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Don't worry, I'm with you: Modi to TMC rebels, ex-Sena MPs

prime minister included RPI (Athawale) chief and Union minister Ramdas Athawale, Rashtriya Lok Morcha president and Rajya Sabha member Upendra Kushwaha, AIADMK leader M Thambi Durai, who is a Rajya Sabha member, and UPPL chief and Rajya Sabha member Pramod Boro.

Union Health Minister J P Nadda and BJP president Nitin Nabin were also present at the breakfast, which was a vegetarian affair along with desserts like payosh (kheer).

"Due to the turmoil in the House, the country has been unable to listen to the talented MPs elected in recent times," the PM said.

NCPI MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar said they were "overwhelmed" seeing the prime minister's knowledge, the way he treated them.

"The prime minister said those who are with the NDA for the last 20 years or even one year are all family members. He said we will work hard for the development of West Bengal and the eight northeastern states. We all will work together. This is a very good message he has given to us, we all will work together," she told reporters at the Parliament House complex.

Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha member Jyoti Waghmare said Modi emphasised on smooth functioning of Parliament and expressed concern over the repeated disruptions by the opposition protests.

"The prime minister said due to the disruption in Parliament, the country could not listen to the talented and new MPs. He said the country's issues should be discussed in Parliament," he said.

NCPI leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay said the prime minister asked the MPs to do yoga regularly for maintaining good health.

"The PM asked who amongst us do yoga. He asked us to get a health checkup done every week. He spoke about development of eastern and Northeastern region," he said.

Another NCPI MP Satabdi Roy said the prime minister welcomed all of them and interacted with each of the MPs present at the breakfast.

"The prime minister emphasised what needs to be done and spoke how MPs can contribute effectively to nation-building," he said.

Roy said Modi advised that those who crossed the age of 40 should practice yoga regularly and health check-up every year.

Modi is also learnt to have told the MPs that they should not worry about their needs for the development of their respective constituencies.

"I am with you. The NDA is a family. We stand with our constituent parties," he is learnt to have told the MPs.

Modi also reportedly said that he stood not only with the NDA members but with every MP.

On Wednesday, he had hosted a breakfast meeting with 37 BJP MPs, including the BJP president and some AAP leaders who had joined the party.

During that meeting too, he had stressed that Parliament must function smoothly and without any disruption, besides sharing his experience in public life and offered guidance on how seriously MPs should take Parliament.

Since the Monsoon session began on July 20, Lok Sabha proceedings have been repeatedly disrupted by opposition protests. Six bills have been passed without discussion amid din.

The opposition parties initially protested over the NEET paper leaks and alleged theft of donations at the Ayodhya Ram temple. They later pressed for a discussion on police action against students protesting over the NEET paper leak and also demanded the presence of Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah and their statements.

Meanwhile, the government is making a fresh attempt for passage of a Constitution Amendment Bill to implement 33 per cent reservation for women in legislatures in 2029 and redraw the Lok Sabha constituencies to increase its numbers to 816 in the ongoing monsoon session by reaching out to principal opposition party Congress and NDA allies, nearly four months after a similar effort failed due to lack of numbers.

Last time, the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill fell short of the constitutionally mandated two-thirds majority in Lok Sabha, with 298 members voting in favour against 230 opposing it.

The government's numbers have since improved marginally. The NDA's strength in Lok Sabha now stands at 299 following the merger of seven Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs with the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena.

Among the 20 NCPI MPs, three Muslim law makers remained non-committal about their allegiance towards NDA. However, in the eventuality of all 20 voting in favour of the bill, the government has assured the support of 319 votes.

But it is still well short of the 360 votes required to pass a constitutional amendment based on the current effective strength of the House.

India, China review LAC situation, discuss border management

ASEAN-related meetings in Manila on July 21.

During that meeting, Jaishankar had stressed that peace and tranquillity in the border areas were a "pre-requisite" for normalisation of India-China ties, which, he said, must be based on mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual sensitivity.

India and China have taken several steps over the past year to rebuild ties that deteriorated sharply following the 2020 Galwan Valley clashes and the prolonged military face-off in Eastern Ladakh.

Following diplomatic and military negotiations, the two sides completed disengagement from several friction points. In October 2024, they reached an agreement on disengagement in Depsang and Demchok, the last two major friction points in Eastern Ladakh.

Since then, the two countries have also moved to restore several aspects of bilateral engagement, including the resumption of the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra, visa services and direct flight connectivity.

MeT warns of very heavy rains

were also expected at a few places during this period. The MeT has predicted few spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers at most places between August 9 and 11.

It has specifically warned of heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few districts of Jammu division. Meanwhile, brief-intense heavy showers were likely at a few districts of Kashmir division.

From August 12 to 17, the weather department said there was a possibility of light rain and thundershower at many places, with brief intense showers at a few places.

The department has issued an advisory for August 9 to 11, citing the possibility of heavy to very heavy rain and brief intense heavy showers in a few districts.

AEE suspended, Xen's salary withheld

According to an official order issued by the office of DDC Abhishek Sharma, the action followed the circulation of a social media video, alleging that the teenage girl died because the PMGSY road remained closed, delaying her transportation to a medical facility.

The order stated that while the Executive Engineer, PMGSY Division Rajouri, had informed through an official WhatsApp App group that the road had been restored and was trafficable, a verification report submitted by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Koteranka, presented a different picture.

As per the ADC's report, the girl had been suffering

from an illness for about a month and had earlier received treatment at GMCH, Jammu, before being discharged. When her condition worsened again, she was being shifted to GMCH, Rajouri. However, the Chak Methayani-Panglar-Kotecharwal road was blocked due to landslides, leaving the ambulance stranded for nearly two to three hours.

The report stated that some locals manually cleared part of the landslide to allow the vehicle to pass, but the patient's condition deteriorated during the delay, and she eventually died while being taken to the GMCH, Rajouri.

The inquiry report also noted that the road remained in a poor and non-trafficable condition due to landslides and damaged stretches, severely affecting transportation of patients, food supplies and fertilisers. It additionally pointed out that emergency ambulance services, including 108 and 102, were not functioning effectively in the affected villages of Narla, Bamble, Kotecharwal and Panglar.

Taking serious note of the findings, the DDC said that despite repeated directions from the government and the district administration for immediate restoration of roads damaged by recent rains, the road remained unattended, indicating prima facie negligence and non-compliance with official instructions.

Pending inquiry, the AEE, PMGSY Sub Division Kalakote, who was in charge of the road project, was placed under suspension with immediate effect. During the suspension period, he will remain attached to the office of the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Koteranka.

The order also directs the Executive Engineer, PMGSY Division Rajouri, to explain why disciplinary proceedings should not be initiated against him for allegedly misreporting the status of the road and failing to ensure its timely restoration. The salary of the Executive Engineer was withheld until further orders.

In addition, the District Development Commissioner has directed the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Rajouri, to conduct an in-depth inquiry into the matter and submit a comprehensive report to the district administration within seven days.

LS, RS adjourned over Oppn's demand for Amit Shah's statement

before walking out of Parliament.

Amid the din, the Chair proceeded with listed business, including the laying of papers and Zero Hour mentions by a few members, before adjourning proceedings.

The Lok Sabha also witnessed repeated disruptions over the same issues. Opposition members continued sloganeering, demanding a statement from Amit Shah on the alleged police excesses against students and raising the Ram temple donation theft issue.

Despite the protests, the House passed the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026 without a debate. Papers listed for the day and reports of various Parliamentary committees were also tabled.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju defended the government's position, saying Shah attended Parliament every day and remained there till late in the evening. He maintained that the Opposition had no authority to dictate which minister should reply in the House and criticised the protests, urging members to stop disrupting proceedings.

Presiding officer Dilip Saikia repeatedly appealed to Opposition MPs to return to their seats and allow the House to function. However, with the slogan-shouting continuing, Zero Hour was adjourned within 16 minutes, and the Lok Sabha was also adjourned for the day.

The Monsoon Session, which began on July 20, has seen repeated disruptions amid continuing differences between the government and the Opposition over the NEET paper leak, the police crackdown on student protesters and other issues.

Pak, Saudi, Turkiye sign Defence Agreement

The agreement, signed during the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Summit for Joint Defence, is "intended to strengthen collective deterrence against any act of aggression, and stipulates that any armed attack against any one of the three States shall be regarded as an attack against them all," it added.

It further provides for the "enhancement of all aspects of defence cooperation among the three States," the statement said.

The development comes at a time when the West Asia conflict has widened across multiple fronts, including the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, prompting Gulf states to strengthen regional security coordination. Sharif had visited Saudi Arabia in April, during which he had held talks with the Kingdom's top leadership.

Last week, Saudi Arabia proposed a Multinational Maritime Defence Coalition (MMDC) to safeguard commercial shipping lanes and critical energy supply routes through the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandeb Strait after Saudi ships came under attack from Iran-backed Yemen's Houthis.

Fourteen countries, including Pakistan, expressed support for the initiative, underscoring growing concerns over the security of one of the world's most vital maritime corridors, according to reports.

Also, Pakistan last week said it is "doing its utmost" to bring the US and Iran back to the negotiating table under the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding signed on June 18.

The Makkah agreement reflects "the three States' shared commitment to further strengthening their collective security and to promoting peace, security, and stability in the region and beyond, in pursuit of a secure and prosperous future," the statement said.

SC refuses to entertain plea for FIR against ex-judge

The bench said earlier also a similar petition was dismissed. Upadhyay submitted that the earlier petition was dismissed on technical ground that no complaint was filed but in this case, he has filed a complaint.

Justice Narasimha told him, "You are an advocate. This is just a misuse of the judicial process. All for cheap publicity. We are not inclined to entertain this. Dismissed."

Upadhyay said there is no reason for not entertaining the petition as a judge of the high court has been held to be a public servant.

"Now he is retired also. There is no immunity from prosecution," he submitted.

The top court, however, refused to entertain the petition and dismissed it. On April 9, Varma, who was facing impeachment proceedings for his removal over allegations of corruption after wads of burnt currency notes were recovered from his residence in Delhi last year, resigned.

The rare removal proceedings initiated by the Lok Sabha against Justice Varma was rendered "infructuous" following his resignation with immediate effect. The judge submitted his resignation in a letter sent to President Droupadi Murmu.

To avoid removal by Parliament, a resignation was the only option left for the judge, who withdrew from the ongoing inquiry proceedings by a Lok Sabha-appointed panel. The judge was due to superannuate on January 5, 2031.

The purported discovery of a huge stash of cash took place after a fire broke out at the Lutyens' Delhi residence of Justice Varma, then a Delhi High Court judge, at around 11:35 pm on the night of Holi on March 14, 2025, prompting the fire department personnel to rush to the spot and douse the flames.

Saxena reviews preparedness to mitigate landslides

UT administration also focused on minimising the impact of such incidents and preventing avoidable disruptions in future.

The meeting was attended by GOC 14 Corps, Lt Gen Madanraj Pande, along with Chief Engineer, HQ 14 Corps, Brig Aditya Harshey, Chief Engineer, Project Vijayak, Brig Rahul Oberoy and Chief Engineer, Project Himank, Brig Rajiv Ahlawat, apart from the Secretary, PWD, UT administration.

The LG lauded the relief assistance provided by Army and BRO during flash floods and landslides, and ex-

pressed satisfaction with the prompt road-clearance operations following landslides. He, however, stressed the need for immediate proactive measures at vulnerable locations to prevent recurrence of such incidents and ensure uninterrupted connectivity.

He directed the concerned agencies to undertake a detailed safety audit of vulnerable stretches, particularly around 15 identified high-risk locations along the Leh-Kargil National Highway and at least 4 - 5 vulnerable points along the Khardung La on Leh-Nubra road. The LG emphasised the need to assess unstable slopes and, wherever necessary, remove loose and potentially hazardous rocks before they pose a threat to road users.

He stressed that the objective should be to move from reactive response to proactive risk assessment, engineering and technology-based mitigation, ensuring safer roads, uninterrupted connectivity and greater resilience against natural hazards in Ladakh.

"The recent flash floods, landslides and rock falls have once again underlined the need to strengthen our preparedness and move beyond reactive response to proactive prevention. I have directed the concerned agencies to identify vulnerable locations, undertake detailed safety audits and use the best available technologies for slope stabilisation and rockfall protection. Our priority is to ensure the safety of people, protect critical infrastructure and maintain uninterrupted connectivity across Ladakh," he said.

Chief Engineers of the BRO projects made a detailed presentation to the Lieutenant Governor on the major causes of slope failures, including unprecedented pattern of rains in Ladakh, geological factors, changes in slope gradient, shocks and vibrations, weathering, developmental activities and water or pore-water pressure.

They also briefed the LG on available mitigation technologies, including retaining and breast walls, flexible ring nets for debris protection, soil nailing, rock bolting and anchoring, and shored-wall retaining structures. For rockfall protection, measures such as rockfall embankments, rock sheds, high-energy absorption barrier systems and smart rockfall detection systems can be deployed. The use of geosynthetics, including geogrids, geotextiles, geomembranes and geocells, was also discussed in the meeting.

Chief Engineer, Project Vijayak assured the LG to take up the safety audit and preventive measures on Leh-Kargil Highway and Leh-Nubra Highway on priority.

The LG also directed the Secretary PWD to take up safety audit and risk mitigation measures on two major stretches under its control.

SUV jumps security checkpoint; police open fire

cops opened three rounds of fire towards it.

The cops then chased the SUV in their vehicle but it continued towards the Nashri area, prompting a massive search operation involving the district police, CRPF and Army.

The driver, however, abandoned the vehicle and fled, officials said.

The Scorpio was seized by the cops near Dalwas. Police had registered a case in this connection.

Officials said further investigation was underway.

No reason why India can't become global mediation centre: CJI

ing that the institutions in India capable of realising this ambition are already beginning to take shape, and there is every reason to believe they can facilitate complex, cross-border mediations with the same confidence that international parties employ in commercial dispute resolution worldwide," he added.

In his address, the CJI said he "truly hoped" that the legal fraternity would strengthen the existing alternative dispute resolution framework and "help India take her place among the true frontrunners of this field, worldwide".

The CJI asserted that the sine qua non of mediation was "deeply psychological" and data showed that voluntary compliance by parties with mediated settlements was as high as 90 per cent, which was well above results achieved through adjudication.

Unlike litigation and arbitration, mediation asks "what the parties can themselves live with, and what they can build upon", he said.

The CJI further said that mediation has certainly undergone a substantial and challenging evolution over the past years, as earlier it was associated with "stuffy rooms, worn-out furniture and mediators who would seemingly coerce the parties towards reluctant compromises".

"Step into a mediation today, and you are likely to find a young professional trained under a rigorous certification framework, drawing on techniques refined across commercial, corporate and family disputes alike. Institutional mediation centres now run with case managers, encrypted digital files and settlement agreements authenticated within hours rather than weeks," he said.

The CJI also acknowledged that online dispute resolution platforms allow parties on different continents to mediate.

Experts breached 'obligation of secrecy'; face life imprisonment

entrance examination conducted by NTA, that the question/question paper would not be written or typed personally by them, that it would be kept under lock and key while in their possession, and that they would not retain any note, copy or rough draft of questions".

The final report said that despite this obligation of secrecy, the investigation revealed that Mandhare conducted coaching classes at her Pune residence, Kulkarni conducted "special classes" for candidates shortly before the exam at his residence and also in Pune, and Havaldar "circulated" the confidential question papers herself and through her associates.

It said, "Thus, the investigation establishes that, despite being entrusted with confidential work as a Biology subject expert for NEET UG 2026, accused Manisha Gurunath Mandhare was involved in coaching candidates, was connected with the circulation of confidential questions prior to the examination, received and handled such material through electronic means and through co-accused persons, facilitated the printing and onward handing over of question notes for unlawful gain."

It said that despite being entrusted with confidential work as a chemistry subject expert, Kulkarni "conducted special classes immediately before the examination, shared leaked Chemistry questions with candidates for monetary gain, remained in contact with candidates, parents and co-accused persons, participated in the collection and receipt of money, and was part of the wider conspiracy for leaking confidential examination material before the exam".

The CBI booked the three experts under the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act provisions for criminal misconduct by a public servant.

A public servant is said to commit the offence of criminal misconduct if such person dishonestly or fraudulently misappropriates or otherwise converts for their own use any property entrusted to them or under their control as a public servant or allows any other person to do so.

The CBI has applied this Act because the trio had been engaged as "Subject Experts" who had been entrusted with confidential property or question papers by the NTA, and in this capacity, they were deemed "Public Servants." Anti-paperLeak Bill

Under this Act, the three accused face the prospect of imprisonment for a term which may extend to 10 years with fine.

The final report also alleges commission of offences under Bharatiya Nayaya Sanhita (BNS) provisions for criminal conspiracy, causing disappearance of evidence, criminal breach of trust by a public servant, receiving stolen property and cheating and dishonestly inducing

delivery of property.

The most severe punishment for the BNS offences under 316(5) is for criminal breach of trust by a public servant, which carries the maximum punishment of "imprisonment for life".

The CBI has also booked the three experts under the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act provisions, including that for "organised paper leak which carries imprisonment of not less than five years, which may extend to 10 years and a fine of not less than Rs 1 crore".

Congress issues whip to its MPs in both Houses

the party stand. This may be treated as most important," Ramesh said.

An identical whip was issued in the Lok Sabha to the Congress members.

28 JKAS officers elevated to higher grades

effect on a regular prospective basis, subject to the outcome of pending court cases.

In another order, the government promoted nine JKAS officers to the Special Scale. They are: Sunil Sharma, Zahoor Ahmad Magray, Syed Sajad Qadri, Masarat Hashim, Sonali Arun Gupta, Atul Gupta, Ritu Mahajan, Mohammad Anwar Banday and Mohammad Tanvir.

Among them, Sunil Sharma has been granted notional promotion with effect from May 15, 2026, while the remaining officers have been promoted on a prospective basis.

Consequent upon the promotions, Sunil, Sonali, Ritu Mahajan and Anwar Banday have been designated as Special Secretaries in their respective departments, while the remaining officers will continue at their present places of posting until further orders.

In another order, the government promoted 18 JKAS officers to the Selection Grade on a prospective basis.

The officers are: Akhil Sadotra, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, Mumtaz Ahmad Pir, Rachna Sharma, Reyaz Ahmad Shah, Piyush Dhotra, Vikas Sharma, Muzaffar Ahmad Sheikh, Masood Ahmad Wani, Shafqat Majeed Bhat, Tariq Ahmad Reshi, Deepak Kumar, Suheel Ahmad Lone, Shoaib Noor, Javid Ahmad Rather, Musharraf Ali Haf, Shakoor Ahmad Dar and Mohammad Jhangir.

Following their elevation, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, Rachna Sharma, Vikas Sharma, Masood Ahmad Wani, Suheel Ahmad Lone and Shoaib Noor have been designated as Additional Secretaries in their respective departments, while the remaining officers will continue at their existing places of posting until further orders.

The government has clarified that all promotions shall remain subject to the outcome of writ petitions pending before competent courts of law.

926 pilgrims leave for cave shrine in Kashmir Himalayas

yatra will conclude on August 28.

Authorities have put in place multi-layered security arrangements along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and at all transit camps to ensure the safe and smooth movement of the yatra convoys. A multi-tier security setup has also been activated in and around the Bhagwati Nagar base camp.

The commencement of the yatra had marked the beginning of the country's one of the most revered spiritual pilgrimages and reflects the coordinated efforts of the administration and all stakeholder departments to facilitate a secure, seamless and memorable pilgrimage experience for every devotee.

Traffic restrictions will remain in force on various stretches of the highway till August 28 when the pilgrimage would come to an end, with daily advisories and sector-wise cut-off timings to regulate traffic, officials said.

Oppn can't dictate which minister will come to House: Rijiju

ties that Home Minister Amit Shah should answer questions on the recent police action on protesting students here.

As the House proceedings were disrupted again, Rijiju also said that Shah comes to Parliament every day and stays till late night.

"Shah is a man whose name sends shivers down the spine of extremists and terrorists," he stated amid thumping of desks by members of the Treasury benches.

"The day discussion begins here (in Lok Sabha) and when Amit Shah responds, you (Opposition) won't be able to hear (digest)," Rijiju told the protesting members.

Chairman C P Radhakrishnan had on Thursday asked Rijiju to "echo the sentiments" of the Opposition to the home minister as the Opposition members continued with their demand for a response from Shah.

Amid the din on Friday, the House was adjourned to meet on Monday.

During the Zero Hour, which went on for nearly 16 minutes, the House passed the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026 without debate, and listed papers as well as reports of various Parliamentary committees were tabled.

BJP suspends 9 functionaries over controversial slogans

Shangus constituency president Irshad Ahmad Malik, former district vice-president Mohammad Maqbool Ganie and Pahalgam constituency president Waheed Ahmad Itoo. The party also removed District Secretary Nisar Ahmad Hakeem, District Secretary of Kisan Morcha Feroz Ahmad HAJAM and District Secretary of Mahila Morcha Sabrooz Akhter from their respective organisational posts and responsibilities.

The party said the nine had been removed from their organisational posts and responsibilities with immediate effect, while their primary membership of the BJP had been suspended until further orders.

The party, however, made no mention of senior BJP leader and former MLC Sofi Yousuf, who led the procession.

Couple swept away in flash floods in Udhampur; one body recovered

JAMMU, AUG 7: A body has been recovered after a couple was swept away in a flash flood triggered by heavy rainfall in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Thursday evening, officials said.

The incident occurred in Kaghote panchayat of the Ramnagar area after intense rains triggered a sudden flash flood, they said.

According to locals, the couple, identified as 58-year-old Baldev and 53-year-old Maya Devi, had gone to graze their cattle and were crossing a nallah when they were caught in the strong current and washed away.

Rescue teams were immediately pressed into service, and a victim's body was recovered. Efforts were on to trace the other person, officials said.

It wasn't immediately clear whether it was the husband or the wife whose body had been found.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh said he spoke to Udhampur Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa after receiving information about the incident.

"Just now spoke to DC Udhampur, Minga Sherpa, after receiving the news of a husband and wife couple named Baldev and Maya Devi getting swept away by heavy rainfall flash in Panchayat Kaghote of Ramnagar. The body of one of them has been recovered, while the rescue operation is going on. My sincere condolences with the bereaved family. My office is in constant touch," Singh said in a post on X.