

Delhi Transport Unions Plan 'E-20' Protest March To Parliament On Aug 4

NEW DELHI, JUL 27: Delhi-based transport bodies have announced a protest march to the Parliament on August 4 demanding withdrawal ethanol-blended petrol. The call has been given by the Delhi Taxi and Tourist Transporters and Tour Operators Association and others.

"We are planning to hold a protest march to Parliament on August 4 against ethanol blended petrol demanding its withdrawal. We want to give a wake-up call to the member of parliaments who are sleeping till now on this issue, as the problems in vehicles from the ethanol blending are coming from across the country," Sanjay Samrat, president, Delhi Taxi and Tourist Transporters and Tour Operators Association, said.

"We do not want to make this a political issue, and are not associated with any 'E-20 Janta Party' or Cockroach Janta Party or any other political party," Samrat added, referring to the online movement against the E20 fuel, a blend of 20 per cent ethanol and 80 per cent petrol.

Harish Sabharwal, national president, All India



Motor Transport Congress, said they are protesting against the government for making E20 fuel the only choice for consumers.

"We have said that ethanol blended petrol should not be forced upon commuters, there should be a choice, currently there is no option being given. We are supporting the protest march to Parliament, there is no call for any strike given by the association as of now," he said.

"This is a major issue, this is damaging vehicles, we hope the government makes E 20 blended petrol a choice for commuters," Rajender Kapoor, president, All India Motor & Goods Transport Association, said.

The protest announcement comes days after 'E-20 Janata Party', an online movement formed along the lines of the CJP, was launched on social media, garnering huge followers on

Instagram and X.

The E20 ethanol-blending policy has been in the midst of a major controversy, centering on claims of reduced vehicle mileage, potential engine wear, and alleged conflicts of interest.

The government has defended the programme, ruling out any immediate plan to increase blends beyond 20 per cent and asserting that the fuel is safe, clean, and helps farmers. (Agencies)

SIT set up to probe alleged embezzlement of donations at Ram temple, UP govt tells SC

NEW DELHI, JULY 27: The Supreme Court on Monday was informed by the Uttar Pradesh Government that it has set up a four-member special investigating team (SIT) headed by IGP Kiran S to probe the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

The top court asked the State Government to include a forensic auditor as the fifth member of the SIT, which will submit its first status report within two weeks.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana took note of the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the State Government, that the SIT was formed through a notification issued on July 25 following the apex court's suggestion.

The law officer said that



besides the IGP, who was part of the team which had investigated whether an FIR was needed to be lodged, the SIT will include a DIG-rank officer, a senior superintendent of police and an additional SP.

The bench said that let the

SIT give its report. "All remedial steps to ensure transparency will be taken. We are on a qualitative investigation of the incident," the bench said while deferring the hearing for two weeks.

"We are focussed on hav-

ing a fair, speedy, impartial investigation," the CJI said.

On July 20, the bench had asked the Uttar Pradesh Government to apprise it about the possibility of setting up an SIT to probe the alleged embezzlement of donations. (PTI)

Apologise to students, take action against those who attacked students: Rahul to PM

DELHI, JULY 27: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday lashed out at the Modi Government over allegations that AK-47 rifles were used to target protesting students in Bihar and demanded that action be taken against those who attacked the students.

Gandhi also demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi apologise to the students. The Central Government is "dishonest" and reform is beyond its capability, the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha charged.

"The entire system is downright murderous against students. Reports are coming in that AK-47s have been fired at protesting students in Bihar, and hundreds have been arrested and booked under FIRs," Gandhi said in a post on X in Hindi.



"Modi ji, what happened to your promise that no FIRs would be filed against students and that they would be released? Instead, they are being subjected to deadly attacks and brutality," he said. "Pellet guns were used against students in Delhi, and AK-47s in Bihar. Whether it is Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, or Delhi - the pattern is the same

everywhere," he said.

"I have said it before: this Government is dishonest. Reform is beyond its capability. It will renege on its promises and use every tactic to suppress the students' voices," Gandhi said.

He called on Modi to apologise to the country's students and take action against those who attacked and brutalised them instead of tak-

ing action against the students.

Left-wing student organisations held demonstrations across Bihar, some of which turned violent, on Saturday in support of a statewide bandh against NEET paper leak and police action on protesting students.

Leader of Opposition in Bihar Assembly, Tejashwi Yadav, alleged that police fired AK-47s at protesters during the protest in Siwan.

During the Cockroach Janta Party-led 'Sansad Chalo' march in Delhi on July 20 to protest against the NEET paper leak, police and security forces used batons and tear gas to disperse protesters, which largely included students.

Scores of protesters and police personnel were injured in the protest.

Marriage brings discipline, reality of live-in relationships can be seen across the world: Bhagwat

Mumbai, Jul 26: RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said marriage is a discipline which instils dharma, while the reality of live-in relationships can be seen all over the world. Dictionaries & Encyclopedias

Speaking at an event on 'contemporary motherhood' organised by Vishwa Mangalya Sabha here, he also said Gen Z is imitative, emotional and does not think with a calm mind, and what comes across to them as genuine appeals.

"Marriage is a discipline which instils dharma. Its alternative is live-in relationship. Modernity. What are its



consequences? We don't want responsibilities but happiness. Stay together when it is wanted and part ways when not wanted. No responsibilities. What will

grow with it? What is growing, look around the world," he said.

He, however, said modernity is also needed and changing with times is also a

rule in the country's traditions.

In an apparent reference to live-in relationships, he said it is degradation and blind imitation of Western culture, while modernity is welcome.

He also said LGBTQ is a part of our society and that they should not be looked down upon.

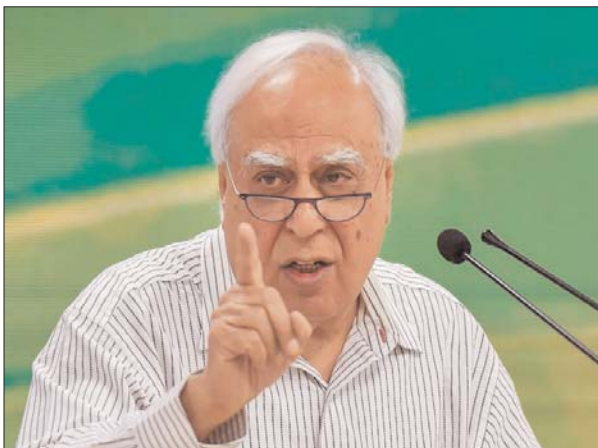
Bhagwat favoured following mobile phone discipline by parents and stressed the importance of conversation among family members to answer the questions of new generation children and to address various family-related issues.

SC seeks Centre's reply on Kapil Sibal's plea on interpretation of anti-defection law

NEW DELHI, July 27: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear a plea filed by independent Rajya Sabha MP and senior advocate Kapil Sibal seeking reconsideration of the interpretation of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution that allows MLAs and MPs to avoid disqualification under the anti-defection law by claiming a merger with another political party.

A bench of Justices PS Narasimha and Alok Aradha, which issued a notice to the Centre, observed that there are several issues involved which are required to be taken by Parliament.

Sibal said that this issue has "huge repercussions on



our polity" as a minority party can become majority, while a majority can become a minority, due to the provision. The bench said that the Tenth Schedule, meant for the lawmakers, was passed

by the Parliament and it is for them to devise a mechanism.

Sibal said there is a similar matter related to defection of MLAs from Goa pending before the court. The bench then tagged the plea along

with the Goa matter.

Sibal has filed the plea in his personal capacity and sought interpretation of the law. On July 22, he had sought an urgent listing of his plea, saying it relates to the issue of whether the composition of Parliament can change in the fashion in which it is happening in this country and the interpretation of the Tenth Schedule paragraph four in that context.

The plea comes against the backdrop of MPs from AAP, Trinamool Congress and the Shiv Sena (UBT) joining the ruling BJP and other political parties by invoking the merger provisions under the Tenth Schedule. (PTI)

Cong Says Exam Reform Panel Announced By PM To Divert Attention

NEW DELHI, JUL 27: The Congress on Monday took a swipe at the Modi government over the announcement of a committee on exam reforms, alleging that it was aimed at diverting the attention of people.

The opposition party said the Modi government has still not finished implementing the 101 recommendations of the K Radhakrishnan Committee formed in 2024 after "it bungled multiple examinations including NEET-UG".

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh shared on X two video clips -- one of then Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announcing in 2024 that the government would set up a high-level committee to ensure transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations; and another of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday announcing the constitution of a high-powered task force on exam reforms.

While Ramesh captioned



the Pradhan video clip "high-level hawabaazi", he gave the caption of "high-powered jumlebaazi" to PM Modi's video. "Committee banao, dhyaan bhatkao' (Form a committee and divert attention)," Ramesh said in his post in Hindi on X.

Prime Minister Modi on Sunday announced the constitution of the high-powered task force, headed by Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani, for reforms in the examinations conducted by the National Testing Agency.

The task force will give suggestions on maximum use of

technology for setting up a robust and transparent examination system, Modi said in a video message posted on Instagram. South Asians & Diaspora

Reacting to the development, Ramesh said on Monday, "Friends, in June 2024, after it bungled multiple examinations including NEET-UG, the Modi Government constituted a high-level committee of experts headed by Dr K Radhakrishnan to 'ensure transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations.'"

In July 2026, the Modi government bungled the NEET-

UG and other exams and has now constituted another "high-powered task force", he said on X.

Ramesh said the new committee comes even as the Modi government has still not finished implementing the K Radhakrishnan Committee's 101 recommendations. For most of the two years between the 2024 and 2026 paper leaks, it didn't even appoint a full-time director general for the National Testing Agency, he said.

"This is ultimately only a high-powered attempt to fix the Pradhan Mantri's irretrievably compromised image," the Congress leader said. According to the government, a multidisciplinary group of domain experts will be a part of the task force. Besides Nilekani, its other members are former chairman of ISRO S Somnath, former director of the Intelligence Bureau Tapan Deka, director of IIT Chennai V Kamakoti, former education secretary Anita Karwa.

Not a single paper leak case under AAP govt in Punjab: Mann

CHANDIGARH, Jul 26: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday claimed that there has not been a single case of paper leak of a competitive examination during the past four-and-a-half years of the AAP rule in the state. His remark came in the wake of the opposition parties targeting the Punjab government and alleging "many paper leaks" in the state.

Mann was addressing a state-level function in Zirakpur to honour the 882 students of government schools who passed the NEET-UG re-exam recently. Only a single cheating case came to light, he said.

Notably, the Punjab Police recently dismantled a highly sophisticated, in-

ter-state cheating racket operating during the recently held pharmacy officer examination. In this instance, the use of pen cameras and real-time dictation during the exam by a candidate was detected in Ferozepur. Geographic Reference

"All those involved in the cheating racket were arrested and sent behind bars. Twenty-one persons have been jailed in connection with the case," he said.

With opposition mounting attacks on Mann government over alleged paper leaks in the state, the chief minister said, "We have been in power for the past four-and-a-half years. Not a single paper leak has happened in Punjab."

Mann further said his government has given 68,585 government jobs purely on the basis of merit through a transparent recruitment process, which he added, stand as the strongest testimony to the state government's commitment to honesty, transparency and equal opportunity.

On the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as the Union education minister on Saturday over the NEET paper leak issue, Mann said that gen-Z has made a "stubborn government" bow.

In the country, 22 students committed suicide after the NEET paper leak, Mann claimed and asked, "Can any amount of monetary compensation to the families bring back those children?"

He said, "It is heartbreaking that many students were left disheartened because of the paper leak, and some even chose not to appear for the examination. Unfortunately, this is not the first such incident. The country witnessed paper leaks in 2017, 2024 and now again in 2026."

Lauding gen-Z's ideas and talent, he said they only need proper direction.

"Gen-Z possesses sharp insights and energy, and we only need to ensure this potential is channelled constructively," he said.

Mann said it is a matter of pride that Aryan Gupta, NEET-UG re-exam topper this year, is a student from Punjab's Ludhiana.

Congress and SAD on Saturday termed Pradhan's resignation as a victory for youth, but at the same time, they had taken potshots at the Punjab government over alleged paper leaks in the state.

State Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring said, "While the Union minister has been forced to resign, Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains was still in office, and he must also go for the repeated paper leaks in Punjab."

Addressing a programme in Punjab's Phagwara, Haryana Chief Minister and BJP leader Nayab Singh Saini also alleged that "repeated incidents of paper leaks" in Punjab amounted to a betrayal

of talented and hardworking youth aspiring for government jobs. Epaper Subscription Service

Mann, however, claimed that Punjab has surpassed Kerala and become the country's leading state in school education after its reforms in the sector.

Felicitating the successful NEET candidates, Mann said the achievement had been made possible through sustained investments in quality education, free coaching, mentorship and career counselling, enabling government school students to compete with the best in the country.

"In 2022, only 82 students from government schools in Punjab had qualified the NEET examination.