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Indiramma's houses in Cure have to be re-applied for

Three CMs to meet again soon



Hyderabad, July 22 : The government will construct Indiramma Towers as a pilot project in 16 constituencies under the Cure area, Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said. He clarified that the poor who had previously applied for Indiramma houses will have to apply again for these houses. He said that they can apply through the Meeseva and Housing Department website and WhatsApp. The minister, who participated in the 'People's Face to Face' program held at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday, received petitions from the victims on land, houses and other issues. Some of the issues

were resolved on the spot by talking to the relevant collectors. Later, he spoke to the media. He said that the majority of applications were received for Indiramma houses during the 'People's Face to Face' program. He said that people are hopeful that the Congress government will fulfill their dream of owning a house. He reminded that the government has already sanctioned 7 lakh Indiramma houses in two phases in line with their hopes. He alleged that during the ten-year BRS rule, houses were built for the poor of Hyderabad city, not where they were, but 30 to 40 kilometers away from the city. They expressed their

concern that the poor did not even set foot in those houses due to concerns that their livelihood would be affected. In this context, they said that they are constructing Indiramma Towers by taking the constituency as a unit with the idea of providing housing to the poor where they were born and raised. The value of the houses to be built and given in Indiramma Towers, including the land share, will be from Rs. 40 lakh to Rs. 1 crore. They said that they will be registered with a condition that they cannot be sold for ten years. However, they said that there will be the facility to take a loan from the bank on those houses.

Hyderabad, July 22 : meeting of the Chief Ministers of Telangana, AP and Karnataka will be held soon to discuss issues related to the Tungabhadra basin as well as projects like Godavari-Cauvery linkage, Polavaram-Banakacharla, Palamuru-Ranga Reddy lift irrigation scheme. A meeting has already been held on the occasion of the inauguration of the Tungabhadra reservoir gates. The Central Water Resources Department has indicated that there will be a key meeting between Telangana CM Revanth Reddy, AP CM Chandrababu Naidu and Karnataka CM DK Shivakumar in the coming days. The Center has already given the go-ahead for the Godavari-Cauvery linkage from Sammakkasagar. This project will be undertaken between Sammakkasagar and Nagarjunasagar. Another link will be undertaken from Polavaram. One link is being proposed from Polavaram to Banakacharla Cross Regulator and the other from Polavaram to Somasila. In the scheme to be taken up from Polavaram to Banakacharla Cross Regulator, water will be moved to Prakasam Barrage. From there, a reservoir will be constructed in Bollapalli of the joint Guntur district and water will be pumped into Banakacharla Cross Regulator through several lifts and tunnels. Another link will be moved directly to Somasila and water will be supplied to Tamil Nadu. It is known that a high-level committee has already been formed on Tungabhadra Basin issues. The meeting of this committee will be held in Delhi on the 27th of



this month. The committee has given the states upstream of Sagar the opportunity to use water instead of the 80 TMCs that will be transferred to the Krishna Delta through the Polavaram project. To that extent, including 45 TMCs and the 43 TMCs allocated to Telangana in the first phase of the Godavari-Cauvery interlinking, there is a possibility of AP giving a green signal to Palamuru-Ranga Reddy with 88 TMCs. There has already been a meeting between the

Chief Ministers of Telangana and AP, followed by a meeting with the three CMs. It will soon be known on what issues a consensus will be reached in the next meeting of the three CMs. Union Minister CR Patil told AP CM Chandrababu Naidu that the Centre is ready for Godavari-Cauvery interlinking. Patil assured Chandrababu Naidu that a special meeting will be held with the partner states in two to three weeks to this end. He also told Babu that he would take the initiative

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Sneak attack with 'Sir' If you give me a guarantee I will end my fast

22 July 2026 ; Vikarabad Bureau, Daulatabad: Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has accused BJP and BRS of conspiring to harm those who voted for Congress. He suggested that the registered votes should be re-registered to reverse this. On Wednesday, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy held a meeting with constituency booth-level agents at the Kodungal constituency center in Vikarabad district along with Parigi and Tandoor MLAs T. Rammohan Reddy and Buyani Manohar Reddy on the Special Comprehensive



Revision (SIR) process. Speaking on the occasion, he suggested that the documents requested by the officials during the registration process should be submitted and that the vote should be in the voter list. He said that those who do

not have the right to vote are like those who are dead. He made it clear that if there is no vote in the voter list, all the welfare schemes implemented by the state government will be closed. He alleged that even though he works 18 hours a day, he

does not have enough time and that they are conspiring to harm him if he is busy in governance. He said that the responsibility of registering every eligible voter in the constituency lies with the field level agents. He said that the Election Commission of India has extended the deadline till August 3 to undertake the SIR process. Sensational comments were made on Tandur MLA Manohar Reddy. He asked him to stop the real estate business for a few days and see the process of the Sir process. He praised ,



New Delhi: Activist Sonam Wangchuk has announced that she will end her indefinite hunger strike only if the central government gives a clear assurance that no punitive or retaliatory action will be taken against the students and youth involved in the protests. He wrote to Union Ministers JP Nadda and

Jitendra Singh on Wednesday. Wangchuk said that the two ministers, who visited him at Medanta Hospital in Gurugram on Tuesday night, assured him that the government would positively consider his main demands, including providing adequate compensation to the families of students who committed suicide in the

wake of NEET question paper leak, holding a meaningful debate in Parliament on exam irregularities, and even considering the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan if necessary. However, he urged the government to clearly state that no cases will be registered against the youth involved in the move-

ment. He said that if such an assurance is received, he will also appeal to the students who are peacefully protesting to come to talks with the government. He said that despite the police using excessive force during the Chalo Sansad rally on July 20, the protesters behaved peacefully. He said that harassing the youth participating in this movement is not good for democracy. He said that about 65 MPs from different parties have written letters and many have met him personally to call off his fast. He made it clear that although he wants to live and return to the students and the education sector, he cannot do so by ignoring the interests of the youth who were the reason for this movement. Meanwhile, opposition MPs Vivek Tankha of Congress, CPM MP John Brittas,

Victory in the next election is ours: MLA Harish Rao



Sangareddy District: 22 : Former Minister and Siddipet MLA Tannir Harish Rao has clarified that BRS party leaders should be vigilant about the SIR (SIR) process. He said that there are allegations of vote rigging in the states of West Bengal, Assam and Tamil Nadu due to the SIR process. The party ranks should be vigilant as there is a possibility that this process has affected the election results. Harish Rao advised aspirants who want to contest in the upcoming GHMC elections to take this as a top priority. BRS orga-

nized an awareness meeting on SIR and party membership registration at the GMR Convention Hall in Pathancheru. MLAs Harish Rao, Gudem Mahipal Reddy, BRS leader Errolla Srinivas and party ranks were present in the program. Speaking on the occasion, Harish Rao expressed confidence that there is a clear change in the opinion of the people of Telangana and that BRS will come to power again in the next elections. He said that people want the government of scams to go and the government of welfare

schemes to come. He called Pathancheru a strong stronghold for BRS and reminded them of the fact that it won five chairman posts in the last municipal elections. He said that everyone's attention is on the results of Pathancheru across Telangana on this occasion. Harish Rao, who criticized the state government, accused it of selling government lands worth thousands of crores of rupees. He criticized that the current government has neglected several welfare schemes implemented by the BRS government and that there is a serious delay in the implementation of schemes like Kalyana Lakshmi. Harish Rao flagged that the government, which is allocating funds for Musi beautification and other projects, is saying that there is no funds for the welfare schemes of the poor. He accused them of spending

heavily on programs like beauty pageants and Bodhi Bhavan, while neglecting welfare programs. He said that the government has not provided any financial assistance to the families of the victims who lost their lives in the Sigachi industry accident, and that the company's management paid the compensation. On this occasion, he was angry that the Congress government had sold the lands previously allocated for the IT park in Pathancheru. He criticized that during the BRS regime, the power supply was uninterrupted, but the situation has changed now. Harish Rao alleged that the hospital built by the KCR government has not yet been opened. The former minister expressed confidence that BRS will win all the assembly seats in the united Medak district in the upcoming elections. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is saying .

No politics over student protests: JP Nadda



New Delhi: Union Minister JP Nadda said that they are ready for an in-depth discussion on the NEET paper leak issue in the Parliament. He made a comment to Congress MP Rahul

Gandhi that there should be no politics over the paper leak issue and student protests. He said that they should come forward to work with the government to resolve this issue. Min-

ister JP Nadda said that it is not appropriate to try to profit by politicizing the demands and problems of students. Minister Nadda questioned why Rahul Gandhi is not responding to

the paper leak incidents in Congress and other opposition-ruled states. He said that paper leak incidents have come to light in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Punjab, Kerala and Karnataka. He asked why he is only choosing issues in NDA-ruled states. The minister also responded to Rahul Gandhi's allegation that 150 paper leak incidents have come to light. He said that they are ready to investigate every case. 'These allegations should be investigated. Ours is a responsible government. Therefore, we will investigate all the cases and put the truth before the people,' said Nadda.

EDITORIAL

Skill is the key
to small jobs

The job disparity caused by technology and artificial intelligence (AI) in the Indian organized sector is a matter of grave concern. This is completely eliminating middle and lower level jobs like data entry and customer support. The demand for high-level jobs like AI programmers is increasing. This is reducing the opportunities for new entrants. In the organized sector, hundreds of people used to be hired for a project. Now, all those tasks are being completed by artificial intelligence (AI) tools. This is reducing the number of new recruitments. The safety of employees who rely solely on routine tasks is at risk. In line with the rapidly changing technology, it is imperative for employees to learn AI, machine learning and data science skills. Man-power planning (human resource planning) in the Indian banking sector is already undergoing changes. Traditional banking jobs are declining due to digital banking, AI and automation. The demand for technology, data analytics and cybersecurity skills has increased in these jobs. Private banks have cut thousands of jobs. Even as government banks are hiring, outsourcing is on the rise. Scheduled commercial banks are one of the largest organized sectors in the country with over 18 lakh employees. However, the number of employees in private banks is declining due to the increasing use of technology, automation and artificial intelligence. According to a recent report, HDFC Bank, the largest private sector bank in the country, has reduced its headcount for the first time in nine years. The total number of employees at the end of March 2026 was 2,11,000. This is 1.6 percent less than the previous year. This is due to increased use of technology and AI. However, while the number of non-supervisory staff in this bank has decreased by 5%, the number of supervisory staff has increased by 11% as of March this year. This shows how technology and AI are having a negative impact on non-supervisory staff. With this, more than 8000 staff members have been reduced in HDFC Bank in a single year. Similarly, the situation of the public sector bank State Bank of India is not different at all. It is noteworthy that although the number of employees in this bank has increased from 3.8 percent to 2,45,000 as of March this year, all of them are officers and associates. The number of subordinate and other level staff has decreased to 7 percent. The number of non-supervisory staff has declined sharply. The situation is similar in other banks. How is human resource management in the case of banks? In this context, it is very necessary to use modern technology to survive and earn profits in the current competition. This will greatly reduce the need for nonsupervisory staff. Therefore, the goal of providing employment to a large number of people in line with the current or future changes should not be ignored. Banks and other organized sector managements must be able to implement technology. Government policies should also focus on the goal of imparting skills, depending on the time.

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Raasa Gummadi Brings Rayalaseema Mass To Korean Kanakarakaju

The promotional campaign for Varun Tej and Merlapaka Gandhi's Korean Kanakarakaju continues to gather momentum. After the impressive response to the teaser and first single, the makers have now unveiled a vibrant new poster announcing the film's second single, Raasa Gummadi, which will be released on July 19. The newly released poster is a riot of festive colors, celebration, and infectious energy. Varun Tej sports a rugged yet stylish yellow outfit, flashing a charming smile while pulling off energetic dance moves with effortless flair. His lively body language and electrifying screen presence hint that Raasa Gummadi is set to become one of the album's biggest highlights. Daksha Nagarkar looks stunning in a beautifully crafted red ethnic ensemble. Her radiant smile, graceful expressions, and playful chemistry with Varun Tej instantly grab attention. The poster perfectly captures the earthy flavor and vibrant Rayalaseema mass vibe, promising a colorful, foot-tapping folk entertainer. With music composed by S Thaman, expectations for Raasa Gummadi are naturally high. If the poster is anything to go by, the song is poised to deliver an energetic blend of local flavor, festive beats, and crackling chemistry. Korean Kanakarakaju is gearing up for a grand worldwide theatrical release on August 7.



Which TV Actress Did Samantha's Oo Antava Better?

In recent times, every other aspiring actress, Instagram reels stars and others are busy finding a blue blouse and a similar short length skirt, to make sure that they look like Samantha Ruth Prabhu from "Oo Antava", and then trying to dance in ecstasy like the spicy star heroine. Here is what is said about these sirens who tried to replicate and imitate Samantha on the small screen. During the Sankranti eve, senior anchor Rashmi Gautham tried to do her Oo Antava Oo Antava stunt. Though the lack of curvaceous body is quite visible in her acts, her seductive expressions have worked out in her favor. At the same time, another budding actress Vishnu Priya also did dance for the same song in similar attire. While she lacks grace in dance, surely her skin show on the small screen is making viewers go gaga over it. And then comes other small time TV Serial artists like Aishwarya Vullingula who appear in Hyper Aadhi's skits, and she too has done the Oo Antava song. While her dance and expressions are



poor, surely she's more pretty than all the others who has done it. Similarly, we have Bigg Boss fame Ashu Reddy doing the same on YouTube as she came up with a cover song for Oo

Antava. While she looks like a clone of Samantha, there is no need to talk about the rest of the things. As the song stood top on YouTube charts and also the reels done with this song are

getting millions of views, every actress and social media starlet out there are coming up with a video for this hot item number. No doubt, these young hotties are saying, Taggedhele!!

Chennai Love Story Bets Big on Shock Value



After the success of Baby, Sai Rajesh and SKN are back with Chennai Love Story. The romantic drama is one of the most awaited films, and the buzz surrounding the film has gone up considerably ahead of its July 24 release. Directed by Ravi Namburi, the film stars Kiran Abbavaram and Sri Gouri Priya in the lead, and they have hyped the film a lot. What has caught everyone's attention is the way the lead pair is promoting the film's interval and second-half twists. During recent promotions, Kiran Abbavaram stated that the interval block will leave audiences shocked, while heroine Sri Gouri Priya went a step further, saying that no one would have imagined such an interval and that the second half would completely turn the story on its head. These are bold claims at a time when Telugu audiences have become accustomed to routine twists and shock-value moments. In recent times, films like Lenin featured decent twists that worked well for the narrative, but viewers are no longer impressed by surprises that exist only for the sake of it. This is where Chennai Love Story faces its biggest test. The makers have repeatedly promised a fresh love story and an emotional experience unlike anything seen before. The big question now is whether Chennai Love Story will deliver a genuinely fresh shock value or whether expectations have been raised a little too high. The answer will be known on July 24.

Simran Choudhary's Rain-Drenched Saree Look Turns Heads



Simran Choudhary is winning hearts with her latest photoshoot, and it has nothing to do with a film release. The Ee Nagaraniki Emaindi actress, who has appeared this year with Vanaveera, a movie that failed to strike a chord with audiences, is currently trending for a completely different reason. Her rain-soaked pictures in a white saree have taken over social media, with fans and photographers alike showering praise on the visuals. In the viral set, Simran is seen twirling and laughing amid the rain, dressed in a printed white saree paired with a matching blouse, her hair damp and her expression carefree. The monsoon backdrop, combined with the candid, joyful energy she brings to the frame, has struck a chord that Vanaveera couldn't. Simran seems to be proving that sometimes, it's not the big screen but a rainy afternoon that makes an actress the talk of the town.

Will Odyssey Affect New Telugu Releases?



The Telugu audience have always been extremely encouraging and receptive of quality films, regardless of the language and the star cast. This is perhaps the main reason why every other language filmmaker aspires to have a significant release in Telugu states in hope of encouragement here. Now we have the case of Hollywood film Odyssey, which is releasing in theatres on July 17. This film comes from the rich Legacy of Director Christopher Nolan, who has a humongous following in India and also primarily in the Telugu states. Now that this film is releasing in theatres on July 17, a lot is expected of

it at the ticket counters. As of now, the advance bookings in Multiplexes across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have been very solid for this film. This was always expected to be the case, considering the patronage that Christopher Nolan has, and also the kind of scale that this film is promising. Telugu audience have also been waiting for a solid commercial appeal on the big screens, and they are bound to encourage any film that fits into this category. With so many factors leading into the hype surrounding this Christopher Nolan film, the natural expectation is that it would have a solid weekend at the box office in Telugu

states. This strong trend for this film could spell bad news to other films at the theatres this weekend. As of now, Lenin is the only notable Telugu film that is running successfully in theatres, and this could be affected by Odyssey at least in Plexes. And then we have a bunch of small films arriving on July 17, and they could also be affected by this Nolan film. In the corresponding week, we have two notable releases in the form of Jana Nayagan and Chennai Love Story. It has to be seen what kind of an impact these two films who have due to Odyssey if it manages to pull Telugu audience in substantial numbers in the first place.

McCullum Ready to Work Alongside England's New Test Head Coach



London: England's white-ball head coach Brendon McCullum has expressed confidence in working collaboratively with the country's next Test head coach so that the side delivers good results in all three formats. McCullum bounced back remarkably from losing his Test coaching job with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)

earlier this month to guide the side to twin white-ball series wins over India. The 2-1 ODI series triumph was sealed with a thrilling 27-run win in a dramatic finale at Lord's, where England posted a record List A total at the venue of 387/3, courtesy Ben Duckett's 141 and half-centuries from Jacob Bethell and Joe Root. With the ECB expected to interview candidates for the Test coach vacancy this week, McCullum said, "Collaboratively, I think once the new coach is put in place, we'll have a good conversation around everything. I think ultimately as long as everyone wants what is right for English cricket, there will be some give and take on certain things. "That is the way it is. There will be situations where you do have to give and there

will be situations where the Test coach will give as well and fundamentally you are trying to get what is right for English cricket. I look forward to those conversations when the time comes," he said in a press conference at the conclusion of the series. McCullum also revealed he will have no involvement in picking his replacement ahead of next month's three-Test series against Pakistan. "No, I have enough on my plate trying to work out the white-ball stuff. I'll respectfully stay in my lane there. "I think we've seen some growth in the side over the last couple of series and there is some more growth to come (with the white-ball teams), which is exciting and where my focus is on. Former Australia head coach Justin Langer and former England batter Jonathan

Trott are among the front-runners for the job after Andy Flower ruled himself out of it. McCullum also confirmed he will stay in England to watch the 100-ball tournament. "I'll be around for The Hundred. It will be great to see some of England's premier white-ball tournaments. If you're white-ball coach, it's good to be around for that! I look forward to seeing not just the guys who are in this (white-ball) squad, but also some of the next talent perform under the bright lights of The Hundred tournament. "It will be good to be able to see that up close over the next four weeks or so. I'll look to try and get around to those games to see that and hopefully we see some more talent," he concluded.

CISF to host All India Police Judo Cluster Championship in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), under the aegis of the All India Police Sports Control Board (AIPSCB), will host the eight-day 11th All India Police Judo Cluster Championship at the Gachibowli GMC Balayogi Indoor Stadium here from July 23, featuring about 1,600 athletes from 36 State Police and Central Armed Police Force organisations. Competitions will be held in judo, wushu, taekwondo, karate and pencak silat. Mrs Harpreet Kaur Sohi, Director/IG, NISA, CISF, Olympian Parupalli Kashyap and renowned rowing coach Shri Ismail Baig were present at the media briefing at Hakimpet here on Monday. Mrs Harpreet said the championship reflected CISF's commitment to promoting sporting excellence among Police and CAPF personnel and provided athletes in uniform an important platform to demonstrate their talent and progress to higher levels of competition. Kashyap and Ismail Baig highlighted the strong connection between sports and uniformed services, where discipline, resilience, teamwork and perseverance are essential attributes.



The championship assumes added significance ahead of the Asian Games 2026, where judo, wushu, taekwondo and karate are medal disciplines. The competition will therefore provide an important platform for athletes from Police and CAPFs to test their skills at a high level and strengthen the talent pool for national and international competitions. At the 2025 World Police & Fire Games, athletes representing AIPSCB won

600 medals, including 280 gold medals, securing third position among participants from 71 countries. Several accomplished international athletes, including Asian Games gold medallist Manjit Singh, Commonwealth Games medallists and Olympians, have emerged from the police sporting ecosystem. The championship's official mascot, "VIRA", is inspired by the Spotted Deer (Chital), the State Animal of

Telangana. The Government of Telangana and partner organisations are extending support for the championship. The Sports Authority of Telangana is providing competition infrastructure, while the Telangana Police Academy is supporting operational and accommodation requirements. AIPSCB has deputed technical officials, and the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) will oversee anti-doping protocols.

Hyderabadi volunteer shares unforgettable FIFA World Cup experience



Hyderabad: At 60, he had the choice of staying relaxed at home and watching the FIFA World Cup on TV. But Hyderabad's Korapati Mahender preferred to be there and grabbed the opportunity to become one of the 60,000 volunteers selected from about one million applicants for the World Cup, which ended on Sunday night with Spain emerging as the winner. Yes, it has been a remarkable journey

for Mahender, who dabbled in many sports as a child in the bylanes of Panjagutta Colony in the city, to be part of the FIFA World Cup. "No doubt, it is a different kind of experience to be part of a sporting event of that magnitude. It is a way of giving back to the host country by serving the millions of fans who descended on the US to watch the World Cup," said Mahender, a pharmaceutical consultant and resident of New

Jersey since 1990. "The year-long process of becoming a volunteer for the FIFA World Cup is not easy. There are quite a few stages after you apply online. There are personality tests, language assessments and communication skill evaluations. Interestingly, I was asked which was my favourite position on a football field. When I replied 'goalkeeper', they were pleasantly surprised," said Mahender, who is

a frequent visitor to his hometown, in a chat with Telangana Today. "The volunteers are given the option to choose the matches they want to work at, and I chose four, including the World Cup final. I am naturally elated by the unforgettable experience," he said, reflecting the sentiments of thousands of volunteers at the mega event. "Frankly, it is not about getting any awards or seeking any favours. When we decide to be volunteers, it is purely for the love of the sport and the commitment to contribute in our own way to the success of the World Cup," said Mahender. "For the smooth conduct of an event of this scale across all the host cities, it is the volunteers who make it happen," he added. Interestingly, most of the volunteers were not able to watch the matches, though some were allowed to briefly catch a glimpse of the action. "I was not keen to breach the norms, though I did get a chance to see the action during the final. I preferred to stick to the rules," said Mahender, who worked in the hospitality segment.

"You can never write a champion off"

: Saina Nehwal praises P.V. Sindhu's Japan Open triumph

New Delhi: Indian badminton great Saina Nehwal is impressed with PV Sindhu's improved attack, and said the Japan Open triumph showed the two-time Olympic medallist still has it in her to win more titles as champions can never be written off. The 31-year-old Sindhu clinched her maiden Super 750 title at the Japan Open after defeating three-time world champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in straight games in the women's singles final in Tokyo on Sunday. It was her biggest title since winning the 2019 World Championships. Her previous titles came at the 2022 Singapore Open Super 500 and the 2024 Syed Modi International Super 300. "The last 2-3 years were actually very tough. She was trying to come out of the injuries but the way she has come out of it... the Super Series win that she won yesterday after defeating three or four top players here. And quite comfortably, she has attacked very hard. Her attack has improved a lot," Saina said. "So, that shows that, obviously, there are opportunities to win. But as you age, with injuries, you have to tackle it well. So, it is stressful when you play at that level. So, I am sure she is going through a little bit of stress and pressure. "But I think after winning this, she has got her confidence back. And you can never write a champion off. She is always going to come back and do well. She has played at that level for so many years." The 2012 London Olympics bronze medallist also hoped the younger crop of players would achieve consistency. "I think a lot of youngsters who are playing well, they have to come and win. Because consistency is very important in badminton," she said on the sidelines of a Niva Bupa event. "That's why I think we are the second most loved sport. Because there is a lot of consistency. So, just the juniors have to look forward to the next championship. And doing well there is important." India will host the Badminton World Championships from August 17 to 23, marking the return of the event to the country after 17 years, and Saina said the hosts have players capable of winning medals at



home. She also hoped the tournament would be conducted smoothly. "I am very happy after so many years India is hosting the World Championships. As we see Sindhu is in great form. She won the Japan Open yesterday, played extremely well," said Saina, who won silver and bronze at the 2015 and 2017 World Championships respectively. "And Lakshya is playing extremely well. We have great players who are, I think, capable of winning it in India in front of our home crowd. And at the same time, quite a few youngsters also will be there in participation. "But I just hope that it will be one of the finest championships in the world. And I don't have any complaints about how it was in the India Open. I just want it to go smoothly and perfectly." Saina's comments come in the backdrop of the India Open Super 750 in January, which was marred by complaints over pollution and hygiene, besides incidents of pigeons and monkey sightings inside the venue. India will compete at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow from July 23 and Saina wished the contingent well, though she expressed disappointment over the exclusion of badminton and other popular sports such as hockey and shooting from this edition. "I think a lot of great memories from the Commonwealth Games. I think it's a huge opportunity for a lot of players to win a lot of medals there," said Saina, who won CWG singles gold medals in 2010 and 2018. "And this time quite a few sports which are very popular are not there. I

definitely feel bad about it. As a sportsperson, I can understand how the players must be feeling. But at the same time, who all are there, who have practiced really hard, I wish them all the best. "I really wish that we would have been number one in the tally. But the number of sports is less this time, so I don't know how it's going to happen. But I still want to wish all of them, that they get all the gold medals." Asked if she was considering taking up coaching, Saina said she would wait before making a decision. "I think I will wait for some time and see how it's going. I think Gopi sir himself is finding it difficult at the moment to tackle the Gen Zs and the younger generation. So, it should not be about just coaching for me. "I have played for so many years. I have to bear a lot of stress. I have to bear stress for the kids as well. So, it is another thing. Teaching is very difficult. Playing is easy. While playing you are focusing on yourself. Coaching, you have to focus on so many other people. I will wait and see. "Because at the moment, I am also with badminton, motivating a lot of youngsters, doing a lot of motivational talks. But coaching is another tough job. I will wait and see how many more champions are coming. Or I can do something extra in that," she said. Asked if she would make a comeback, Saina replied: "It will be difficult to come back once you have arthritis. You can't come back although the scoring system is good from next year."

Ruturaj Gaikwad named West Zone captain for Duleep Trophy 2026; Shams Mulani to be vice-captain

New Delhi: India opener Ruturaj Gaikwad has been appointed captain of a star-studded West Zone squad for the upcoming Duleep Trophy, with seasoned left-arm spin bowling all-rounder Shams Mulani named as his vice-captain. The squad was announced on Monday following a meeting between the zonal selection committee for the competition to be played from August 23 to September 10 at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) grounds in Bengaluru. Last year, India's seam-bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur led West Zone, who reached semi-finals of the competition, but didn't go to final as Central Zone grabbed the first-innings lead. Now, for the upcoming competition, the captaincy baton has gone from Thakur to Gaikwad, who also leads Chennai Super Kings



(CSK) in the IPL and was recently in India 'A' squad for 50-over tri-series and red-ball games against Sri Lanka 'A'. The team features two specialist wicket-keepers in Harvik Desai and

Urvil Patel, ensuring strong options behind the stumps. Apart from Gaikwad, Prithvi Shaw and the prolific Khan brothers – Sarfaraz and Musheer – have been included.