growing pressure. Rivers, wildlife habitats and ecosystems face increasing threats from pollution, intensive farming and decisions that appear to prioritise short-term economic interests over long-term environmental protection. At the centre of this debate is a difficult question: will government ministers stand up for the natural world, or will they allow powerful industries and corporate lobbying to shape environmental policy?

One revealing sign of the public's frustration with environmental leadership is how few people can identify the person responsible for protecting Britain's natural world. Ask many environmentally conscious citizens to name the environment secretary, and the response is often uncertainty. Names change frequently, priorities shift, and many feel that the role has become less about defending ecosystems and more about managing competing political and commercial interests.

Critics argue that, over recent years, the position has too often acted as a gateway through which industry demands influence government decisions. Instead of serving as a strong voice for rivers, wildlife and public health, some believe the department responsible for environmental protection has become increasingly aligned with the interests of powerful sectors seeking fewer regulations.

One former environment secretary who surprised many observers was Michael Gove. Although he remains a controversial figure in British politics, environmental campaigners acknowledge that during his time in the role he sometimes placed environmental

concerns above pressure from specific industries. His approach demonstrated that government ministers could, at least in theory, balance economic interests with the responsibility to protect nature.

The current controversy centres around industrial poultry farming and proposals that could make it easier to build large-scale chicken production facilities. Supporters argue that expanding poultry production can attract investment, strengthen food supplies and support economic growth. However, opponents warn that intensive poultry farming can have serious environmental consequences, particularly for Britain's rivers and countryside.

Large industrial chicken units produce enormous quantities of waste. When manure levels exceed what nearby farmland can safely absorb, excess nutrients can enter streams and rivers through rainfall and runoff. This pollution can damage aquatic ecosystems, reduce water quality and threaten wildlife that depends on healthy rivers.

Environmental groups argue that once permission is granted for large poultry developments, local ecosystems can face long-term damage that is difficult and expensive to reverse. Rivers that once supported diverse wildlife can become overwhelmed by pollution, affecting not only nature but also communities that depend on clean waterways for recreation, tourism and local economic activity.

The debate highlights a broader question about the purpose of planning regulations. Supporters of reform argue that planning rules can delay investment and prevent businesses from expanding. They believe Britain needs a system that encourages development and allows industries

to grow. However, critics say planning laws exist for a reason: to ensure that economic activity does not create unacceptable damage to communities and the environment.

The disagreement is not simply about farming. It reflects a wider conflict between economic growth and ecological protection. Environmental campaigners argue that destroying natural resources in the name of growth is ultimately self-defeating. Polluted rivers, damaged landscapes and declining biodiversity can create long-term costs for society that outweigh short-term financial benefits.

Concerns have also been raised about the influence of lobbying on government decision-making. Critics point out that when policymakers regularly engage with industry representatives, there is a risk that commercial interests may receive greater attention than environmental priorities. They argue that ministers must maintain independence and ensure that public interests remain at the centre of policy decisions.

The issue has become particularly sensitive because some politicians involved in environmental decisions have previous experience working with industries that seek government influence. Critics say this creates questions about whether government departments are sufficiently independent from the sectors they regulate.

Another major argument concerns food security. Supporters of expanding poultry production claim that increasing domestic production can help protect Britain's food supply. However, critics challenge this view, arguing that intensive poultry farming relies heavily on imported animal feed and global supply chains.

Modern chicken production

requires significant amounts of resources, including crops such as soya, much of which is grown overseas. Environmental campaigners argue that producing animal protein through intensive systems can require more land and resources than directly producing plant-based food for human consumption.

They also warn that relying heavily on a small number of large agricultural companies could create vulnerabilities within the food system. A truly secure food strategy, they argue, should support diverse farming methods, local production and sustainable approaches rather than increasing dependence on highly concentrated industrial systems.

Climate change is another important part of the debate. Scientists and environmental advisers have repeatedly highlighted the need to reduce emissions from agriculture, including livestock production. Critics argue that policies encouraging expansion of intensive animal farming conflict with national climate goals and make it harder to achieve long-term environmental targets.

The creation of partnerships between government departments and industry representatives has also attracted criticism. Collaboration between policymakers and businesses can be valuable when developing practical solutions, but opponents argue that such partnerships must include independent scientists, environmental organisations and community voices.

A policy process dominated by industry representatives risks ignoring the wider consequences of decisions. Rivers, wildlife and public health do not have powerful lobbying organisations protecting their interests, which is why many believe governments have a special responsibility to act

as guardians of the environment.

The challenge facing ministers is how to balance competing demands. Farming communities need economic support, businesses need certainty and consumers need affordable food. At the same time, Britain's natural environment requires protection from decisions that could cause irreversible damage.

A successful environmental strategy does not have to mean opposing farmers or economic development. Many farmers themselves are committed to protecting soil, water and biodiversity. The debate is about what type of farming Britain should encourage and whether future growth should be based on sustainable practices rather than intensive systems that place pressure on ecosystems.

The future of Britain's rivers will depend heavily on decisions made today. If environmental protections are weakened without proper safeguards, the consequences could last for generations. If policymakers take a longer-term view, they can support farming while also protecting the natural systems that make life possible.

The question facing government leaders is therefore not simply whether industries should be allowed to grow. It is whether growth can happen responsibly, without sacrificing the environment that communities depend on.

Britain's rivers, landscapes and wildlife cannot speak for themselves. Protecting them requires political courage, independent decision-making and a willingness to consider the public good alongside economic interests. The coming years will reveal whether ministers choose to defend the country's ecosystems or allow short-term pressures to shape the future of the natural world.

CIE Automotive shares 12% after Q1 results

Mumbai: Shares of CIE Automotive India Ltd tumbled 12.11 per cent in Thursday’s trade to hit a low of Rs 415.05 after the auto components maker announced its June quarter (Q1 FY27) results.Motilal Oswal Financial Services (MOFSL) said the company’s adjusted profit after tax (PAT) rose 15.5 per cent year-on-year (YoY) to Rs 230 crore, but missed its estimate of Rs 240 crore. The domestic brokerage noted that CIE Automotive’s consolidated revenue grew 11 per cent YoY to Rs 2,620 crore, broadly in line with its estimate of Rs 2,600 crore.“Revenue growth was led by ~12 per cent growth in the India business and currency ranslation benefits in the Europe business (13 per cent benefit),” MOFSL said.Consolidated EBITDA stood at around Rs 390 crore, in line with the brokerage’s estmates and up 15.7 per cent YoY. EBITDA margin came in at 14.9 per cent, compared with MOFSL’s estimate of 15.1 per cent. The margin expanded 70 basis points (bps) YoY but declined 50 bps on a quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) basis.On the India business, MOFSL said revenue increased 12.4 per cent YoY to around Rs 1,700 crore, in line with expectations. However, India EBITDA margin stood at 15 per cent, below its estimate of 15.5 per cent and down 70 bps YoY. ”Margins were slightly impacted by energy/gas/material cost inflation due to the conflict in West Asia,” the brokerage said. For the Europe business, MOFSL said revenue rose 7.4 per cent YoY to Rs 920 crore, broadly in line with its estimate of Rs 890 crore. It noted that the entire growth was from currency translation benefits, while revenue in euro terms declined 6 per cent YoY.“Margins expanded 300 bps YoY to 14.6 per cent, marginally above our estimate of 14.4 per cent. Margin expansion was due to restructuring benefits of Legazpi and Metalscastello,” MOFSL added.at Rs 490 crore.

Dr. Reddy’s stock price caused this 9% decline today; is further decrease anticipated

New Delhi: Shares of Dr Reddy’s Laboratories Ltd (DRL) plunged 9 per cent in Thusrday’s trade, broadly in line with its American Depository Receipt (ADR) fall overnight, spooked by yet another quarter of across-the-board earnings miss. Analysts said Dr Reddy’s Labs growth was primarily impacted by lower lenalidomide revenue, price erosion in both US and EU generics, and NRT (Nicotine Replacement Therapy) revenue decline due to the change in operating model post-integration. Margin pressure arose from semaglutide API-related inventory provision and higher solvent costs arising from the Middle East conflict, JM Financial noted.

“Dr Reddy’s Laboratories reported Q1FY27 significantly below our expectations, with revenue and Ebitda missing our estimates by 9 epr cent and 31 per cent respectively. The revenue miss was driven by North America, Europe and Russia businesses, while India and RoW businesses compensated partly with superior growth. Ebitda margin was at 13.3 per cent, adjusted for one-off Semaglutide inventory write-off, significantly below our and Street expectation in high-teens,” Elara Securities said. This brokerage noted that the DRL management guided for some pick-up in H2FY27, but this will still likely fall below current expectations. For now, Elara cut its core earnings estimates for FY27E-29 by 7-29 per cent and lowered its target on the stock to Rs 1,222 from Rs 1,283. This was the second straight quarter in which Dr Reddy’s missed Street margin estimates. Going ahead, analysts said near-term earnings visibility will depend on the resump-



tion of Semaglutide supplies and approval for Abatacept in the December quarter.

Following the development, the DRL stock fell 8.7 per cent to open at Rs 1,080.05 on BSE. It, however, cut gains and was later trading at Rs 1,134.20, still down 4.13 per cent. “We are again revising DRRD’s FY27E Ebitda and EPS estimates downwards by 11 per cent and 5 per cent. Margin recovery depends upon the success of new launches, semaglutide relaunch and clearance to Abatacept. We retain ‘BUY’ rating with a TP of INR1,365,” Nuvama aid.Dr Reddy’s Labs ADRs fell 9.39 per cent to \$11.38 on NYSE.

Adjusting for the Semaglutide API-related impact, Q1 Ebitda margin for Dr Reddy’s was 350 basis points lower than Emkay Global’s estimate. This was the second consecutive quarter of Ebitda miss against Street estimates. Given work-in-progress for resolving the Semaglutide-related regulatory issue, commercial benefits from b-abatacept expected in 4QFY27 onward and high FY26 base, MOFSL expects earn-

Eternal shares: 75% upside Zomato, Blinkit parent gets 27 ‘Buy’ calls post Q1 results

Mumbai: Eternal Ltd, the parent of Zomato and Blinkit, rose 4 per cent on Thursday, bringing its total gain to 34 per cent since its March low. Despite this strong rally, 27 of the 29 latest analyst recommendations on the stock remained ‘Buy’, ‘Outperform’ or ‘Overweight’ with the consensus target hinting at more than 20 per cent upside from the stock’s current price. The highest post-Q1 target for Eternal, by CLSA analyst Aditya Soman at Rs 506, even suggested a potential upside of 75 per cent from Thursday’s trading price of Rs 289.90 apiece. Among the most bullish calls, Jefferies’ Vivek Maheshwari suggested a target of Rs 415 on the stock. Gaurav Malhotra of Axis Capital sees Eternal at Rs 405 apiece. Analysts at JM Financial, Emkay Global and Elara Securities set a target of Rs 400

each for the Eternal stock.

A 20 per cent year-on-year (YoY) net order value (NOV) growth in Food delivery (FD) was a positive surprise, and sustained improvement in profitability despite growth investments underlined the health of the business, said analysts at ICI-CI Securities.

The brokerage cited the management indicating that tight inventory control yielded significantly lower net working capital (NWC) requirement in Q1, in addition to scale benefits and supply chain optimisation.

“We think the revised guidance on steady-state Ebitda margin in quick commerce (QC) is a consequence of these savings. We endorse the view that discount-driven customer additions in a grocery-heavy format like QC (designed to deliver convenience over value) is unlikely

to drive customer loyalty. Maintain BUY,” it said while suggesting a target of Rs 360 on the stock. Nomura India cited improving QC profitability despite high competitive intensity, as it upped its target on Eternal to Rs 350 from Rs 340 earlier.

“We expect Zomato to post 18-21 per cent YoY NOV growth with contribution margin of 10.6-11.2 per cent (as percentage of NOV) and adjusted Ebitda margin of 5.8-6.7 per cent in FY27-28E,” Nomura said.MOFSL said the business model is now established and competition is being more ‘predictable’, noting that the management expects structurally higher margins going forward.

“While continued elevated competition may lead to near term gains being pruned, this guidance up-

grade is a positive. Management’s long-term target of 60 per cent and NOV growth, coupled with an Ebitda target of \$1 billion by FY29, appears increasingly achievable. Our estimates continue to factor in this long-term trajectory,” MOFSL said. JM Financial has maintained its FD NOV estimates for FY27–29E, while increasing its adjusted Ebitda forecast by 2–3 per cent, citing better-than-expected margin in Q1.

“For Blinkit, we raise FY27–29E NOV by 1–9 per cent on the back of sharp increase in order volumes /MTU base. However, we moderate our profitability assumptions by 30–40bps to account for the structural impact of minimum wage hikes across a few states and higher rental payouts associated with the accelerated network expansion,” it said.

OFSS shares slip despite 121% YoY PAT growth

Mumbai: Shares of Oracle Financial Services Software Ltd (OFSS) slipped into the red on Thursday despite the company reporting robust June quarter earnings.

The stock was last seen trading 2.89 per cent lower at Rs 10,530. Despite the day’s decline, OFSS shares have gained 37.25 per cent so far in 2026, making it the only Nifty IT constituent with positive year-to-date (YTD) returns while most large-cap IT stocks have witnessed sharp corrections. For the June quarter, the company reported a consolidated profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 1,416 crore, up 121 per cent year-on-year (YoY). Operating PAT surged 123 per cent YoY to Rs 1,861 crore, while revenue rose 69 per cent YoY to Rs 3,125 crore.Alongside the earnings, OFSS announced changes in its top management.

The company said Makarand Padalkar has resigned as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO), effective at the end of the day on July 23, 2026. He will continue with the company for a few months to facilitate a smooth transition.OFSS also said Avadhut (Vinay) Ketkar, currently the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), has been appointed as an Additional Director and designated as the MD & CEO with effect from July 24, 2026.

Grey market winner Indo-MIM IPO GMP



Mumbai: Dalal Street is set to see the launch of three mainboard initial public offerings (IPOs) — Indo-MIM, Lohia Corp and Xtranet Technologies — on July 23, with the companies aiming to collectively raise ₹5,079.29 crore through their maiden share sales. Ahead of the launch, Indo-MIM has emerged as the clear grey market favourite, commanding the highest grey market premium (GMP) among the three issues.

According to sources tracking grey market activity, Indo-MIM was trading at a GMP of ₹185 per share, implying a 38.14 per cent premium over the upper end of its IPO price band. Shares were changing hands at around ₹670 in the unofficial market, against the issue price band of ₹461-485. The IPO has also received positive brokerage views, with Anand Rathii Share & Stock Brokers rating it "Apply" and Kantilal Chhaganlal Securities recommending "Subscribe."

Xtranet Technologies was the second-best performer in the grey market, with a GMP of ₹13 per share, or 10.24 per cent over the upper end of its price band. Shares were trading at around ₹140 against the IPO price band of ₹120-127. Swastika Investmart has recommended "Subscribe," while SBI Securities has maintained a "Neutral" rating Lohia Corp saw comparatively lower grey market interest, with a GMP of ₹36 per share, representing an 8.47 per cent premium over the upper end of its price band. Shares were quoted

at around ₹461 in the unofficial market against the issue price band of ₹404-425. The IPO has received positive recommendations from SBI Securities and Mastertrust. Indo-MIM is raising ₹3,811.21 crore through a book-built issue, comprising a fresh issue of 10.3 million shares aggregating ₹499.10 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of 68.3 million shares worth ₹3,311.21 crore. The IPO opens for subscription on July 23 and will close on July 27. The allotment is expected to be finalised on July 28, while the shares are scheduled to list on the NSE and BSE on July 30. The minimum investment requirement for sNII investors is ₹2,09,550, while bNII investors need to invest ₹10,05,840.Lohia Corp IPO details

The minimum investment requirement for small non-institutional investors (sNII) is ₹2,03,700, while big non-institutional investors (bNII) need to invest ₹10,03,950.Xtranet Technologies

IPO details Xtranet Technologies is raising ₹166.80 crore through a book-built issue, comprising a fresh issue of 13.1 million shares. The IPO opens for subscription on July 23 and will close on July 27. The allotment is expected to be finalised on July 28, while the shares are scheduled to list on the NSE and BSE on July 30. The company has fixed a price band of ₹120-127 per share. The retail investor lot size is 110 shares, requiring a minimum investment of ₹13,970 at the upper end of the price band.

Pharma stocks Sun Pharma, Biocon, Trump’s tariff plan

Mumbai: Pharma stocks remained under pressure in Thursday’s trade after US President Donald Trump outlined a phased tariff roadmap for imported generic medicines, raising concerns over the long-term outlook for exporters supplying the US market.In a social media post, Trump said all generic drugs imported into the United States would continue to attract a zero per cent tariff for two years effective August 1, 2026. After that, such imports would face a 100 per cent tariff for one year, followed by a 200 per cent tariff thereafter. The announcement weighed on Indian pharmaceutical stocks, with most constituents of the Nifty Pharma index trading in the red. Among the notable losers were Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd, Biocon Ltd, Torrent Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Dr Reddy’s Laboratories Ltd, Cipla Ltd, Wockhardt Ltd, Zydus Lifesciences Ltd, IPCA Laboratories Ltd, Gland Pharma Ltd, Alkem Laboratories Ltd and Ajanta Pharma Ltd. ”This is done in order to reshore generic pharmaceutical production into America, with a penalty to those companies that decide not to to them. The objective of this policy is to protect the people of the United States,” Trump said.

IndusInd Bank shares this stock fell 6% despite Q1 profit beat

New Delhi: IndusInd Bank shares: Why this stock fell 6% despite Q1 profit beat; upside capped?

IndusInd Bank Ltd shares fell 6 per cent in Thursday’s trade as analysts said the bank’s normalised net interest margin (NIM), adjusted for tax on an income tax refund, declined 3.35 per cent QoQ in the June quarter due to an adverse loan mix, resulting in a 3 per cent miss on net interest income (NII). While IndusInd Bank’s Q1 net profit beat Street estimates on one-off, analysts said the management guided for further pressure on NIMs in Q2FY27 before a recovery in H2FY27. For now, given the recent rally, analysts said upside looks capped for the stock. Equirus Securities said June was a mixed quarter for IndusInd Bank (IIB), with improving asset quality and business growth offset by a 4 basis points sequential decline in core net interest margin (NIM). Wholesale drove loan growth, which is likely to keep September quarter NIM under pressure, it said.The brokerage said IndusInd Bank is nearing the end of its clean-up cycle, with business growth and return on asset (RoA) at an inflection point. However, it feels that valuations of 1.1 times FY28 ABV for a 10 per cent RoE bank growing in line with the system largely reflect the expected 4QFY27 exit RoA of 1 per cent. It suggested an IndusInd Bank target of Rs 1,055.

“With the recovery largely priced in after the stock’s recent run (up 16 per cent in the last one month), we maintain ADD with a revised target of Rs 1,130 (Rs 925 earlier), valuing the bank at 1.2x FY28E P/BV (earlier 1x FY28E P/BV),” JM Financial said. By 10 am, IndusInd Bank shares had declined 6.3 per cent to hit a low of Rs 1,002.50 on BSE.

Ashika Stock Broking said it expects In-

usInd Bank’s recovery to remain gradual given the ongoing rebuilding of momentum across Retail and SME businesses and continued portfolio recalibration. An upgraded target multiple by Ashika Stock Broking on the IndusInd Bank implied a target price of Rs 1,082, hinting at limited upside ahead.

MOFSL said IndusInd’s business momentum picked up QoQ, led by strong growth in the corporate segment, while retail book growth remains muted. Deposit growth was driven by higher retail deposits, taking the retail deposit share to 49.5 per cent of total deposits. The reduction in slippages was broad-based but MOFSL said slippages in the VF and MFI segments inched up due to seasonality, leading to a partial miss on our provision estimates for Q1. ”The bank expects loan growth to broadly track industry growth in FY27, with potential to outpace the industry in FY28,” it said while maintaining a ‘Neutral’ on the stock with a target of Rs 1,125.

Nuvama Institutional Equities said IndusInd’s credit growth trajectory has turned sequentially positive while better net interest income (NII) and lower opex led to strong 37 per cent beat on profit. The management expects asset quality to improve further led by falling stress in MFI and hence LLP, which coupled with better credit growth and opex should put IndusInd Bank firmly on path to 1 per cent exit RoA in FY27E. “We believe IIB under new management is on a firm path of a calibrated turnaround beginning FY27 and should deliver a steady uptick in RoA to 0.8–1.5 per cent over FY27–29E. Retain ‘Buy’ with a target of Rs 1,250/share (earlier Rs 1,125), based on 1.5 times Jun-28E ABV (1.4x on CMP),” Nuvama said.

TRAI drive test highlights mobile network performance in south Mizoram

Aizawl: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released the findings of an Independent Drive Test (IDT) conducted across Lunglei, Lawngtlai and Siaha districts and adjoining areas in Mizoram to evaluate the real-time quality of mobile network services offered by telecom service providers (TSPs). Conducted between May 20 and 23, 2026 under the supervision of the TRAI Regional Office, Kolkata, the exercise covered a 342.4-km city drive, 11 hotspot locations and 1.3 km of walk tests, assessing voice and data performance across 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G networks.

The assessment measured key Quality of Service (QoS) parameters, including coverage gap, call setup success rate, dropped call rate, call silence instances, download and upload throughput, latency, jitter and packet loss. The report recorded average download speeds of 69.89 Mbps for Reliance Jio, 59.88 Mbps for Airtel, 16.05 Mbps for Vodafone Idea and 5.46 Mbps for BSNL. Average upload speeds stood at 11.83 Mbps for Airtel, 5.22 Mbps for Reliance Jio, 3.43 Mbps for Vodafone Idea and 2.10 Mbps for BSNL. Operator-wise data also highlighted coverage gaps, dropped calls and call silence instances



across the surveyed routes. The drive covered major locations, including hospitals, colleges, district courts, government offices and commercial centres in the three districts. TRAI said the findings have been shared with telecom operators for necessary corrective action to improve service quality.

In Aizawl, the report serves as an important benchmark for consumers, enterprises and telecom operators as digital adoption continues to accelerate in Mizoram. While the drive test did not include Aizawl city, the findings from southern districts are expected to influence network investment strategies across the state. Improved mobile connectivity will support digital payments, e-commerce, banking, education, healthcare and MSME operations in Aizawl, where demand for reliable high-speed mobile services continues to grow, encouraging operators to strengthen network coverage and enhance customer experience.

One UK mosque attacked ‘every five days’, says British Muslim Trust

Mosque: One mosque is attacked in Britain every five days, according to new data released by the government’s partner for monitoring anti-Muslim hatred.

More than 70 attacks on mosques in the UK have been recorded over the past year, which include acts of intimidation, violence, property damage, harassment, anti-Muslim hate speech, online abuse and vandalism.

The British Muslim Trust warned that momentum on attacks was building and called for an urgent response from the government.

The top three hotspots for attacks are London, Greater Manchester and the West Midlands. There have been nine separate mosque attacks in London, and one mosque in Birmingham has suffered three attacks in the last 12 months. Data from the Home Office shows anti-Muslim hate crime in England and Wales rose by 19% in the 12 months to March 2025.

Akeela Ahmed, the chief executive of the British Muslim Trust, said: “We are seeing a steady rise in the number of attacks against mosques, and we believe the government should be



doing everything it can to help mosques protect themselves.”

Earlier this year, the government announced it would provide up to £40m to mosques as part of the protective security for mosques scheme. The initiative would allow mosques to apply for funding for physical security measures such as CCTV, alarms, fencing and other security personnel services.

Home Office guidance says mosques should apply for “security measures”

if they have experienced or feel vulnerable to hate crime, or if there has been hate crime in the area towards other places of worship or their congregants. The guidance warns applications that “do not include strong evidence or do not explain the risk clearly are unlikely to be successful”.

Ahmed has previously urged ministers to drop these requirements for applying for protective security, saying it created a significant barrier to support.

The British Muslim Trust

said mosques applying for funding have found the scheme to be difficult to access, with some waiting up to 18 months to receive funding. The monitoring group added that not only was there a backlog, but that many were being denied funding without explanation.

“A mosque is vulnerable purely because it’s a mosque. Currently, they’re waiting for months while living in fear of another attack because of the backlog. In many cases, police

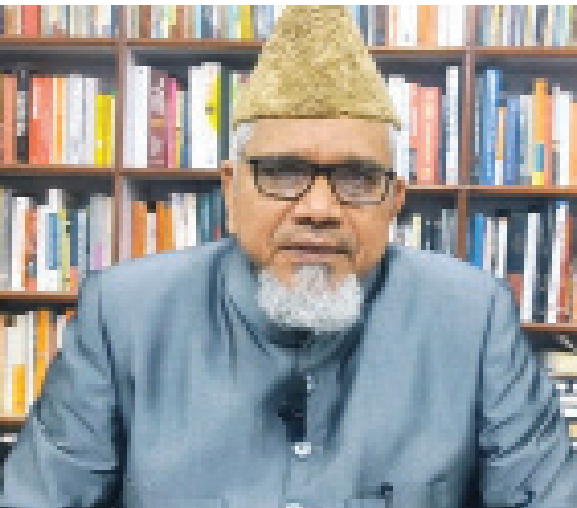
aren’t even responding to low-level incidents, leaving people frightened and vulnerable,” Ahmed said. “It is great that this funding and initiative exists, but we need to recognise that the momentum on attacks is building, and we need to react and prepare for this.” Ahmed added: “We recommend exploring better ways to get the funding to mosques as smoothly as possible including that the fund is devolved in order to speed up its delivery, especially given recent events.”

Last month, a study by the British Muslim Trust and British Future found that one in six Britons believe the growth of the Muslim population “poses a foundational threat to UK culture”, raising alarm that hostile attitudes towards Muslims are being normalised.

A Home Office spokesperson said: “Muslims in the UK face appalling levels of religious hate crime. It’s crucial that they not only are safe but feel safe.

“This government has increased funding for protective security at mosques, Muslim faith schools and community centres to record levels – up to £40m in 2026-27.

Educational Institutions Must Be Viewed Through the Lens of Justice



New Delhi: The demolition order issued against several academic and administrative buildings of Mohammad Ali Jauhar University, Rampur, has generated widespread concern among educationists and academic circles across the country. As the matter is currently sub judice, any irreversible action before the conclusion of judicial proceedings could have far-reaching consequences for the academic future of thousands of students.

Prof. Mohammed Saleem Engineer, Chairman of the Markazi Taleemi Board, expressed deep concern over the developments and stated: “India aspires to become Viksit Bharat 2047 by strengthening higher education, research, and knowledge institutions. At such a time, the demolition of a functioning university raises serious concerns. If there were legal or administrative irregularities in the past,

those responsible must certainly be held accountable in accordance with the law. However, the immediate concern today is the future of thousands of students, teachers, and staff associated with the institution.”

He noted that Mohammad Ali Jauhar University is a minority educational institution. At a time when the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of the Muslim community in higher education remains around 9 percent, any disruption to a functioning institution could adversely affect the national objective of expanding equitable access and inclusivity in higher education.

Prof. Saleem further observed: “The Constitution of India accords great importance to education. Article 21A recognizes the right to education, while Article 30 guarantees minorities the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. These constitutional protections do not

place any institution above the law; rather, they require that every administrative action be guided by due process, fairness, and transparency.”

The Markazi Taleemi Board believes that if legal violations are established, they should be adjudicated through the courts and competent legal authorities. At the same time, every effort must be made to ensure that academic activities continue uninterrupted and that students’ education is not adversely affected while legal proceedings are underway.

The Board has appealed to the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the concerned authorities to review the demolition order in the larger national interest, taking into account constitutional values, the rule of law, and the educational future of thousands of students. It has urged the authorities to seek a balanced solution that upholds legal accountability while safeguarding educational continuity and national development.

The Board also observed that the present case has highlighted the need for a comprehensive review of India’s housing and building approval framework. A transparent, efficient, and predictable regulatory system would help educational institutions, as well as ordinary citizens, obtain the statutory approvals required for construction without facing unnecessary procedural hurdles, while ensuring full compliance with the law.

Nicaragua’s congress announces ‘work plan’ to suspend elections

America: Nicaragua’s congress, controlled by the country’s long-serving president, Daniel Ortega, has announced a “work plan” to implement the authoritarian leader’s order that the country should no longer hold elections.

Daniel Ortega in a red jacket and navy cap waves his hand at an evening event with colorful lights behind him

Nicaragua’s president says country will not hold any more elections. Although the Ortega-Murillo regime has already overseen a profound erosion of democracy – marked by the violent suppression of protests, the imprisonment of thousands of people and the forced exile of nearly 1 million Nicaraguans – Sunday’s announcement marked a significant rhetorical escalation that is now being put into practice by congress.

On Wednesday, the UN high commissioner for human rights, Volker Türk, called on the Nicaraguan authorities to “reopen civic space, and restore the rule of law. People of all political viewpoints must be allowed to vote and run for office, in line with the state’s international human rights obligations.”



Aerial view of a canal with deep concrete banks either side of a conduit dug into semi-arid land

The US secretary of state, Marco Rubio, who refers to the country’s government as the “Murillo-Ortega dictatorship”, said in a statement on Tuesday that “the Nicaraguan people have the right to choose their own leaders through democratic elections” and the US “calls on the international community to join forces” against the regime.

Ortega’s uninterrupted period of

almost 20 years in office is not his first spell in power. He led the junta that took office after the Sandinista revolution and, in 1984, was elected president, remaining in office until 1990.

His current term, to which he was elected after he outlawed opposition parties and jailed all opposition presidential hopefuls before the 2021 election, had been due to end next November. However, last year’s constitutional changes extended the presidential term from

five to six years.

Despite the National Assembly’s announcement, it remains unclear whether the 2027 elections will be scrapped altogether or whether Ortega and Murillo will run unopposed.

The UN and the US strongly condemned Sunday’s announcement by Ortega, who has been in power since 2007 and, after a controversial constitutional change last year, now governs alongside his wife, Rosario Murillo, as “co-president”.

During the ceremony marking the 47th anniversary of the 1979 Sandinista revolution, in which he helped overthrow the brutal dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza García, Ortega said he would work with congress to pass new laws that would “build a wall” against the opposition.

On Tuesday, the Ortega-controlled National Assembly issued a statement saying that, under the pretext of “ensuring peace, security, stability and the continuity of achievements in the fight against poverty”, it was “beginning the necessary analysis to draw up a work plan to implement the president’s directives”.

Tokyo urges men to wear shorts to work, but some women say it’s ‘leg hair harassment’

Tokyo: As temperatures rise this summer, Japanese men are baring more leg at work than ever before.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government is pushing company employees to ditch their usual suit and tie for more casual attire, featuring t-shirts, trainers - and shorts.

Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike introduced “Tokyo Cool Biz” in April, hoping to expand on her signature cool down initiative which has now become a widely recognised annual summer tradition.

Some commentators enjoy the relaxed rules, helping them work more comfortably. Others say the policy is unfair to women since they are still expected to wear tights when showing a part of their legs. And a few women describe the experience of “leg hair harassment” or a term coined online as “sunebara”, referring to the discomfort of being forced to see their colleague’s leg hair.

“We want to give people more options in the severe heat, not tell them

what to wear. There should be no issue as long as the work attire is not offensive to anyone,” Tokyo Metropolitan Government environmental official Noboru Watanabe told the BBC. A June survey by Gorilla Clinic found 53.5% opposed wearing shorts to work in the summer while 46.5% were in favour of the new recommendation. For those against shorts in the office the main reason, for both genders, was the concern over body shape and body hair. The clinic says women significantly outnumbered men in their response, indicating that women may be more resistant to seeing a male colleague’s bare legs.

In recent years more Japanese workers, notably those working at startups and tech companies, have started wearing casual clothes. But this year, the Tokyo government recommendation has made it more socially acceptable. Still, some men have been feeling self-conscious about their leg hair.

Akifumi Funatsu, the director of Gorilla Clinic, says he has noticed

more clients coming to the clinic not just for cosmetic reasons, but as a matter of “social etiquette when wearing shorts”. He thinks women believe that “men should have less leg hair”, which has prompted them to seek laser hair removal so as not to offend those around them. Koike first introduced the summer wardrobe shift as Japan’s environment minister in 2005. She launched a national energy-saving campaign called “Cool Biz” to encourage company workers to opt for short-sleeve shirts.

Government leaders participated in the initiative, with then Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi often seen in public without wearing a tie or jacket, helping get the word out.

A few years later following the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami in March 2011, the government launched “Super Cool Biz” which expanded the guidelines to help reduce energy use both at work and at home.

As with other parts of the world, Japan has been experiencing record

heat in recent months while grappling with soaring energy prices driven by instability in the Middle East. Forecasters have warned of extreme heat this summer, with the Japan Meteorological Agency trying to raise public awareness by announcing the word “kokusho-bi”, which means “brutally hot day” when the mercury exceeds 40C.

The latest weekly data shows seven people died in Japan from heatstroke and 4,580 people were admitted to hospitals in the seven days from 6-12 July, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency.

Besides staying hydrated and turning on the air conditioning, some of the most basic actions repeatedly encouraged by government officials, residents have turned to new products and gadgets to beat the heat.

Items such as clothes with built-in fans, disposable wet-towels, UV and heat blocking umbrellas, and portable handheld fans have been popular and sold in shops nationwide.

France passes law banning under-15s from social media

France: France’s parliament has approved a law to ban social media for under-15s from January 2027, making it the first European country to block young people from the platforms.

The law will mean everyone in France must verify their age to access social media and comes as the UK and EU are developing their own limits in response to concerns for children’s mental health.

French President Emmanuel Macron has welcomed the move, which he had pledged to introduce to mark the end of his decade in office.

While sceptics have questioned the law’s viability, the government has insisted the online tools to put the age checks in place are effective and safe.

Both the French Senate and National Assembly adopted the ban on Tuesday, despite criticism from some on the left.

It will be implemented in two stages: From September, people under 15 will not be able to open accounts and age verification will be required on all new accounts

In January 2027, this rule will apply to all existing accounts - meaning everyone in France will have to prove they are over 15 to use social media

Once the ban is in place, social media platforms would need to use age-verification tools approved by the French privacy regulator, according to Reuters news agency. But concerns have been raised over privacy, the efficacy of age-verification tools, the risks of young people bypassing them, and how quickly the ban has been designed and brought in, Agence France Presse reports.

French Digital Minister Anne Le Hénaff defended the speed of the law’s implementation ahead of the vote “because age-verification tools already exist”, the agency added.



Despite Australia banning under-16s from social media in December, it is widely acknowledged that many continue to use the platforms.

In March, Australia’s eSafety Commission announced seven out of 10 children aged under 16 who had a social media account before the ban still had “some access”.

Given this, Professor of Internet Studies at Western Australia’s Curtin University Tama Leaver told the BBC the ban has “failed” in its technical aims.

But, he says, it has successfully shown a ban “can be done” though classifies it as “a bit of an experiment”.

One lesson other countries can learn from its example is that “young people need to be part of this conversation” so that a ban is “done with them”

and not “to them”. Leaver said France’s ban may have a higher chance of succeeding because of the requirement for every person to verify their age but that this will also increase risks to privacy.

Additional risks of the ban include pushing young people into less-regulated online spaces, reducing their news consumption and their political empowerment, he added.

Legislation restricting young people’s access to social media has been ramping up around Europe in the past few months.

In June, former British Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer announced under-16s in the UK will be banned from social media from January 2027. An optional midnight curfew for UK teens aged 16 and 17 was also announced.

In May, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen proposed a “social media delay” for children in Europe and has said new legislation could be put forward in months.

Here are 10 office tote bags designed to help you keep your daily essentials organized



You require a single bag that accommodates all your essentials without adding bulk. Tote bags are the ideal choice. From structured designs to various other styles, discover the options that best meet your requirements.

A thoughtfully crafted tote bag proves to be highly beneficial for transporting a variety of items, ranging from lunch boxes to lap-

tops, all in a single location. Although other shoulder bag styles may provide significant storage space, they frequently come across as cumbersome, highlighting the advantages of tote bags. With options that include structured designs featuring specific laptop sleeves and roomy styles equipped with various compartments, there is a diverse selection to meet various

professional requirements. It is advisable to take into account aspects such as capacity, durability, and comfort prior to making a selection.

One of the biggest advantages of tote bags is their versatility, allowing you to carry them whether you're commuting to the office, working from a café, or travelling for meetings. To help you find the perfect

option, below are some of the best office tote bags based on the customer reviews, storage capacity, and material.

Office tote bags for women

1. MINI WEST Women Textured Structured Tote Bag: Featuring three spacious main compartments with secure zip closures, it offers ample room to organise your essentials, from documents and notebooks to a laptop of up to 12 inches. The bag also includes an external pocket for easy access to frequently used items and an inner pocket to keep smaller belongings neatly stored. Crafted from durable PU material, it combines a structured look with everyday convenience, making it a versatile addition to your bag collection.
2. Fastrack Women Ivory Black College Tote Bag: Simple, stylish, and practical, this black solid tote bag is designed to complement your everyday routine. Featuring a spacious main compartment with a

- secure zip closure, it offers enough room to carry your daily essentials, whether you're heading to work, college, or a casual outing. The tote bag for women also includes an inner pocket to help keep smaller items organised and easily accessible.
3. Mast & Harbour Textured Structured Tote Bag: Crafted from synthetic leather, this tote bag offers a structured silhouette that pairs effortlessly with both workwear and casual outfits. The water-resistant design adds practicality, while the non-detachable sling strap and handle provide versatile carrying options. Spacious and thoughtfully designed, this tote bag is well-suited for office travel, trips, and daily use.
4. Puma Running System Convertible Everyday Tote Bag: Designed for everyday convenience, this black logo-printed tote bag from PUMA combines functionality with a sporty aesthetic. Featuring a spacious main compartment and an

- additional compartment for better organisation, it provides ample room to carry daily essentials such as notebooks, wallets, and other necessities.
5. ZOUK Women Printed Structured Tote Bag: Crafted from jute with vegan leather detailing, this tote bag combines durability with a contemporary look. Its dual handles ensure comfortable carrying, while the roomy interior makes it suitable for work, college, shopping, or casual outings. The vibrant colour-blocked design adds a stylish touch, making it a practical accessory for everyday use.
6. SUKHA PU Oversized Structured Tote Bag: Equipped with sturdy dual handles, this tote bag is comfortable to carry and provides ample space for essentials such as documents, notebooks, and laptops up to 12 inches. Its water-resistant construction adds functionality, while the classic brown finish lends a versatile and polished look suitable for

- both professional and casual settings.
7. Accessorize Women Ultimate Everyday Rosea Double Pocket Zipper Tote: The spacious interior includes multiple compartments, including a secure zippered section, allowing you to organise your daily essentials with ease. An exterior slip pocket provides convenient access to frequently used items, while the long shoulder straps ensure comfortable carrying throughout the day. Whether paired with office wear or travel outfits, this shoulder bag offers practicality with a stylish appeal.
8. MINI WEST Textured Tote Bag: Crafted from durable PU material, this tote bag offers a structured silhouette that complements both workwear and casual outfits. The dual handles ensure comfortable carrying, while the detachable strap adds versatility to suit different preferences. Finished with a sophisticated quilted texture, this tote bag is a practical and stylish companion for office

- commutes, shopping trips, and everyday outings.
9. French Connection Suede Structured Tote Bag: This grey solid tote bag is designed to offer a practical blend of style and functionality for everyday use. Featuring a spacious main compartment with a secure zip closure, it provides ample room for carrying daily essentials. The bag is equipped with four external pockets, an inner pocket, and dedicated mobile pouches to help keep your belongings organised and easily accessible.
10. MANGO Textured Oversized Structured Tote Bag: This beige textured tote bag combines understated elegance with everyday practicality. Designed with a spacious main compartment and a secure zip closure, it offers ample room for carrying your daily essentials while keeping them organised. Crafted from polyurethane with a matching lining, the bag features a textured finish that adds a refined touch to its overall look.

Create These At-Home Natural Tinted Lip Balms

Long before the advent of ready-to-use henna cones and the rise of intricate Arabic patterns, women in Telangana adorned their hands through this traditional method, which utilizes fresh henna leaves, flowers, and foliage rather than complex designs. How to make it at home ?

Dark red lip balm: Bring one teaspoon each of beeswax, shea butter, and almond oil to a boil.

Take off the heat and add fresh beetroot juice or powder. After cooling, transfer the mixture into a small glass container and place it

in the refrigerator for half an hour.

Chocolate-coffee brown lip balm: This can be made by those who prefer nude or brown lipstick. First, heat one tablespoon of coconut oil and cocoa butter. Mix thoroughly after adding the coffee and cocoa powders. After that, transfer it to a container and keep it chilled.

Berry Blush Lip Balm: Shea butter, rosemary oil, and beeswax should all be melted together.

Take off the heat and thoroughly whisk in the strawberry and currant juices. Transfer to a bowl and

allow to settle. This time, add the melted beeswax and vitamin E capsule, then allow it to solidify.

Golden Honey Lip Balm: It will give the lips a subtle golden hue. It will hide the lips' dark patches.

You'll need almond oil and honey to make it. First, melt one teaspoon of almond oil and beeswax. Once it has cooled slightly, combine the honey with the turmeric powder and thoroughly whisk until the honey is well incorporated. After that, transfer it to a container and let it to cool. Keep it in a glass bottle.

Which fabric is more suitable for the rainy season, rayon or cotton



The monsoon provides a much-needed respite from the intense heat of summer; however, it also introduces high humidity, unexpected rain showers, and garments that take an extended period to dry. Therefore, selecting the appropriate fabric is as crucial as picking the right attire. Two fabrics that are prevalent in Indian wardrobes during this time are cotton and rayon. Both materials are lightweight, breathable, and frequently used in kurtas, dresses, and co-ord sets; yet, they exhibit significantly different performances when the rains begin. So, which one deserves a place in your monsoon wardrobe? Here's a closer look.

Cotton: The everyday classic

Cotton has always been the go-to fabric for Indian weather, and for good reason. It's soft, breathable and excellent at allowing air to circulate, helping keep you cool even on humid days. Whether you're commut-

ing to work, spending hours outdoors or simply running errands, cotton feels comfortable against the skin.

The biggest advantage of cotton is how breathable it is. It absorbs sweat well, making it ideal if you tend to perspire more during humid weather. Cotton also feels gentle on sensitive skin and rarely causes irritation, making it a reliable everyday option.

However, cotton isn't without its drawbacks during the monsoon. Because it absorbs moisture easily, it can remain damp for quite a while after getting wet. A cotton kurta caught in an unexpected shower may feel heavy until it dries completely. Cotton also wrinkles easily, meaning you'll often need a quick iron before heading out. Rayon: The flowy favourite

Rayon has become increasingly popular because of its beautiful drape. Unlike cotton, rayon falls closer to the body, giving kurtas

and dresses a more fluid and elegant silhouette. It often looks dressier, even when the design itself is simple.

One major advantage during the monsoon is that rayon usually dries faster than cotton. If you're caught in light rain, your outfit is less likely to stay damp for hours. Rayon also resists wrinkles better, making it a practical option for busy workdays or travel.

That said, rayon isn't quite as breathable as pure cotton. During extremely humid afternoons, it may feel warmer against the skin, especially if the fabric is thicker. Lower-quality rayon can also cling slightly when exposed to moisture.

Cotton vs rayon: Which performs better?

Comfort

Cotton wins when it comes to breathability and keeping you cool during humid weather. If comfort is your top priority, cotton is difficult to beat.

Drying time

Rayon generally dries quicker than cotton, making it more practical if you're frequently caught in unexpected showers.

Wrinkle resistance

Rayon usually looks neater throughout the day, while cotton wrinkles more easily after sitting or commuting.

Drape and appearance

Rayon creates a softer, more elegant silhouette, whereas cotton tends to look slightly more structured and relaxed.

Maintenance

Cotton is generally easier to wash and maintain, while rayon may require gentler care to preserve its texture.

Which fabric should you

choose?

The answer depends on how and where you'll be wearing it.

Choose cotton if:

You're spending long hours outdoors. You prioritise breathability and comfort. You have sensitive skin.

You're dressing for everyday office wear or errands.

Choose rayon if: You prefer a more flattering, flowy silhouette. You want outfits that wrinkle less. You're attending lunches, dinners or semi-formal occasions.

You don't mind slightly more careful maintenance.

Monsoon styling tips:

Stick to lighter colours that feel fresh during gloomy weather. Choose ankle-length bottoms instead of floor-grazing silhouettes.

Avoid heavily lined garments that trap heat. Pair breathable fabrics with waterproof footwear. Keep an umbrella or lightweight rain jacket handy for sudden showers. If I had to pick just one fabric for the monsoon, I'd still choose cotton for everyday wear because nothing beats its comfort during sticky, humid days. But rayon comes a close second, especially for office meetings or occasions where I want a slightly more polished look without sacrificing too much comfort. Instead of choosing one over the other, the smartest monsoon wardrobe includes both. Cotton keeps you cool through busy weekdays, while rayon steps in when you want effortless elegance. Knowing when to wear each fabric is what makes dressing for the rainy season much easier.

How to Naturally Keep Mosquitoes Away During the Monsoon

The rainy season provides an ideal environment for mosquitoes to breed, thereby heightening the risk of diseases such as dengue, malaria, and chikungunya. The rainy season provides an ideal environment for mosquitoes to breed, heightening the risk of diseases such as dengue, malaria, and chikungunya. Implementing these straightforward, natural strategies can assist in maintaining a mosquito-free home without solely depending on chemical repellents. Don't Let Water Collect Anywhere

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in stagnant water, and even something as small as a bottle cap can become a breeding spot. Empty flower pot trays, buckets, coolers, bird baths and clogged drains regularly. If you store water, keep containers tightly covered to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. Use Natural Mosquito-Repelling Plants

Certain plants are believed to naturally repel mosquitoes because of their strong aroma. Keeping citronella, lemongrass, basil (tulsi), lavender, peppermint or marigolds near windows,

balconies or entryways may help reduce mosquito activity around your home while adding greenery to your space. Burn Neem Leaves Or Use Essential Oils

Neem has long been used in traditional Indian households as a natural insect repellent.

Burning dried neem leaves outdoors (where safe and permitted) or diffusing neem, citronella, eucalyptus or lemongrass essential oils indoors can help discourage mosquitoes. Always dilute essential oils properly and keep them away from pets and young children unless they're known to be safe. Install Mesh Screens And Sleep Under Nets

One of the most effective chemical-free ways to prevent mosquito bites is to stop them from entering your home.

Install fine mesh screens on doors and windows, repair any tears, and use mosquito nets while sleeping—especially for babies, older adults and anyone living in mosquito-prone areas. Keep Your Home Clean And Dry

Dark, damp corners provide ideal resting places



for mosquitoes. Wipe away excess moisture, clean under furniture, unclog drains and keep bathrooms and kitchens well-ventilated. Regular housekeeping can reduce the number of hiding spots inside your home. Wear Protective Clothing During Peak Mosquito Hours

Mosquitoes that spread diseases like dengue are often active during the day, while others are more active around dawn and dusk. Wearing full-sleeved shirts, long trousers and

light-coloured clothing can reduce exposed skin and make it harder for mosquitoes to bite. Be Alert To Mosquito-Borne Diseases

Natural prevention methods work best when combined with awareness. If you develop high fever, severe body aches, persistent headache, rash or unusual fatigue after repeated mosquito bites, seek medical attention promptly. Early diagnosis of illnesses such as dengue, malaria and chikungunya can help prevent serious complications.

Utilizing This Traditional Technique as an Alternative to Mehendi Cones

Long before the advent of ready-to-use henna cones and the rise of intricate Arabic patterns, women in Telangana adorned their hands through this traditional method, which utilizes fresh henna leaves, flowers, and foliage rather than complex designs. The word Gorintaku refers to the traditional practice of applying fresh henna during festivals and special occasions.

In Telangana, it has long been associated with the month of Ashadha and Bonalu, when women adorn their hands as part of the celebrations and prayers dedicated to Goddess Mahakali.

Unlike modern mehndi art that often requires skilled hands and considerable time, Gorintaku focuses on creating a naturally striking pattern using leaves or flowers.

The process is surprisingly simple. A fresh flower or an attractive leaf is placed in the centre of the palm. A thick paste of freshly ground hen-



na is applied over and around it in a circular shape. The fingertips are also coated with henna paste. After the paste dries, the flower or leaf is removed. The area covered by the flower or leaf remains unstained, leaving

behind a beautiful natural silhouette against the rich reddish-brown henna. The result is a unique design that looks elegant despite requiring very little effort. One reason the traditional technique is going viral again is its simplicity. Unlike intricate bridal or Arabic mehndi designs that can take hours, the application itself can be completed in about 10 minutes, making it ideal for those who want a festive look without spending too much time.

Apart from its nostalgic appeal, Gorintaku also offers a more natural alternative to chemical-based henna cones.

Traditionally, freshly ground henna leaves are used, and many believe the paste provides a cooling sensation during the hot and humid Ashadha season. The method also celebrates the beauty of nature, with each flower or leaf creating a one-of-a-kind imprint, ensuring no two designs are exactly alike.

CBFC clears Sunny Deol and Preity Zinta’s batwara 1947 with zero cuts ahead of release



Mumbai : JActor Sunny Deol’s upcoming historical film ‘Batwara 1947’, has been cleared by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) without any cuts, according to sources.

With the censor certification, the Rajkumar Santoshi directorial is now set for its scheduled theatrical release on August 14, 2026. Based on acclaimed playwright Asghar Wajahat’s play ‘Jis Lahore Nai Vekhya,

O Jamyia E Nai’, the film is set against the backdrop of the 1947 Partition, also depicting the aftermath of the post-Partition riots and the deep emotional turmoil that engulfed the Indian subcontinent during the division.

The film is based on a Mohajir family that crosses over to Lahore and occupies an abandoned Hindu home. The narrative is centered on Hindu elderly woman who

refuses to leave the house and the issues that arise between the Mohajir family and her. The film celebrates the bonding of the families and strikes a positive note. It tells the story of a man who chooses humanity and courage during one of the country’s most difficult periods. Sunny Deol as the central protagonist is shown driven by courage and humanity amid widespread violence and fear,

while veteran actress Shabana Azmi is prominently featured as an elderly, helpless woman stranded in Pakistan who refuses to leave her ancestral home.

The makers recently unveiled a new poster of ‘Batwara 1947’ along with its release date. The newly released poster features an idol of Lord Krishna with a lit diya in the foreground, set against the backdrop of the Partition of India in 1947. Along with the poster, the makers wrote, “When the world chose sides, HE chose dharma. Watch #Batwara1947 in cinemas this Partition Day, 14th August.”

Directed by Rajkumar Santoshi, the film is backed by Aamir Khan Productions. The cast includes Sunny Deol, Shabana Azmi, Preity Zinta, Karan Deol, Ali Fazal, Abhimanyu Singh, Khushi Hajare and Kanikka Kapur. The music for the film has been composed by AR Rahman, with lyrics by Javed Akhtar.

Mahesh Babu’s nephew jayakrishna credits Ram Charan as a major influence

Hyderabad : Jayakrishna Ghattamaneni, grandson of legendary actor Krishna and nephew of superstar Mahesh Babu, has revealed that Ram Charan is the actor he admires the most outside his own family. The young actor, who is all set to make his silver screen debut with Srinivasa Mangapuram, said he has always been inspired by the Mega Power Star’s dedication to his craft.

Speaking about his admiration, Jayakrishna said Ram Charan completely immerses himself in every role he takes up. "Outside the Ghattamaneni family, I love Ram Charan garu," he said, adding that sustaining a long and successful career in cinema is the biggest challenge for any actor. Over the years, Ram Charan has been praised by several colleagues for both his performances and professionalism. Recently, Allu Arjun described Charan's performance in Peddi as "raw and gritty." Kiara Advani has spoken about his humility on film sets, while Tamannaah Bhatia has often highlighted his grounded nature despite belonging to one of Telugu cinema's most celebrated families.

Alia Bhatt, who shared screen space with him in RRR also praised his professionalism and supportive nature during filming. Many of his



peers have consistently appreciated his commitment, discipline and respectful work ethic. Jayakrishna will make his acting debut with Srinivasa Mangapuram, directed by RX 100 and Mangalavaaram filmmaker Ajay Bhupathi. The romantic action drama stars Rasha Thadani as the female lead and follows the story of two young lovers, Vasu Babu and Manga, whose lives are turned upside down when a powerful gang threatens to separate them. The debutant

expressed gratitude to Ajay Bhupathi for giving him an opportunity to launch his career with an emotionally intense story.

"Srinivasa Mangapuram is a passionate and gripping love story that brings a fresh, raw emotional depth to the screen. As a third-generation actor from the Ghattamaneni family, I am aware of the responsibility of carrying forward the legendary legacy," Jayakrishna said. The film is slated to release in theatres later this month.

Saanvie Tallwar alleges Karan Kundrra assault

Mumbai : Actor Saanvie Tallwar has accused Karan Kundrra of harassment and assault during the shoot of the television show, Yeh Kahan Aa Gaye Hum. She said that Karan and the show’s director at the time didn’t like that she kept to herself and didn’t socialise. While filming a scene, she alleged that Karan kissed her before the director’s cue, prompting her to slap him. What followed was further assault by Karan, as Saanvie claimed.

Saanvie Tallwar told Filmibeat, “There was a scene, but the director hadn’t clapped action; even before that, he kissed me, and I slapped him. He didn’t react at that time, but then he came back after some time and slapped me hard. There is a difference between the intensity of a girl’s and a man’s slap. I fell on the floor, and then he abused me and my family." She added, “Nobody supported me. Later, Ekta ma’am (Kapoor) apologised on Karan’s behalf and supported me. She managed to make things easy." She mentioned that Karan was dating Anusha Dandekar at the time, who, upon learning about this incident, started showing up on set. However, Saanvie claimed that the environment turned toxic as Karan and the director made it hard for her to work.

Balakrishna under observation in Hyderabad post knee injury



Hyderabad : Actor and Hindupur MLA Nandamuri Balakrishna is in a stable condition after sustaining a left knee injury during a film shoot in Rajahmundry.

He was initially treated at a local hospital before being airlifted to an AIG hospital for specialised evaluation and further management, according to

a medical bulletin issued on Wednesday. Doctors said the preliminary assessment revealed a localized collection of blood and inflammation in the tissues surrounding the left knee, indicating a possible muscle tear.

He is currently undergoing detailed clinical and diagnostic investigations under the supervision of a team of orthopaedic surgeons to determine the extent of the injury. Hospital authorities said that, considering his medical history, a multidisciplinary team comprising specialists from various departments has been involved in evaluating his condition to ensure the safest course of treatment.

According to the bulletin, Balakrishna remains under close medical observation and his overall condition is stable. Doctors said the definitive treatment plan will be finalised after the ongoing clinical evaluation and diagnostic investigations are completed.

KL Rahul reveals his plans to watch spider-man: brand new day with his daughter

Mumbai : As Spider-Man: Brand New Day gears up for its theatrical release on the 30th July, Sony Pictures Entertainment India has partnered with Indian cricketer KL Rahul for a special campaign celebrating the legacy of one of the world’s most iconic superheroes. Bringing together the worlds of cricket and cinema, the collaboration puts the spotlight on KL Rahul, showcasing how he dabbled with the world if they would forget him. With this collaboration, Rahul expresses his lifelong admiration for Spider-Man.

Talking about his love for Spider-Man and what the superhero has meant to him over the years, KL Rahul shared, “Like millions of Indians, I grew up watching and admiring Spider-Man. I enjoyed watching his films not only because of action and adventure, but because of what he stands for. ‘With great power comes great responsibility’ is a belief



that has stayed with me through different phases of my life and is something I try to live by every day.”

Speaking about joining hands with Sony Pictures Entertainment India for the campaign, KL Rahul added, “When Sony Pictures Entertainment India approached me to collaborate on Spider-Man: Brand New Day, it was an easy decision. It’s exciting to be associated with a charac-

ter who has inspired generations across the world. Now, as a father, it feels even more special. I look forward to the day my daughter is old enough for us to watch a Spider-Man film together. It’ll be wonderful to introduce her to a superhero who meant so much to my childhood and hopefully pass on that legacy to the next generation.”

With Spider-Man: Brand

New Day, audiences will witness Peter Parker embark on an emotional new chapter as he navigates a world unlike any he has faced before. KL Rahul’s collaboration with Sony Pictures Entertainment India further adds to the excitement surrounding the film, bringing together one of India’s most admired cricketers with one of the most iconic superheroes in popular culture.

Allu Arjun takes a brief break from Raaka filming to vacation in Austria

Hyderabad : Allu Arjun has taken a short break from the hectic shoot of his upcoming film Raaka and is currently holidaying with his family in Austria. The actor is accompanied by his wife Sneha Reddy and their children, Ayaan and Arha, as they enjoy a relaxing getaway in the picturesque Austrian Alps.

Sneha Reddy offered fans a glimpse into the vacation by sharing a series of photos and videos on Instagram. One of the pictures captures the family posing

against the breathtaking Alpine landscape, while another shows them visiting Seegrube, the popular viewpoint on the Nordkette mountain range near Innsbruck. The scenic destination is known for its panoramic mountain views and has become a favourite among tourists. This isn't the first international family vacation for the Pushpa star. Over the past few years, Allu Arjun has frequently travelled with his family, including multiple trips to Dubai, where

he unveiled his wax statue at Madame Tussauds and celebrated daughter Arha's birthday. The family has also vacationed in the Maldives.

The Austria trip comes as a welcome breather after months of shooting Raaka. The actor is expected to return to the film's sets soon to resume work on the ambitious project. Directed by Atlee, the big-budget entertainer is among the most anticipated Indian films currently in production.



Lisa’s debut solo documentary set for TIFF 2026 premiere

Agency : Blackpink star Lisa’s first-ever solo documentary is all set to debut at one of the world’s most prestigious film festivals. Titled Always Lalisa, the feature-length documentary has been officially selected for the 2026 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). The grand event will be held from September 10 to 20. Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Sue Kim, the 97-minute film will have its world premiere in the festival’s Gala Presentations section. The exact premiere date is yet to be announced.

TIFF recently unveiled its Gala and Special Pre-



sentations lineup, with Always Lalisa sharing space with titles such as A Talent for Murder, All About Corinne, Atonement and Babies. The film’s official synopsis reads, “K-pop-turned-global superstar Lisa stars in this intimate and transformative documentary tracing her journey from childhood ambition through Blackpink stardom into the artist she is today.”

Vijay’s Jana Nayagan arrives in theatres amid widespread fan celebrations

Chennai : Following high anticipation and several delays, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and actor C Joseph Vijay's 'Jana Nayagan' has finally opened in theatres, bringing much joy to his fans. As 'Jana Nayagan' hit theatres, Tamil actor Jai addressed fans and thanked them for their unwavering support. Speaking to the media, Jai shared, "Jana Nayagan is set to release

tomorrow after overcoming several obstacles and opposition. Even if the film is released on mobile platforms, Thalapathy Vijay's fans will watch it only in theatres. Like the phrase 'I'm Waiting,' all of you have patiently waited for this moment, and I thank you for your unwavering support."

The actor also went on to praise Vijay's political

leadership, adding, "Our Thalapathy, Joseph Vijay, has now become the Chief Minister. I pray that his governance continues not only for the next five years but for generations to come. I also request all of you to continue extending your wholehearted support to him." Meanwhile, fans across Tamil Nadu have turned the film's release into a grand celebration as

they gathered outside cinema halls to catch the early shows of 'Jana Nayagan' on Thursday. Visuals from Rohini Theatre in Koyambedu showed an enthusiastic crowd lined up outside the cinema, with many eagerly waiting to watch the first-day-first show. Supporters were also seen dancing joyfully, cheering, and celebrating the release, creating a festive atmosphere.

On the other hand, posters of Vijay's 'Jana Nayagan' and the actor-politician's large cut-outs have also been placed by his fans at various locations.

Earlier this month, CM and actor Vijay, in an official Instagram post, announced the film's new release date and also unveiled a brand new poster of the film, confirming that 'Jana Nayagan' will

hit theatres on July 23. Directed by H Vinoth, Jana Nayagan stars Vijay alongside Mamitha Baiju, Pooja Hegde, Prakash Raj, Bobby Deol, Gautham Vasudev Menon, Priyamani and Narain. The film features music by Anirudh Ravichander, cinematography by Sathyan Sooryan, editing by Pradeep E Ragav and production design by V Selvakumar.



Inter Miami defeated Chicago Fire without Lionel Messi, ruining Robert Lewandowski’s Major League Soccer debut

Miami: Robert Lewandowski’s Major League Soccer debut was ruined on Wednesday as Inter Miami defeated Chicago Fire 3-2 sans Lionel Messi thanks to two goals from Luis Suarez and a late goal from Preston Plambeck.

Four days after Argentina’s 1-0 loss to Spain in the World Cup final, Uruguayan veteran Suarez led Miami while Messi and fellow Argentine Rodrigo de Paul were absent. Lewandowski, a 37-year-old striker from Poland, was making his MLS debut after joining from Barcelona following their victory in the Spanish championship. Prolific goalscorer Lewandowski, who also starred for Bayern Munich from 2014-



2022 and has more than 700 goals for club and country, started for Chicago and played 63 minutes. But it was 20-year-old Plambeck, a product of Miami’s youth

system, who emerged as the unlikely hero, coming off the bench to score the 87th-minute winner. Lewandowski had an attempt blocked in the 14th minute, but the Fire got on the board four minutes later through a calamitous own goal. Miami goalkeeper Rocco Rios Novo, starting in place of Canada World Cup keeper Dayne St. Clair, took a swing at a routine pass back from Ian Fray only to miss and see it roll into the net. In the 27th minute, Suarez tied the score with a penalty kick, and in the 51st, Miami took the lead thanks to a spectacular backheel from German Berterame. After goalie Chris Brady parried Suarez’s close-range attempt, Plambeck had the last word by volleying home the rebound for his first Miami goal after Chicago’s South African Puso Dithheane drew it 2-2 in the 67th minute.

“Want Better Future” A 13-Year-Old Explains Why She Participated in the CJP Protest

New Delhi, July 23: “I want a better future,” stated Umasa, a 13-year-old from Daryaganj, Delhi, who took part in Wednesday night’s Coackroach Janta Party demonstration at Jantar Mantar. Carrying the Indian tricolor, she came at the location with her father, Salim, and friend Rahisa. She joined hundreds of young people calling for the government to take responsibility for the question paper leaks. Regarding the paper leaks, she says she doesn’t want to experience the uncertainty that applicants for entrance tests who had their papers leaked had to deal with. Umasa’s thoughts were mirrored by Ashish, a young woman at the protest location. She called for a conversation with the administration and the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. “There’s only one goal in mind: the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan, some accountability from the government, for the government to enter into a dialogue with us to understand what’s actually wrong,” she added. She said the protesters are at Jantar Mantar for all students and children of the country. “We are here for every one of us, for all the students, for even those who disagree with our movement. We are here for your children,” she said. Faraz said he was at the protest for the nation’s welfare. “I’m here because



I believe that sometimes movements and ideas are bigger than people. People who are in power, people who are controlling this regime...Of course, people are here for many reasons, but I believe that there is an idea of a country, that is India, that I believed in, that I grew up reading about in textbooks, in the films that we saw. And I’m here for that idea of a country, which I believe in,” he said. Talking about violence at the protest site, he alleged the police crackdown was “unprovoked”. “It was unprovoked and unexpected violence from the state, from the police,” he said. Another young man said the violence on Monday at the protest site was the worst thing he had ever seen. “It is the single worst thing that I have seen with my own eyes in the city that I call home. I don’t think that anyone deserves to be treated that way, no

Late-night altercations, tear gas in Jantar Mantar, injuries to senior police officers

New Delhi, July 23: On Wednesday night, demonstrators and security officers engaged in new altercations in Jantar Mantar. To break up the throng, police had to use tear gas shells and a cane charge. At least six employees, including two ACP-rank policemen, were hurt in the assault, according to the police. Videos from the protest location released by the police showed chaotic scenes, with protestors allegedly pelting stones and battling with police officers. Later, in the midst of increased security measures, internet jammers were deployed throughout the region. Police videos showed a large number of agitated protesters raising slogans and egging each other on to attack police personnel. At least one security personnel was mobbed by protesters and beaten, as seen in the police video. The videos also showed a number of protesters trying to control the crowd and asking them to stop, but with little success. ACPs Vivek Bhagat and Jay Prakash were rushed to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital with injuries. According to the hospital, ACP Bhagat suffered multiple bruises on both upper and lower limbs, as well as the shoulder, and had swelling at the back of his head.

Rahul Gandhi and the CJP retaliate after the PM reassures students in the first message on paper leaks



New Delhi, July 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a significant message to the nation’s young on Thursday morning amid violent student protests in the capital and a confrontation in Parliament. Nothing is more crucial than our children’s future and well-being.” The administration has agreed to establish fast-track tribunals to prosecute instances involving document leaks, the prime minister added in a post on X. “We have decided to set up fast-track courts to ensure swift and stringent punishment for those involved in paper leaks. I have directed the concerned authorities and officials to take all necessary steps in this regard.” The Prime Minister noted that this is part of a series of steps taken by the government to bring those involved in paper leaks to justice. “This is the next stage in our series of actions to protect students’ interests. The PM said, “Those who attempt to undermine our youth’s future will not

be spared.” The decision was made in the midst of demonstrations by opposition parties and the social media platform Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), as well as calls for Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to quit. Within minutes of the Prime Minister’s announcement Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi hit back accusing the PM of “harming” the future of students. “You are the one who has harmed the future of our youth the most. You allowed and encouraged the total capture and destruction of our education

system - and protected every person responsible for it,” he posted on X. Rahul Gandhi also restated the requests made by the students. The needs of the pupils are evident: 1. Fire Dharmendra Pradhan. 2. Express regret to the pupils. 3. Deal with the perpetrators of the assault. Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi had on Wednesday claimed that there have been over 150 paper leaks in the last 10 years, but there has not been a single conviction in these cases. The Prime Minister has now announced the establish-

ment of fast-track courts for paper leak cases to ensure speedy convictions. Reacting to the Prime Minister’s announcement, the CJP reiterated its demand for the minister’s resignation. “Dharmendra Pradhan must resign,” the satirical front wrote on X. The Prime Minister on Tuesday at the NDA meet had also spoken strongly on the paper leaks issue, calling it a “ghor paap” (grave sin). The Opposition has been demanding a statement by the Prime Minister on the floor of Parliament on the issue of paper leaks and the police crackdown on students on Monday in the capital. The Opposition and CJP protesters have also been demanding Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan’s resignation over the paper leak issue. The Opposition has made the resignation a condition for any discussion in Parliament. The government has agreed to a debate in the House and has accused the Opposition of stalling it by putting the resignation as a condition.

PV Sindhu defeats Unnati Hooda to go to the second round of the China Open



Changzhou: In the opening round of the China Open on Wednesday, Ayush Shetty stunned everyone by defeating world No. 11 Alwi Farhan, while double Olympic winner PV Sindhu defeated a fierce battle from young countryman Unnati Hooda to get to the second round. Sindhu, who won the Japan Open last week to snap a two-year championship drought, had to work hard to defeat her 18-year-old countryman Unnati 21-14, 9-21, 21-10 in a fierce 56-minute women’s singles opening-round match. In the first game, the former world champion was put to the test as Unnati matched her point for point till 7-7. Sindhu then found her rhythm, reeling off five consecutive points to open up a 12-8 lead before comfortably taking the game 21-14. The second game belonged entirely to the youngster. After the scores were level at 2-2, Unnati surged to a 6-3 lead and then rattled off six straight points to race to 12-4. Sindhu struggled to find her range as Unnati maintained complete control to force a decider with a dominant 21-9 win. Sindhu, however,

responded like a champion in the deciding game as she gradually pulled away after a close start, stretching her advantage from 6-3 to 10-5 and then 15-8 before sealing victory 21-10 to advance in the BWF Super 1000 tournament. In the round of 16, the Indian will face fourth seed and local favourite Chen Yufei, whom she defeated in straight games in the Japan Open semifinals last week. Chen holds a narrow 8-7 head-to-head advantage over Sindhu.

In the men’s singles, Ayush Shetty pulled off one of the biggest upsets of the opening round by defeating Indonesia’s world No. 11 and former world junior champion Alwi Farhan 17-21, 21-5, 21-17 in a 57-min-

ute contest. After dropping the opening game, Shetty bounced back emphatically, dominating the second game before maintaining his composure in the decider to complete a memorable victory. In the men’s doubles, Hariharan Amsakarunan and M.R. Arjun were outclassed by China’s Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang, losing 16-21, 7-21 in under 30 minutes. India’s mixed doubles pairs Rohan Kapoor and Gadde Ruthvika Shivani lost 9-21, 16-21 to top seeds Feng Yan Zhe and Huang Dong Ping of China in 37 minutes, while Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto went down 18-21, 18-21 to fifth-seeded Chinese pair Guo Xin Wa and Chen Fang Hui in a 41-minute match.

In the last Asian Games tune-up, Indian shooters falter while China sweeps the gold

Hangzhou: The hosts, China, dominated the first day of the ISSF World Cup on Wednesday, claiming both gold medals available while India ended without a podium, giving Indian shooters a preview of the battle they will face at the Asian Games in Japan in less than two months. The Indian shooters had a poor start in their penultimate international competition before to the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya from September 19 to October 4, as neither of the nation’s two mixed 10m air pistol teams advanced past the qualification stage. Suruchi Inder Singh and Kedarling Uchaganve, two World Cup gold medalists, placed ninth with an aggregate score of 577, with Suruchi scoring 292 and Kedarling scoring 285. China demonstrated its strength by securing two final slots, with one of them—Yao Qianxun and Hu Kai—shattering the qualification world record with a combined score of 591. Only the top four teams advanced.

Metro Station Shut Down by Protests, Chief Justice Says “Will Intervene Soon If”

New Delhi, July 23: The Supreme Court heard arguments on Thursday over the closing of many Metro stations in the Capital as a result of student demonstrations. Due to the escalating protest at Jantar Mantar, which is being spearheaded by the social media site Congress Janta Party, several Metro stations in central Delhi have been closed for the past several days. Amid the protests, at least sixteen Metro stations remained closed on Thursday. Among these is the Supreme Court metro station. Vikas Singh, President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, brought up the matter before the highest court. Pointing to the closure of key stations around the Supreme Court, Singh said many lawyers and court staff were facing problems and were unable to reach the court on time. The Bar president urged Chief Justice of India Surya Kant to intervene, to which the Chief Justice remarked that he will intervene if nothing happens till lunchtime.

Zimbabwe vs. India’s Probable Starting Lineup Shreyas Iyer Faces a Serious Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Call in the First Twenty20 International

Harare: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who was dropped after three straight batting failures during the tour of England, is crossing his fingers to be selected for the opening Twenty20 International on Thursday against Zimbabwe. Shreyas Iyer, the captain of side India, is eager to turn things around after the side has lost its past seven Twenty20 Internationals. However, India has some big selections to make for the series opener, especially in the opening area. While Abhishek Sharma is nearly a guarantee at the top, the second opener’s berth will be determined between Sooryavanshi and Prabhsimran Singh. The BCCI selection committee favoured youngsters over some of the mainstays in the team for the tour of Zimbabwe. Prabhsimran, who has been knocking on the door of the Indian team for a long time, will be keen to get an opportunity. The fact that he plays under Iyer for Punjab Kings, his Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise, could tempt the skipper to try him alongside Abhishek at the top. However, the chances of that happening are slim. Abhishek and Sooryavanshi



look like the top two picks for the opening spot, while Ishan Kishan is expected to be given the No. 3 role. Iyer himself is likely to occupy the No. 4 spot, with the hope of navigating the tough middle overs. Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, and Rinku Singh are likely to take up the No. 5, No. 6, and No. 7 roles. The team will need at least one of them to play till the end and finish the innings. It is a toss-up between spinners Harsh Dubey and

Ravi Bishnoi; however, the former is expected to be preferred for the first T20I. Ashok Sharma, Yash Thakur, and Prince Yadav are likely to form the pace trio, though the option of picking Mayank Yadav also exists. India’s Predicted Playing XI: Abhishek Sharma, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Ishan Kishan (wk), Shreyas Iyer (c), Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Rinku Singh, Harsh Dubey, Ashok Sharma, Yash Thakur, Prince Yadav

Siya Goyal, a lover, had a “risky” plan to hurt her fiancée but later abandoned it

Pune, July 23: According to the police, the woman and her lover in the Pune Fort murder case had first spoken of hurting her fiancé in order to postpone their impending nuptials, but they quickly realized the scheme was “risky” and made the decision to kill him. On June 18, Siya Goyal, 20, and her lover, Chetan Chaudhary, 22, are accused of pushing her fiancé, Ketan Agarwal, 26, down a gorge from the Lohagad Fort in Pune. Pune residents Siya and Ketan were set to tie the knot in a lavish wedding in Jaipur in November after being engaged in February. She informed his relatives that he had fell while on the hike. On June 23, both were taken into custody after the police investigation revealed the suspected plot behind the murder. Goyal didn’t want to elope because she didn’t want to dishonor Agarwal’s family or bring shame to her own. The news agency PTI cited a police official as stating on Tuesday that “they (Goyal and Chaudhary) initially looked for ways to prevent the marriage from taking place.” Goyal and Chaudhary talked about hurting Agarwal in an accident to delay the wedding, but the plan was rejected, he claimed. “Their initial plan was only to injure him (Agarwal) to make it appear like an accident,” the officer said.

The urgency to execute a plan increased in the run-up to Goyal and Agarwal’s planned trip to Bali in Indonesia in June. “Goyal and Agarwal were scheduled to spend eight days together in Bali after flying out on June 6. When they (Goyal and Chaudhary) realised that the idea to harm Agarwal somehow was not feasible, they decided to execute the plan themselves. “They feared that if Agarwal survived and got wind of their conspiracy, he would expose them. That is when they allegedly decided to eliminate him,” the officer said. According to the officer, the plot developed over a number of weeks and was preceded by several web searches, reconnaissance trips, and conversations between the two accused. According to the officer, they also reportedly viewed suspenseful movies and looked up information online before determining that pushing Agarwal from a cliff was the best course of action to portray his death as an accident. Scouting for suitable sites was the second phase of planning, which led them to investigate a number of high-altitude sites, such as Visapur Fort and Tiger Point in Lonavala. Before deciding to carry out the murder plan in the Lohagad Fort close to Pune, they exchanged pictures, he claimed.

How Mumbai Police Are Attempting To Stop Protests Through Home Visits, WhatsApp Location

Mumbai, July 23: To stop recurring involvement in ongoing student protests connected to the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) agitations, law enforcement agencies in Mumbai have implemented targeted direct-contact techniques, including as digital tracking and house vis-

its. Following days of protests in important city places, like as Shivaji Park, Chembur, and Azad Maidan, the actions mark a turn toward localized deterrent. Local police stations reportedly made direct phone calls and text requests to protesters included in First Informa-

tion Reports (FIRs) or previously delivered legal notifications. Instances when senior station staff advised people to stay at home and consistently publish their WhatsApp live location to verify compliance may be seen in social media postings and confirmed screen-

shots. Furthermore, early in the morning, legal notifications under Section 35(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) were sent digitally through messaging apps, instructing recipients to show up for interrogation regarding previous meetings.

Sergio Ramos Mocks Lionel Messi By Recreating Iconic World Cup Photo



New Delhi : Fresh off Spain’s triumph over Argentina in the 2026 FIFA World Cup final, Sergio Ramos celebrated in a way that football fans quickly recognised. The former Spain captain shared a series of photos on Instagram after his country’s 1-0 victory, but one image stood out above the rest. Ramos was pictured asleep with two FIFA World Cup trophies beside him, a playful recreation of Lionel Messi’s viral photograph following Argentina’s 2022 World Cup success. The

post appeared to be a tongue-in-cheek nod to Messi, whose original image of sleeping alongside the World Cup trophy became one of the defining moments after Argentina’s title win in Qatar. While the recreation was unlikely to match the extraordinary popularity of Messi’s post, it instantly caught the attention of football fans familiar with the reference. Ramos and Messi spent over a decade on opposite sides of one of football’s fiercest rivalries, representing Real Madrid and Barce-

lona respectively during the peak of El Clasico. However, they did share a dressing room together when both men were a part of Paris Saint-Germain before Messi left the team to join MLS in 2023.

Having lifted the World Cup with Spain in 2010, Ramos now has reason to celebrate a second title for his country. Spain’s latest triumph in 2026 doubled the nation’s World Cup tally after their maiden success 16 years earlier, when Andres Iniesta’s extra-time strike sealed a 1-0 victory over the Netherlands in South Africa. Ramos was not the only Spaniard to reference Messi’s iconic celebration. Midfielder Fabian Ruiz also recreated the famous image while travelling home with the World Cup trophy, adding another light-hearted tribute to Spain’s title celebrations. Messi’s original photograph, taken after Argentina finally ended their long wait for World Cup glory in 2022, showed him asleep with the trophy tucked into his arms. The image became one of the most shared moments of the tournament and has since become an enduring symbol of his crowning achievement.

Taniksha Khatri, Prachi Lohan Script History At World Fencing Championships 2026

Hong Kong : Indian fencing achieved a monumental milestone on the opening day of the Senior World Fencing Championships 2026, held at the AsiaWorld-Expo in Hong Kong. The flagship nine-day global tournament, featuring over 1,000 elite athletes from more than 100 nations, kicked off its Day 1 schedule with intense qualification rounds in Men’s Individual Foil and Women’s Individual Epee, according to a press release. India’s 24-member national contingent--comprising 12 men and 12 women across all three fencing disciplines--made an immediate statement as Epee fencers Taniksha Khatri and Prachi Lohan created history by becoming the first-ever Indian women’s Epee fencers to qualify for the Main Table of 64 (Direct Elimination Round) at the Senior World Championships. Navigating past fierce competition in round-robin pool play



and gruelling preliminary elimination rounds against the world’s top-ranked blade artists, both Taniksha and Prachi earned their spots in the elite main draw, marking an unprecedented leap forward for the sport in India. Expressing his delight over this historic feat, Rajeev Mehta, Secretary General of the Fencing Confederation of Asia and the Fencing Association of India, praised the athletes’ perseverance and growing stature on the international stage:”I am im-

mensely proud and delighted to witness this historic achievement by Taniksha Khatri and Prachi Lohan. Their qualification for the Main Table of 64 at the Senior World Fencing Championships is a landmark moment for Indian fencing and reflects their exceptional talent, dedication, and perseverance. This remarkable feat is a testament to the growing standard of Indian fencing and will inspire many young athletes to excel on the inter-

national stage. I congratulate both fencers, their coaches, and the entire support team on this memorable success,” he said. In the Men’s Individual Foil event held during Day 1, India’s four-member squad gained valuable top-tier exposure against international opposition. Sachin led the Indian contingent with a 107th place finish, followed by Aditya at 137th, Sanasam Hemash Singh at 143rd, and Tejas Manoj Patil at 149th. While the men’s foil athletes fell short of advancing to the individual direct elimination draw, they will regroup for the Men’s Foil Team event scheduled later in the tournament. Both Taniksha Khatri and Prachi Lohan will now prepare to return to the piste on Saturday, July 25, for the Women’s Individual Epee Main Table of 64 direct elimination matches as they aim to advance to the Table of 32 and contend for world championship medals.

Shubman Gill One Point From Top Spot As Kohli, Rohit Retain Top-Five Rankings



New Delhi : Three Indian batting stalwarts -- Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma -- feature in the top five of the latest ICC ODI batting rankings released on Wednesday after the England series, with skipper Gill within touching distance of world No. 1 Daryl Mitchell of New Zealand. Gill scored 188 runs in three matches in the 1-2 series defeat to England and is now just one rating point behind table-topper Mitchell, who has 802 points, while Kohli (767) and Rohit (758) occupy the third and fourth spots respectively. England’s

Joe Root, who was named Player of the Series after amassing an unbeaten 249 runs, jumped four places to eighth, while teammate Ben Duckett climbed 11 spots to joint-19th and Jacob Bethell gained five places to move up to 64th. India’s newly appointed T20I captain Shreyas Iyer climbed two places to 13th in the ODI batting rankings, while spinner Kuldeep Yadav slipped out of the top 10 to 11th among bowlers in the list headed by Afghanistan’s Rashid Khan. England pace spearhead Jofra Archer was among the notable movers,

rising one place to third behind Pakistan’s Abrar Ahmed after claiming five wickets in the ODI series against India. Speaking on ‘JioStar’, Yuvraj stressed on the need for clear communication between the team management and Rohit and Kohli about their future. He then urged the Indian think tank to “back them all the way” if the plan is to have them at next year’s ODI World Cup in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe. “More than Virat and Rohit, my concern is that Yashasvi Jaiswal is not starting. If the World Cup comes and he hasn’t had enough game time, he’s suddenly going to feel the pressure,” Yuvraj told ‘JioStar’.

Rohit silenced retirement speculation with a blazing 110-ball 138 against England in the third ODI at Lord’s, while Kohli also looked in fine touch with successive fifties in the three-match series that India lost 1-2 here on Sunday. “You need to have that clarity from the coach, captain and selectors, whoever it is,” said the 2011 World Cup winning star all-rounder. I have been in that position, which Rohit and Virat find themselves in. So, it’s not fair for us to judge whether they should play. It’s the team management, the coach and the selectors who have to decide that. “If you want them to play the World Cup, you have to put your hand on their shoulders and tell them, ‘Guys, we want you to play the World Cup. We are backing you all the way.

Zor Se Bharat 2034 Outlines Roadmap For Indian Football At World Cup Venue

New Jersey : Zor Se Bharat 2034, an independent football development initiative led by Muhammad Khan, Chairman of Khans International, was launched at the New York New Jersey Stadium, the venue of the 2026 FIFA World Cup final, with organisers outlining a long-term vision to strengthen football development in India through grassroots talent identification, coach development, structured competitions, sports science, player welfare and access to advanced training. According to the organisers, the initiative aims to create structured pathways for aspiring footballers by expanding football opportunities across India and strengthening development from the grassroots level to higher levels of competition, according to a press release. They said details regarding trial locations, eligibility criteria, application procedures and assessment standards will be announced through official channels as the initiative progresses. Organisers said the programme plans to conduct publicly announced talent-identification trials, select promising players for advanced development opportunities, train and support grassroots football coaches, organise competitions and development camps, introduce fitness, nutrition and injury-prevention assessments, establish



safeguarding and welfare standards for participants, maintain a secure player-development database, publish reports on participation, programme expenditure and development outcomes, and establish an independent Football Advisory Council comprising experienced coaches, former players, sports scientists, youth-development specialists and administrators to review technical standards, selection procedures, player-welfare policies and overall programme performance. The official website, www.zorsebharat.com, is scheduled to be launched on August 15, 2026, coinciding with India’s Independence Day. Organisers said the website will serve as the central platform for

programme announcements, eligibility information and future participation details. “India does not lack football talent. The challenge is creating consistent access to qualified coaching, structured competition and long-term player development. Zor Se Bharat 2034 will be judged by the opportunities it creates and the results it reports,” Dr Muhammad Khan said. Organisers said the initiative will measure progress through publicly reported indicators, including the number and geographical distribution of participants, trials conducted, players selected for advanced training, coaches supported, programme completion rates, player-development outcomes and expenditure.

T20 Mumbai League Records Its Highest Ever Viewership During The 2026 Season

Mumbai: The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) today announced that the T20 Mumbai League 2026 has further strengthened its position as one of India’s fastest-growing domestic T20 competitions, with the tournament achieving its highest-ever audience reach and generating more than 3.8 billion minutes of watch time across television and digital platforms, according to a press release. Featuring some of Indian cricket’s biggest stars and the successful launch of the inaugural Nu-vama Private T20 Mumbai Women’s League, the 2026 edition marked a defining chapter in the league’s evolution as one of the country’s leading domestic cricket properties. Through its partnership with JioStar, India’s leading sports broadcaster across TV and digital, the tournament recorded significant growth across key consumption metrics, reflecting its rapidly expanding national footprint and growing fan base. The season showcased the depth and quality of Mumbai cricket, with global icons and IPL stars including Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Ajinkya Rahane, Shivam Dube, Shardul Thakur, Sarfaraz Khan, Tushar Deshpande

and several emerging talents competing across the tournament, further elevating the league’s stature. Supporting this growth, the men’s competition delivered its highest-ever television reach of over 65 million viewers. Television watch time grew by 61%, while digital views on JioHotstar registered a 66% increase over the previous edition, highlighting the league’s growing popularity across platforms. The 2026 season also marked a landmark moment with the successful launch of the Nu-vama Private T20 Mumbai Women’s League, reinforcing MCA’s commitment to strengthening the women’s cricket ecosystem by creating greater opportunities for emerging talent and building a stronger pathway for the next generation of cricketers.



the response to the inaugural women’s league, which marks another significant step in our commitment to promoting women’s cricket and creating more opportunities for emerging talent,” said MCA President Ajinkya Naik. “The 2026 season has been a landmark for the T20 Mumbai League. Record-breaking viewership across television and digital platforms, coupled with the encouraging response to the women’s league, shows the growing strength of the tournament as a premium domestic cricket property. These numbers reflect the quality of the cricket, the success of our broadcast and marketing efforts

and, most importantly, the strong connection fans have built with the league. We remain committed to building on this momentum and taking the competition to even greater heights in the coming seasons,” commented Rajpid Gupta, Chairman, T20 Mumbai League Governing Council. The league’s record-breaking season was further amplified through an integrated marketing and social media campaign, with the overall season campaign generating more than 158 million social media views, underscoring the tournament’s growing digital footprint and fan engagement across platforms. Building on the success of

the 2026 edition, the Mumbai Cricket Association will continue to strengthen the league through enhanced fan engagement and deeper community connect, further cementing the Private T20 Mumbai League’s position among India’s leading domestic T20 tournaments. Janhvi first removed tournament’s leading run-scorer Sanika Chalke for 18 before striking again in her next over to dismiss Fatima Jaffer, leaving the Tigers under immediate pressure. Sejal Raut attempted to revive the chase with a determined 23, but Janhvi returned to claim her third wicket, reducing the Tigers to 78/4. From there, on the contest.

Promising Table Tennis Star Abhinandh Seeks Title Wins And A Ranking Boost

Panaji: IT wouldn’t be out of order to say that the Ultimate Table Tennis is fast-becoming PB Abhinandh’s favourite hunting ground. After playing a big role in U Mumba’s title run as a debutant last year, the youngster from Chennai has been continuing to thrive this season, albeit for a new team -- Dempo Goa Challengers. However, Wednesday didn’t go as per plan for him as lost against India No 1 Manav Thakkar of UP Prometheans. Despite the setback (only second defeat in singles category this term), he remains upbeat. The 18-year-old is now hopeful of course-correction ahead of the crucial semifinals, beginning Friday. So far this season, he has 11 wins -- the joint-highest -- and he is not looking to slow down any time soon. Earlier this year, he joined forces with Divyanshi Bhowmick to capture the mixed doubles gold at the WTT Youth Star Contender in Doha.



In the U19 men’s singles event of the recently-held Asian Youth Table Tennis Championships, he had narrowly missed out on a gold medal by point. It was a similar story in the national circuit, where he had narrowly missed out on the top prize in the U19 singles category but had led Tamil Nadu

to victory in the U19 team event. With just a year of junior table tennis left, he is intent on signing off on a high. “My aim is to be in the top 4 of world youth rankings, and to get into the top 100 in the senior level just before I fully turn senior. That way, I could enter the circuit in good shape and a good ranking as well,” he told The New Indian Express. He has an unassuming look but brings plenty of swagger while in full flow during his matches. His killer serves and his aggressive approach on the table keeps his opponents on their toes. But his hunger to become the best is what keeps him going. Videos of the sport’s best players like Ma Long and Fan Zhendong capture the imaginations of the 18-year-old. “We (Long) share the same game style, but I have fingers on the back and that’s different. I would watch his game, I