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University of London campus in Hyderabad



London August 22: Telangana Rising Team led by Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy met with

representatives of London University. On this occasion, an agreement was signed to establish a London University campus in Hyderabad. Discussions were held on the proposal to integrate various educational departments into a single academic federation. A wide range of educational courses will be offered through various schools and departments. Minister Sridhar Babu, officials Ramakrishna Rao and Jayesh Ranjan participated in this meeting.

The real people behind those comments should be identified: Konda Surekha

Hyderabad, August 22 : Telangana Minister Konda Surekha wrote another letter to the TPCC Disciplinary Committee today (Saturday) . He expressed his concern that derogatory comments are being made targeting him and his family members. He appealed to identify the real people behind the derogatory comments. He demanded that strict action be taken against those who are behind the incident.Minister Konda Surekha said that she has already given an

explanation to the disciplinary committee's notice. She objected to public criticism of her while the investigation was ongoing. She appealed to examine the motives behind passing judgments on her political future and seeking action. Was there an attempt to influence the independent decision of the disciplinary committee? Surekha asked for an examination.Minister Surekha commented that the party's silence despite mass attacks on a senior BC woman leader is worrying.



Minister Konda Surekha demanded action against those who act against the party's democratic values, social justice, and women's empowerment.

Strict action will be taken if DCHS staff are absent from duty: Minister Damodar



Hyderabad, August 22 : Telangana Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha has commented that the respective community,

area and district hospitals will be developed into full-fledged medical centers . He said that major surgeries have been made available in district and area hospitals as well. Minister Damodar spoke to the media at the Secretariat today (Saturday). He said that 607 assistant professor posts will be filled in teaching hospitals. He said that 1,616 specialist doctors will be ap-

pointed in district and area hospitals and CHCs. He instructed not to refer to big hospitals for minor problems.Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha suggested that patients should be referred to higher-level hospitals only if necessary. He advised that information should be given to the concerned hospital before emergency referral. He said that new CT scans and medi-

cal equipment will be made available in the hospitals where they are needed. He said that justification on the number of patients and need is mandatory for the proposals of equipment. Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha has ordered DCHSs to conduct surprise inspections at least once a week. He warned that strict action will be taken if DCHSs are absent from

duty or leave duty early. He said that problems in the respective hospitals should be identified and resolved in advance. He said that special attention has been paid to cleanliness, drinking water and biomedical waste. Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha has ordered that the work report of DCHSs should be submitted to the government every month.

Konda Sushmita crossed the line and made allegations: Mahesh Goud

Hyderabad, August 22 : It is known that Minister Konda Surekha's daughter Sushmita recently made sensational comments against CM Revanth Reddy. The Congress high command took these comments seriously. In this context, the video of Sushmita's comments was examined by the Congress Disciplinary Committee. On this occasion, TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud spoke to the media. He warned that the Congress party would be



harmd if it was not done. Konda said that Sushmita had crossed the line and made allegations. He said that Anirudh, Komatireddy and Rajgopal Reddy had not crossed the line. Mahesh Goud stated that action should be taken against anyone who

crosses the party line. Sushmita made inappropriate comments about CM Revanth: Mallu Ravi Disciplinary Committee Chairman Mallu Ravi said that they will hold another meeting on the issue of Konda Surekha. He said that they have read Konda Surekha's explanation. He said that they have seen the videos of Konda Susmita's words. He said that Susmita made inappropriate comments against the Chief Minister. He said that they thought that another meet-

ing should be held on Minister Surekha's explanation. He said that some other MLAs will give more details to the Disciplinary Committee. We will talk to MLA Megha Reddy regarding Chinna Reddy: Mallu Ravi Also, Mallu Ravi said that he has read Chinna Reddy's explanation letter. He said that he has seen the videos of Chinna Reddy's comments. He said that he will talk to MLA Megha Reddy regarding Chinna Reddy. He said that there is

a big gap between Chinna Reddy's comments and Megha Reddy's complaint.I know the things Raj Gopal Reddy talked about: Mallu RaviMalluravi said that he is aware of the issues raised by former MLA Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy, but that there will be an investigation as per a process. He said that he has no opinion on those individuals. He made it clear that the party is his first priority.We tried to contact the Adilabad DCC president over the phone:

Speed up road and bridge work: Minister Komatireddy



Hyderabad, August 22: Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy has directed the top officials to speed up the work of CRIF roads, Setubandhan and Rail Over Bridge (ROB) in the state.

He held a review with the officials of the Roads and Buildings Department at the Secretariat on Saturday. He said that the progress of the work in the constituencies in the joint districts needs to be further improved. He explained that till now, 316 works have been sanctioned for 3,918 km of roads at a cost of Rs. 5,159 crore.He said that 422.36 km of road works have been undertaken in 2025-26 at a cost of Rs. 868 crore. He

clarified to the officials that the high level bridges and ROB works should be completed within the stipulated time. He ordered that the work of Miryalaguda and Nandi Pahad bridges should be started immediately. On this occasion, Minister Komatireddy expressed satisfaction over the progress of the Narkatpally bridge works. He instructed the officials to work harder at the field level.It was clarified to the

officials that the solar car parking work in the Secretariat should be completed by December 2026. It was said that the solar car parking work is being undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs. 26.81 crore. It was explained that the solar parking will generate 90 thousand units of electricity for the Secretariat. Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy revealed that this will save 16 percent in the monthly electricity bill.

Minister Ponnam fires at the Center, creating obstacles to Telangana's development

Siddipet: August 22;BC Welfare and Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has become serious, saying that the central government is creating obstacles for the development of Telangana. He said that the denial of permission to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to go on a foreign tour for the development of the state is a proof of the Center's tyranny. On this occasion, the minister expressed impatience with the Center's behavior. He demanded that the BJP state leadership answer this.Minister Ponnam visited Akkannapet mandal of

Siddipet district as part of the 'Palle Palleku Ponnam Anna - Palle Pallelo Praja Ghal' program. On this occasion, he said that every state should develop in order to fulfill the goal of 'Vikasit Bharat-2047' spoken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. To this extent, he said that the Center should act positively in terms of financial assis-



tance and funds that Telangana should get fairly. The Minister questioned why the state BJP leaders are not clamoring for the funds and projects that should come from the NDA government. He asked them directly why the Center is not giving funds to Telangana while it is giving funds to

neighboring states.The Minister said that he is ready to work with the Center for the interests of Telangana beyond politics. Similarly, he appealed to the Center to also cooperate for the development of the state. He said that the 'Ponnam Anna in the village - Public governance in the village' program has been taken up for the development of the constituency. On this occasion, Minister Ponnam revealed that face-to-face meetings are being held with the people in every village and efforts are being made to resolve their problems.

Key decision during elections.. Bulletproof jackets for Yogi, Akhilesh, Mayawati!



New Delhi, August 22: As the 2027 assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh draw near, the government has focused on security arrangements. In the backdrop of the elections, it is learnt that a total of 52 prominent political leaders, including Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, and BSP chief Mayawati, have been provided with bulletproof jackets. Each jacket is estimated to cost around Rs 10 lakh.The list also includes



11 ministers from the state government. It is understood that Sanjay Nishad, Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, Om Prakash Rajbhar and others are among them. It is reported that BJP leader Aparna Yadav has also been provided with a bulletproof jacket. Official sources said that these jackets were distributed to a total of 52 people in two phases. It was stated that jackets were provided to eight people in the first phase and another 44 people in the second phase.



At the same time, it is reported that the security of several other political leaders has also been increased. Sources said that security arrangements have been expanded for BJP leaders Swatantra Dev Singh, Jaiveer Singh, Mahendra Singh and others. In total, 98 leaders and celebrities in Uttar Pradesh will be provided with different categories of security as per their security requirements, the Uttar Pradesh Police department said.

tions for the elections Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party is making key organizational changes with the 2027 assembly elections in mind. The party has appointed General Secretary Vinod Tawde as the Uttar Pradesh election in-charge. Jagdish Ishwarbhai Patel has been appointed as the co-in-charge. Party sources say that experienced leadership has been brought in for the crucial UP elections. On the other hand, the BJP has focused specifically on social and caste equations in Uttar Pradesh. It seems that the party is taking steps to provide more representation in organizational positions to leaders from other backward classes and minority communities.It is also reported that surveys have been started on party strengths, candidates and local issues in the state's assembly constituencies. Party sources say that these surveys are being conducted to identify,

Two dead as under-construction building collapses in Madhapur



Hyderabad: August 22Two persons were killed and several others injured when a multi-storeyed building under construction collapsed at Anjaiah Nagar in Madhapur on Saturday.The seven-storeyed structure was built in complete violation of norms on a 50 square yard site and that too on a nala drain box, came down crumbling in parts around 1 pm. The victims, identified as Mahtab and Umesh from Madhya

Pradesh, were reportedly engaged in laying tiles at the construction site.The debris from the collapsing building fell onto neighbouring structures injuring several others who were shifted to hospital for treatment.Soon after the incident, teams of the local police, HYDRAA, Fire Department and Cyberabad Municipal Corporation rushed to the spot. Senior officials supervised the rescue operation as personnel

searched the debris for persons who might have been trapped.The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Fire Department and other rescue agencies were pressed into service. Using high-end rescue equipment, personnel entered the collapsed structure and continued the search for survivors. According to information available, a builder named Sajid was constructing similar illegal buildings on small patches of lands and officials said action would be initiated against the builder. Meanwhile, the commissioner, Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) G Srijana and HYDRAA Commissioner, AV Ranganath reached the spot and reviewed the rescue operations.Later, speaking to media persons, Ranganath said two bodies were retrieved from the debris of the collapsed apartment and rescue operations

were continuing to check the debris. "An inspection will be carried out with the coordination of CMC officials on these constructions and action will be initiated against the owners, if found violations," he said.Nearby residents alleged the building was constructed illegally despite several complaints to municipal authorities. "We had complained to the local authorities about the construction, but no action was taken," said Rajesh, a resident.Another resident, Sanjay Kumar, said the consequences could have been far worse had the collapse occurred in the evening. "Children usually play around the building and, being a Saturday, there could have been many more children in the area," he said. Residents questioned how such a large structure was allowed to come up on a small plot on the nala.

EDITORIAL

Winds of Opposition Against the Lotus!

The recent loss of two BJP strongholds in different states and the party's narrow victory in Manjalpur in Gujarat, the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, indicate that winds of opposition may be blowing against the ruling BJP across the country. The results came amid intense protests by students over the NEET questionpaper leak, along with demonstrations organised by the newly formed "Cockroach Party" (CJP) in Delhi, Patna and various other states, and calls for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. These developments have not gone down well with the BJP leadership. Congress and other Opposition parties have demanded that the government reveal who ordered the lathi-charge and crackdown on protesting students. Amid repeated disruptions and protests, both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were adjourned several times. Parliament witnessed little productive business, while several Bills were passed by voice vote without detailed discussion before the Houses were adjourned. The Rajya Sabha, however, passed the Mines and Minerals (Amendment) Bill. The unexpected verdict delivered by 3.7 lakh voters across northern, eastern and western states during Narendra Modi's 12 years as Prime Minister is a strong warning to the ruling BJP. These results are not merely limited to the respective constituencies but are also indicative of the anti-government sentiment emerging across the country. The anti-NEET protests and by-election results have made it increasingly clear that upper-caste voters, the middle classes and educated urban voters, who had been strong supporters of the BJP for the past 12 years, are gradually moving away from the party. The BJP's defeat in Bankipur, an urban constituency in Bihar that had been a party stronghold since 1995, was a major blow to the BJP leadership. Angry over the lack of basic infrastructure, poor civic amenities and the alleged neglect of the ruling establishment, urban voters delivered a stunning verdict. Despite tall claims, the governments of Bihar and India have failed to create adequate employment and livelihood opportunities, leading to growing frustration among unemployed youth. Government failures in conducting examinations such as NEET and repeated paper leaks have left many students feeling that their hard work is futile, with some even taking their own lives. Attempts by governments to suppress students and youth, instead of boosting their confidence, are proving counterproductive. Nitin Nabin, who represented Bankipur, resigned from the seat after becoming BJP national president. This provided an opportunity for Prashant Kishor, founder of the Jan Suraj Party and an election strategist who has worked for various political parties in several states, to enter the contest. He reportedly won the support of voters through his speeches and emerged victorious. The growing shift of Yadav and Muslim voters, traditionally associated with RJD, towards the AIMIM has weakened the party's prospects.

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Yami Gautam's 'Nayyi Navelli' to Clash with 'Jailer 2', 'Prahaar'



Yami Gautam, who impressed one and all with her fantastic performance in Haq last year, is all set to be back on the big screens with a movie titled Nayyi Navelli. The makers on Wednesday took to Instagram to share the motion poster of the film and announce its release date. Nayyi Navelli, which is directed by Balaji Mohan, is all set to release on October 16, 2026, which is the Dussehra weekend. However, the movie won't be getting a solo release.

Yami Gautam Vs Rajinikanth Vs Rajkumar Rao
During the Dussehra weekend, two more biggies are slated to hit the big screens: Rajinikanth-starrer Jailer 2 (October 15) and Rajkumar Rao-starrer Prahaar: The Ujjwal Nikam Story. Jailer 2 is originally a Tamil film, but it will be dubbed and released in Hindi. The Hindi-dubbed version of Jailer (2023) had failed to make a mark at the box office and reportedly collected only Rs. 5.35

crore. So, maybe the Yami Gautam-starrer, which is a Hindi film, might not face tough competition from Jailer 2. However, a lot depends on the sequel's pre-release buzz because reportedly Bollywood actors like Vidya Balan, Hrithik Roshan, and Jackie Shroff are also a part of the Tamil movie. Meanwhile, Prahaar: The Ujjwal Nikam Story is a film that would solely depend on the reviews and word of mouth. Also, it doesn't look like a festive movie, so Nayyi Navelli might have an

upper hand due to the genre. All three movies are still two months away from the release. So, let's wait and watch whether the clash will happen or it will be averted.
Prahaar: The Ujjwal Nikam Story release date
Prahaar: The Ujjwal Nikam Story was slated to release in August this year, but it was postponed to October 2026. The movie, which is directed by Avinash Arun, also stars Wamiqa Gabbi in the lead role.

Deepika Padukone To Join Ranbir And Alia In Brahmastra 2?

Ranbir Kapoor is set to return to the world of Brahmastra, with the second part of the franchise to become his next major project after Ramayana. According to Bollywood media, director Ayan Mukerji and his team are currently working on the script of Brahmastra 2. Ranbir is expected to complete the shooting of Ramayana Part 2 by January 2027. After a short break, he will begin shooting for Brahmastra 2 in April 2027. Yet another highlight of this film is that Ayan Mukerji is in talks with Deepika Padukone for the role of Amruta. Discussions are currently underway with Deepika, and the sequel is expected to be much bigger than the first part. Ranbir will be seen in the roles of both Shiva and Dev, while Alia Bhatt will also return as Isha.



Mirai Joins the Elite League in Japan



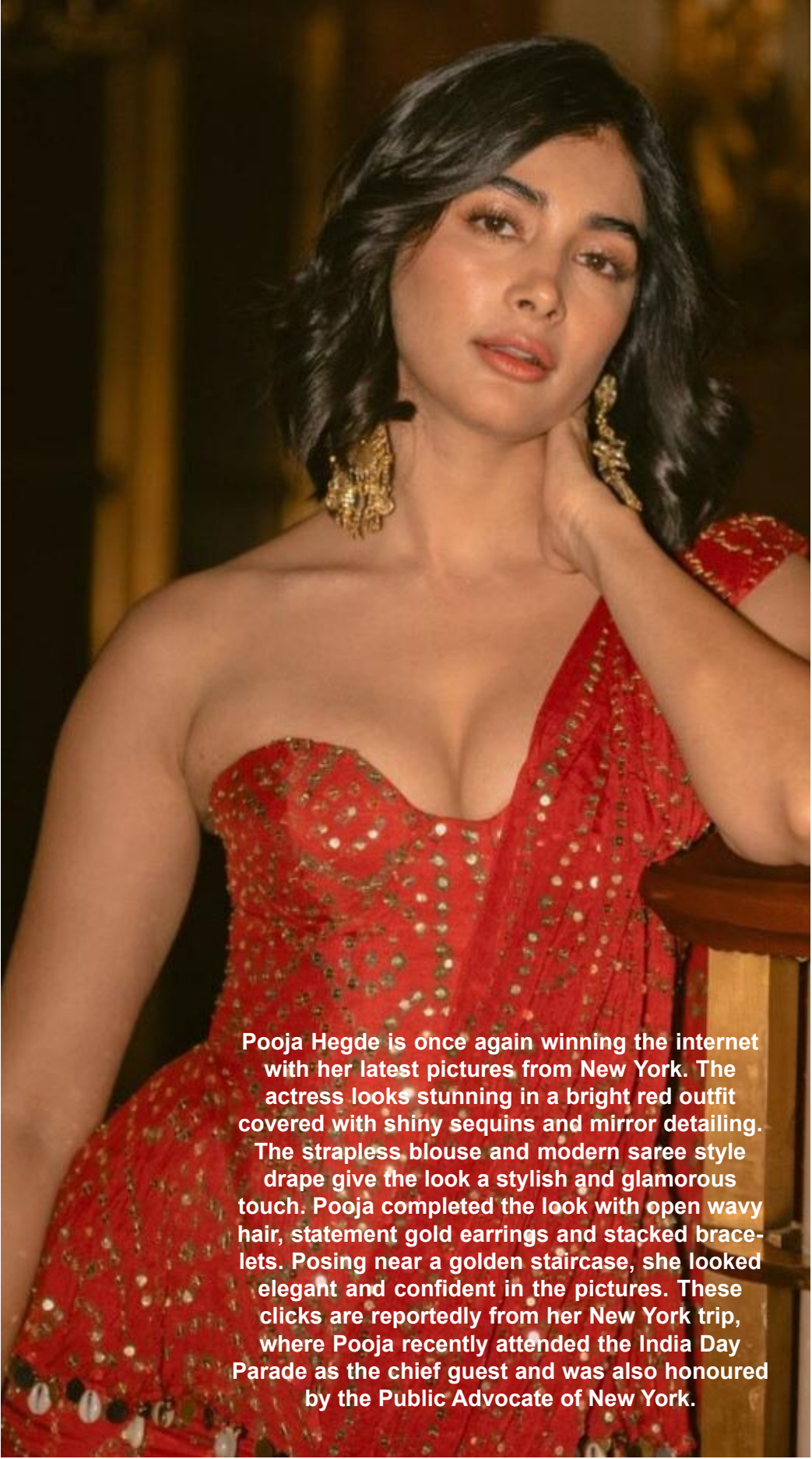
Japan has emerged as a strong overseas market for Telugu cinema, and Teja Sajja's Mirai is now making its presence felt even before its release. The film has entered the Top 10 Indian films in Japan for Day-1 advance bookings, joining an interesting list of Telugu titles that have made a mark

in the market, including RRR, Baahubali 2, Pushpa 2, Devar and Salaar. Mirai has also moved ahead of Dhurandhar 2 in the current rankings and is closing in on Salman Khan's Tiger Zinda Hai. With two more days left for bookings, the film could climb further. With its fantasy world,

Indian mythology and large-scale visuals, Mirai is bringing a different flavour to the Japanese market. If the current momentum continues, the Teja Sajja starrer could add another notable chapter to Telugu cinema's growing Japan success story. Teja Sajja seems to be steadily expand-

ing his market with every film. After HanuMan built a strong audience base, Mirai is now taking things a step further with a huge start and impressive numbers even before release. HanuMan which also released in Japan collected 1cr but Mirai opened up big and getting huge numbers and tractions.

RED HOT POOJA HEGDE



Pooja Hegde is once again winning the internet with her latest pictures from New York. The actress looks stunning in a bright red outfit covered with shiny sequins and mirror detailing. The strapless blouse and modern saree style drape give the look a stylish and glamorous touch. Pooja completed the look with open wavy hair, statement gold earrings and stacked bracelets. Posing near a golden staircase, she looked elegant and confident in the pictures. These clicks are reportedly from her New York trip, where Pooja recently attended the India Day Parade as the chief guest and was also honoured by the Public Advocate of New York.

This Heroine Looks Younger After A Decade

Ten years, one milestone, and a caption that hits different. Kannada actress Ashika Ranganath took to social media to celebrate a decade in the film industry, sharing a dreamy set of pictures in soft ivory tones and captioning it, "10 years already? ??? People still tell me I look like I just started... I'll happily take that. ??? But the desire to learn, grow and give it everything? Stronger than ever. ?? The timing is extra special, her debut film Crazy Boy, opposite Dilip Prakash, released on this very date, 19th August, back in 2016. And the pictures match the mood of the moment, soft, unfiltered, and effortlessly romantic. Ashika keeps it monochrome in whites and creams, moving between a lace-trimmed white crop top and a flowy ivory skirt that catches movement beautifully in a few frames, twirling barefoot, hair mid-swing. The styling stays minimal, soft waves, dewy makeup, no heavy accessories, letting the candid, almost cinematic quality of the shoot do the talking. Sunlit, hazy, a little nostalgic, it feels less like a glam shoot and more like a visual diary entry marking ten years of growth. Career-wise, Ashika's decade has been anything but static. From her Kannada debut, she went on



to earn recognition across South cinema, stepping into Telugu with Naa Saami Ranga and Bhartha Mahasayulaku Wignyaipathi. Up next, she has the Tamil sequel Sardar 2 and the much-delayed Telugu period drama Vishwambhara, keeping her slate full as she heads into year eleven with, by her own words, more hunger than ever.

India's rising stars set to shine at FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2026



New Delhi: As the Indian Men's Team gets ready for the FIH Hockey World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands 2026, their 20-player squad combines seasoned players with up-and-coming talent. Notable young players aiming to stand out include goalkeeper Mohith HS, defender Yashdeep Siwach, and midfielders Rajinder Singh and Aditya Arjun Lalage, all of whom have showcased impressive performances and earned spots to Lalage, a 23-year-old attacking midfielder known for his pace and skill, is preparing for the biggest tournament of his career and is dedicated to making the most of this opportunity. "Playing in the World

Cup has been a childhood dream of mine, and being part of the squad is a very special feeling. Right now, my focus is on making the most of this opportunity by giving my 100 per cent in every training session and every match. I want to contribute in whatever way the team needs me to," Lalage said. "The senior players and coaches have always guided me on what I can improve, and that has given me a lot of confidence. Everyone in the camp is working hard every day. We all have the same mindset of giving our best for India," he added. His fellow midfielder Rajinder Singh, also 23, has brought a mix of skill and

strength to India's midfield, quickly making a name for himself with his energetic presence. Rajinder praised the camaraderie within the team. "What makes this team special is the connection we share. We communicate constantly on the field, but that bond is just as strong off the field as well. Everyone puts in the effort for each other, and if someone makes a mistake, there's always a teammate ready to cover for him. I think that unity is one of our biggest strengths," Rajinder said. Meanwhile, 25-year-old defender Yashdeep Siwach concentrated on their rigorous training. "The preparation for the World Cup has been really intense. We've worked hard on every aspect of our game, from fitness and strength to the smallest technical and tactical details. Every camp has pushed us to raise our standards and bring out the best in each other," Siwach said. Siwach emphasised the guidance he gets from senior team members, such as captain Harmanpreet Singh, Jarmanpreet Singh, and Amit Rohidas, as he shares defensive responsibilities with them. "Having experienced players around me has made a huge difference. They're always willing to share their experiences and guide me through the finer details of the game, which has helped me build confidence. Everyone understands their

role and responsibility, and we're excited for the challenge ahead," added Siwach. Goalkeeper Mohith HS has demonstrated remarkable reflexes and calmness in goal. Having observed the previous World Cup from the junior national camp in Bengaluru, he is now gearing up to participate as part of the Indian team, aiming to break a 51-year drought and win another World Cup. "I still remember watching the last World Cup from the junior national camp in Bengaluru. At that point, I always believed I would one day represent India at a major tournament, although I didn't expect the opportunity to come this soon. It's a very special feeling to now be part of the World Cup squad," said Mohith. "From the Junior World Cup to now, I feel I've grown a lot as a goalkeeper, both physically and technically. I've always tried to learn from the coaches and senior players, whether it's improving the finer details or preparing for situations like shootouts. We have a great balance of experienced and young players, and everyone understands their role within the team," he added. India are in Pool D of the tournament, starting their campaign against Wales on 15 August, followed by matches against England on August 17 and Pakistan on August 19.

No flu on our watch': Dr. Pardiwala details India's health shield at Glasgow Commonwealth Games



Glasgow: As wet weather and cold temperatures settle over the 2026 Commonwealth Games, India's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala, has issued a strict health advisory to the Indian contingent. Since upper respiratory infections present a continual threat at major international events, Dr. Pardiwala stressed that strict personal hygiene and preventive care should form India's first line of defence against possible flu outbreaks.

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Navigating chilly Scottish conditions is one of the primary hurdles for athletes arriving from warmer climates. To prevent illness before competition even begins, the medical team implemented firm protocols around outdoor exposure and ceremonial duties. "The weather is cold and it is raining. So the advice is primarily to just protect yourselves, don't get wet and we are making sure that each of the athletes who doesn't need to be out, doesn't need to be out. So try and protect them as far as possible," Dr. Pardiwala told IANS. "So therefore even in the opening ceremony we made sure that none of the athletes who were participating immediately afterwards were part of the opening ceremony. We don't want to land up with colds and flus etc. just before participation." Preventing illness across a multi-sport contingent requires daily vigilance. According to Dr. Pardiwala, simple habits remain the most effective shield against viral spreads in shared athlete facilities. "Just simple health and hygiene, making sure that everyone is keeping their hands clean and hand hygiene is being followed and that is the best way I think to just prevent any outbreak amongst the teams," he noted. "We get a morning update everyday amongst the Chief Medical Officers of the contingents and fortunately we don't have any

outbreak of any flu or any colds and coughs amongst any of the contingents right now. So that is a good sign and we hope that it continues that way." "In most large continental events, usually it is the upper respiratory tract infections that is the biggest blow to athletes performing at their best and fortunately this time it is under control." To ensure athletes maintain peak physical condition, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) established an independent, fully equipped sports science and recovery facility directly at the games village. "You know whenever you have got a large contingent going out for the Olympics or the Asian Games or Commonwealth Games, you need sports science, you need injury management, you need preparation recovery services for the athletes. So what the Indian Olympic Association has done this time again... we have set up a recovery room here for all of our athletes. So all of our athletes will be supported by world class recovery and preparation before their events," Dr. Pardiwala said. To avoid potential delays in local healthcare systems, the team brought specialized recovery hardware and medical supplies directly from India. "We have got a whole load of equipment from India for that purpose and these are the things that we would normally use for most athletes. So compression, cryo-compression, all of the physiotherapy means and besides that just to make sure that we are autonomous and we have easy access to medicines... we have got all of our medicines and all of our requirements so that if anyone has any sort of medical problem, we can take care of it." Addressing queries regarding athlete readiness, Dr. Pardiwala clarified that fitness tracking is an ongoing, multi-layered responsibility carried out long before athletes reach the competition site. "There is a con-

stant process of fitness assessment. This is of course not done by the IOA medical team, this is done by the federations, the coaches, the physios, any athlete coming in really needs to be fit if they are going to be representing their country. So this is done by the federations to make sure that the fittest athletes do come in for competition." "Injuries are going to take place all the time but if it is something minor which can be managed then that is great. If it is something significant which can't be managed then unfortunately that athlete is going to be unfit for competition." Beyond physical treatments, establishing a sense of security plays a critical role in mental preparation. Dr. Pardiwala highlighted the strong support network behind the contingent—involving the Sports Ministry, the Sports Authority of India (SAI), the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), and the IOA. "To be quite honest we are getting a fabulous amount of support from not just the sports ministry but Sports Authority of India and our Target Olympic Podium Scheme, the TOPS and of course IOA. So I think the support that we need is to make sure that our athletes have the best opportunity to perform, that's number one." Ultimately, having immediate, accessible care removes anxiety, leaving athletes free to focus entirely on their performance. "What we have heard from many of our athletes over the years is that the fear that if they get injured what is going to happen to them... just to have that insurance, that safety blanket there knowing that 'Look, I have got a team that is looking out for me. If I do get injured I am going to be taken care of, if it is a minor injury I am going to be taken care of and I will be back on the field the next day.' I think that itself is self reassurance and I think that gives them the confidence that they can do their best."

Doping is a menace: India CWG CMO Dr Pardiwala warns against tainted supplements

Glasgow: The chief medical officer (CMO) of the Indian contingent at the Commonwealth Games 2026, Dr. Pardiwala, termed doping a 'menace' that must be rooted out to protect the country's global sporting reputation. He also highlighted the grave risk of inadvertent doping, revealing that a staggering 90% of over-the-counter supplements contain contaminants. His warnings come at a time when Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya recently revealed in a written response to a query in Lok Sabha that India has already recorded 78 doping cases as of July 15, 2026, with Uttar Pradesh and Punjab accounting for the largest share, with 13 violations each. This follows 131 total cases in 2025, 260 cases in 2024, and 213 cases in 2023. "I think, you know, doping is a menace in sports, and we have to somehow root it out. Doping at the end of the day is cheating, and as Indians we don't want to be known as cheaters. Now typically, you know, you're going to have one bad apple and that one bad apple is going to, you know, spoil the reputation of an entire country," Dr Pardiwala told IANS in an exclusive interview. "I think it's worthwhile to be strict. It's worthwhile to make sure that we're identifying who those bad apples are and ensuring that we, you know, root them out," he added. Addressing how athletes fall into the doping trap, the CMO divided the issue into deliberate cheat-

ing for quick financial rewards and inadvertent consumption through tainted supplements. "The main basis is, I think, education. If we can educate our athletes, if we can educate our coaches, support staff, our SNCs and ensure that, number one, you are aware of what is safe and what is unsafe, what is approved and what is not approved, what is approved out of competition, what is not approved out of competition. So that's education," he said. "I think the second thing is sometimes contamination, you know, a lot of supplements are taken. A recent study found that 90% of over-the-counter supplements contain some contaminants. So this is inadvertent. You're not doing it, you know, knowingly, but inadvertently you're taking something that is then spoiling your entire sports career and spoiling the reputation of a country. So I think we need to be really, really strict on knowing what we need to take, what our athletes are taking, and making sure that they're taking the correct stuff," he added. On being asked about many athletes using doping to get early success and even government jobs and monetary benefits, Pardiwala said that there is no shortcut to success and athletes need to understand this. "Well, there's always going to be someone who's going to want to take a shortcut to success. I think most athletes need to recognize that there is no shortcut to success. It's going to be



years and years and years of hard work. And in today's day and age, the technology for picking up cheaters and dopers is high," he said. "If you're taking it and you think that you're going to escape, the chances are very, very low that you're going to escape. So I think that's number one," he added. Dr. Pardiwala also urged athletes to strictly rely on their medical support systems rather than self-prescribing. "I think number two, make sure that no matter what you take, someone approves it. You may not have the knowledge, but your medical team around you in your federation or the doctors around you, do have the means of checking each and every

sort of supplement that you're taking, each and every medication that you're taking. Is this approved? Is this dope? Is this going to get you into trouble? And then don't take anything without making sure that this is an approved substance," he added. Meanwhile, to systematically combat this crisis, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) recently joined forces with the Neeraj Chopra Foundation. The two bodies signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Dr Pardiwala hailed the alliance, stating, "The Indian Olympic Association has started a really good initiative with the Niraj Chopra Foundation for clean sport, and I think that this is going to make a big difference over the next year or two."

India squad for Sri Lanka Test series to be announced by Tuesday, confirms BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia



New Delhi: The Ajit Agarkar-led senior men's selection committee will announce India's Test squad for the upcoming tour of Sri Lanka by Tuesday, said BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia on Saturday. The Shubman Gill-led squad is scheduled to play two Test matches in Sri Lanka as part of their ICC World Test Championship (WTC) commitments. "By Tuesday, we'll announce the Test team," Saikia told IANS. The opening Test match will be played at the picturesque Galle International Cricket Stadium (GICS) from August 15 to

19. The second and final Test will be played at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) in Colombo from August 23 to 27. IANS had previously reported on July 20 that the Indian team will land in Colombo on August 4 and will play a four-day warm-up game from August 7 to 10 at the Non-descripts Cricket Club (NCC) in Colombo. While the majority of the squad will be the same, India's main concerns will be around the status of ace fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah and off-spin bowling all-rounder Washington Sundar. Bumrah missed the series-deciding third ODI

against England at Lord's after suffering an impact injury and reactive swelling on his left knee in the second game in Cardiff. Geographic Reference Washington, meanwhile, is recovering from a right hamstring strain which ruled him out of the game at Lord's, and it's yet to be known if he will be in time for the series, which is India's first trip to play Tests in Sri Lanka after 2017. A return for veteran left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja will also be on the cards after he was rested from the one-off game against Afghanistan in New Chandigarh and wasn't selected for ODIs in England.

Brazil in advanced talks to play international friendly in Kolkata this October: Report

New Delhi: The Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) is in late-stage talks with Indian sports organisers to schedule an international friendly in Kolkata, likely happening in early October 2026. Initial reports from ESPN Brasil, later confirmed by outlets like Estadão, indicate that only the final contractual details are pending before an official announcement. The media outlet also confirmed with the CBF that Brazil plans to hold additional home friendlies in 2027, especially in cities typically

overlooked in the national team's schedule. During the recent World Cup, Kolkata transformed into a lively display with murals of Neymar and Vini Junior adorning the city streets, particularly in north Kolkata. Although organisers in Bangladesh, Singapore, and Qatar also showed interest, negotiations have only advanced with India. The CBF rejected proposals to include more matches in the region because of squad travel and recovery considerations. The proposed match occurs

following Brazil's elimination by Norway in the Round of 16 at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, under head coach Carlo Ancelotti. This game in Kolkata is the main event of a 16-day "Super FIFA Window" running from late September to early October. Although authorities in Dhaka, Singapore, and Doha presented lucrative proposals, negotiations with Indian organizers have skipped over competing bids, moving directly to administrative procedures before the final signature. If confirmed, this event will be Brazil's first major appear-

ance of the national team in Kolkata, adding to the city's history of hosting international football legends. If negotiations succeed, Kolkata will rekindle a nearly 50-year-old love affair with South American football. Since Pelé played at Eden Gardens with the New York Cosmos against Mohun Bagan in September 1977, the city has admired Brazilian style. For a region recovering from the post-World Cup slump, the appearance of yellow-and-green jerseys on home soil provides an instant boost.