



The fabric edit: Choosing comfort without compromising on style
Silk has long been associated with Indian celebrations, but modern wedding fashion is seeing a rise in silk blends that offer the richness of silk with improved wearability.

New generational job opportunities for Gen Z
India is heading towards "Viksit Bharat@2047," but achieving this ambitious goal in a short timeframe depends on persistent reforms, the correction of macroeconomic imbalances, and the management of geopolitical challenges.

Flood situation remains grim
Odisha remained on high alert on Thursday as the flood situation continued to be grim in four northern districts, while rising water levels in the Mahanadi triggered fears of a "medium" flood in the river's downstream areas, officials said.

SIT grills accused Nagaraju after SC go-ahead
The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged custodial death of 25-year-old Gade Sai Krishna here on Thursday took circle inspector (CI) S V V Nagaraju into custody for questioning.

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Monsoon in no mood to stop in August

Country's rain deficit shrinks to 14%

NEW DELHI: India's south-west monsoon is showing no signs of weakening and is instead expected to gain further momentum during the first half of August, raising hopes of a strong recovery after weeks of uneven rainfall across the country. The India Meteorological Department's latest rainfall data shows the all-India monsoon rainfall deficit has narrowed to 14%, a significant improvement from much steeper shortfalls recorded earlier this season. Meteorologists say the revival is being driven by the strongest weather system of the monsoon so far, a deep depression moving across Maharashtra. Embedded within the monsoon trough, the deep depression has drawn enormous amounts of moisture from the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. Its impact has been further amplified by the Somali Jet, the powerful low-level wind stream that transports moisture across the Arabian Sea into the Indian subcontinent.

MOCKERY NO SUBSTITUTE

Academicians slam Priyanka over Kamakoti remarks

NEW DELHI: Academicians, in an open letter, have criticised Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's reported remark about IIT Madras director V Kamakoti in the Lok Sabha. They said the comment undermined academic discourse and could deter scholars from participating in public debate. More than 215 vice chancellors, former vice chancellors and academicians have come out in support of IIT Madras Director Prof V Kamakoti after Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra allegedly referred to him as a "cow urine expert" during a Lok Sabha debate, saying the remark undermines academic discourse and the dignity of India's scientific institutions.



PM discusses West Asia crisis in key Cabinet meet

CCS discusses global security situation, supply chain constraints

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) and held detailed discussions with senior ministers on the prevailing global security situation, with a focus on maintaining uninterrupted supply chains amid ongoing conflicts affecting key maritime routes such as the Strait of Hormuz, the Black Sea, the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

The meeting reviewed measures taken by various ministries and departments to safeguard India's energy security, fertiliser supplies, shipping operations and the interests of Indian citizens and the Indian community living abroad.

The two-hour meeting at



the Parliament House complex was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, along with ministers handling petroleum, commerce, shipping and fertilisers.

Officials said this was the fourth special CCS meeting convened on the West Asia

situation.

The Cabinet Secretary briefed the CCS on the current geopolitical developments and steps taken to ensure adequate availability of petroleum products, including LNG and LPG. He informed the committee that LPG procurement sources have been diversified and that overall stocks of major petroleum products remain

adequate. Adequate crude oil availability has enabled public sector refineries to operate at utilisation levels above 100 per cent, ensuring continued production of petrol, diesel and other fuels.

The government also reviewed efforts to expand Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections and strengthen gas infrastructure through the National Gas Grid, LNG import and regasification facilities, city gas distribution networks and time-bound pipeline connectivity approvals.

A major focus of the meeting was fertiliser availability for the forthcoming Rabi season. The CCS assessed domestic requirements and discussed alternative import sources.

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Centre defends ethanol blends

- ▶ Says no verified engine failures in over 20 cr vehicles
- ▶ Claims E20 petrol can reduce fuel economy by 2-6%



NEW DELHI: Amid the debate over ethanol-blended fuel, the government on Thursday said E20 offers a "higher-octane rating, superior anti-knock characteristics, cleaner combustion and smoother engine performance." More than 20 crore two-wheelers and over 3 crore petrol cars have been operating on ethanol-blended fuel without any verified evidence of widespread engine failure or vehicle breakdown attributable to ethanol blending, Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari told the Lok Sabha in a written reply. Gadkari said E20 improves acceleration and ride quality while reducing carbon emissions. "Laboratory studies, field validation and real-world operating experience have not established any adverse impact on vehicle performance due to E20 fuel. This is evident from the fact that E15 blended petrol has been in widespread use for over three-and-a-half years and E19-E20 fuel for over two-and-a-half years," he said.

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Puri holds talks with Team Bharat

Group activist Tehseen Poonawalla arrested



Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri with Team Bharat activist Tehseen Poonawalla

NEW DELHI: Post the Jantar Mantar protests and clashes, the Narendra Modi government appears determined not to repeat the missteps that turned the recent student protests into a movement powerful enough to force Dharmendra Pradhan to step down as the Union education minister. With the Ethanol-Blended Petrol programme now drawing similar backlash, New Delhi is moving early.

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US launches 'heavy' strikes on Iran

DUBAI: The US military says it has completed a "heavy wave" of strikes against Iran in retaliation for Tuesday's attempted ballistic missile attacks on American forces. Centcom said it hit "dozens" of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) targets in response to Iran's firing on US bases in Jordan and at ships in the Strait of Hormuz. Iranian state media said the latest strikes had killed three people, including a two-year-old child, on Qeshm island, while other locations were also hit in the south and west of the country. The latest hostilities come on a week that has seen the conflict expand, with the first publicly announced joint US-Saudi strikes targeting Iranian proxies in Iraq.

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Oppn protests in Parl over police action on students

RS erupts as Kharge demands Shah's resignation

NEW DELHI

THE Opposition on Thursday intensified its attack on the Centre over the alleged police action against students protesting the NEET paper leak issue, staging a noisy demonstration inside the Parliament House complex and disrupting proceedings in the Lok Sabha, which was adjourned till 2 pm amid persistent sloganeering. Leaders of the Congress and several opposition parties gathered at the steps of the Makar Dwar in the Parliament complex, raising slogans of "Who gave the orders?" as they accused the government of unleashing "police brutality" on students who had assembled at Jantar



TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee stages a protest as Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, MP Pappu Yadav and others look on during the monsoon session of Parliament in New Delhi on Thursday

Mantar to demand accountability over alleged irregularities in the NEET examination.

The demonstration was led by Congress general secretary and MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who was joined by

several MPs, including Congress Rajya Sabha MP Imran Pratapgarhi and Congress Lok Sabha MP Sanjana Jata, along with lawmakers from other Opposition parties.

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PARL NOD FOR ANTI-PAPER LEAK BILL

NEW DELHI: The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, which proposes stricter punishment for exam-related malpractices, has been passed by both Houses of Parliament. The Bill, which provides for a maximum punishment of up to 10 years in jail and a fine of Rs 50 lakh for those involved in unfair means during public examinations, was passed by the Lok Sabha earlier and later cleared by the Rajya Sabha. Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge accused the government of bringing the amendment to the anti-paper-leak law only to pacify the agitating youth, not to address the issue. Speaking on the anti-paper leak bill, Kharge said the government has not explained how it would conduct examinations that could prevent paper leaks.

Security beefed up at Bhogapuram for PM's visit

Modi to inaugurate new airport on Aug 1 ■ 5,000 police personnel being deployed for security

VASU POTNURU
VISAKHAPATNAM

AHEAD of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to inaugurate Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport, security has been heavily beefed up at Bhogapuram.

Close to 5,000 police personnel are expected to be deployed to ensure a safe, secure and smooth inauguration of the airport followed by the public meeting which is expected to draw 2 lakh



people. During his visit to Bhogapuram, Narendra Modi will spend two hours and

twenty-five minutes participating in various events. A no-fly zone has been

declared for 72 hours. Restrictions are in place within a 5-km radius of the new airport, public meeting venue, helipad and surrounding routes from 8 pm on July 29 to 8 pm on August 1.

Drones, paragliders, micro-light aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles are prohibited from flying in the region. On August 1, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive at Bhogapuram on a special flight from Delhi. 200 classical

dancers will welcome the Prime Minister by performing Kuchipudi soon after he reaches the terminal building. Subsequently, the Prime Minister will inspect the facility for about 15 minutes along with Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Governor S Abdul Nazeer and other dignitaries.

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Bhogapuram Airport set to propel north Andhra growth

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