

FREE PRESS JOURNAL

SCHOOL

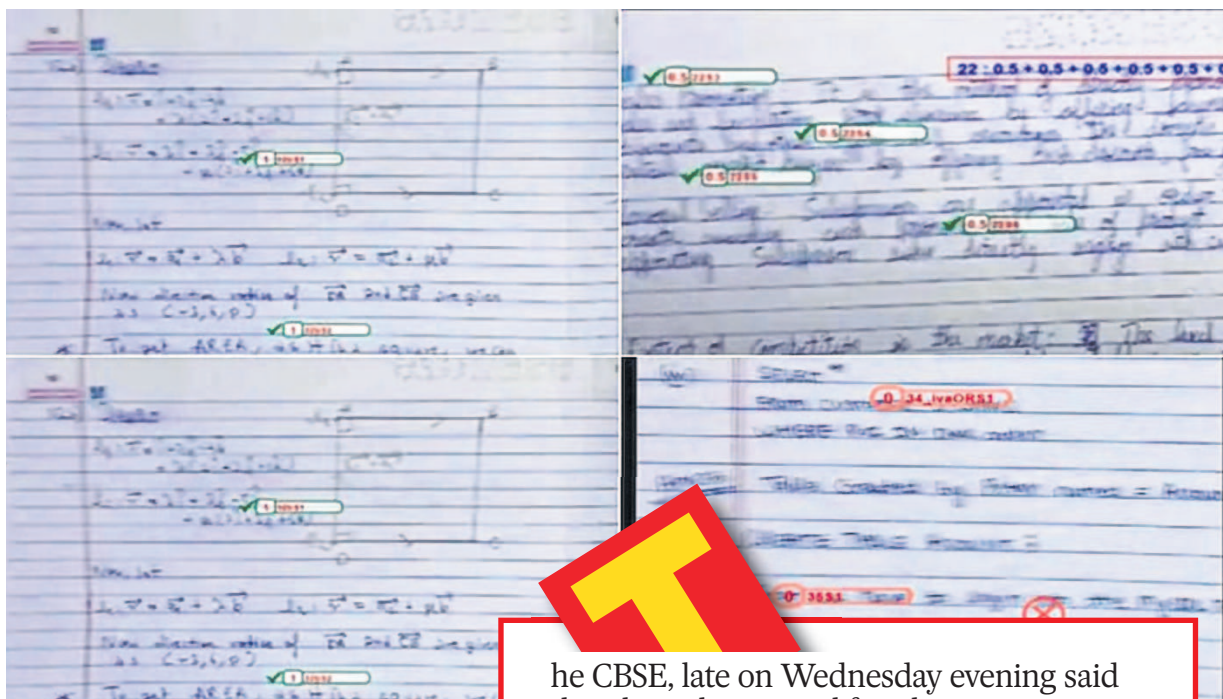
MUMBAI | FRIDAY | MAY 22, 2026



Conformity is the jailer of freedom and the enemy of growth
- John F. Kennedy

Some shared screenshots of blurred scanned answer sheets and questioned how the evaluation had been conducted if the copies were not clearly visible

I CAN'T READ MY OWN HANDWRITING



The CBSE, late on Wednesday evening said that the online portal for obtaining scanned copies of Class 12 answer books was functioning smoothly. The board said that 1,27,146 applications seeking 3,87,399 scanned answer books had been submitted successfully by 7:30 pm on May 20. However, soon after the update, several students and social media users raised concerns over payment failures, difficulty accessing the portal, and alleged issues linked to the On-Screen Marking (OSM) system. Some shared screenshots of allegedly blurred scanned answer sheets and questioned how the evaluation had been conducted if the copies were not clearly visible on the system. One user alleged that "students themselves can't read their own writing in the scanned copies".

DID U KNOW?
CBSE has not responded to the allegations related to blurred answer sheets or the OSM evaluation system.



Maruti cars to cost more

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. Thursday said it has decided to increase the prices of its vehicles by up to INR 30,000 with effect from June because of a sustained increase in input costs. The exact quantum of the increase will vary from model to model.



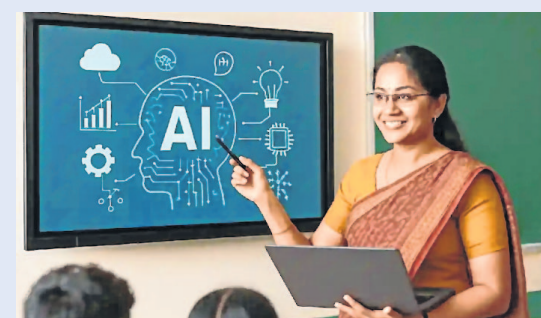
Freedom in capitalist society always remains about the same as it was in ancient Greek republics: Freedom for slave owners - Vladimir Lenin

Rupee rebounds from all-time low; settles at 96.36



The rupee rebounded 50 paise from its all-time closing low to settle at 96.36 against the US dollar on Thursday after crude oil prices retreated from elevated levels amid signs of easing geopolitical friction, alongside likely central bank intervention. Forex traders said the rupee had gained after the recent geopolitical developments.

AI in Madhya Pradesh Classes 8-12 curricula



In a major push to modernise school education in the state, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Thursday approved a roadmap to introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI) skills from classes 8 to 12 and directed the rollout of vocational training in agriculture, animal husbandry, and fisheries at the high school level.



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Country's first underwater museum

DID U KNOW?

The warship was installed on the seabed at a depth of around 22 metres

Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district is set to emerge as a major marine tourism destination with India's first underwater museum and submarine tourism project coming up off its coastline. The ambitious project is being developed near the Nivati Rock formations in Sindhudurg, some 500 kilometres from Mumbai, and is

expected to boost adventure and marine tourism in the Konkan region. Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) said it has successfully scuttled decommissioned Indian Navy warship Ex-INS Guldar off the Sindhudurg coast as part of India's first underwater museum, artificial reef and submarine tourism project.



Zor se sorry bolo



Actor Salman Khan has grabbed headlines again, asking the paparazzi to apologise during his recent outing. Salman attended the success party of Riteish Deshmukh's latest release, 'Raja Shivaji'. As he posed for the media, Salman directly addressed the photographers, playfully asking them to say sorry. Earlier this week, videos from outside Hinduja Hospital in Mumbai showed Salman visibly upset with photographers gathered outside the premises.

Melody khao, khud jaan jao



Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal are back with another fun video, and this time, the couple has joined the viral 'Melody' trend. The two, who got married in 2024, often

share funny videos on Instagram. In the video, Sonakshi can be heard asking Zaheer, "What do you wanna ask?" Zaheer replies, "You know exactly how much I love you." Sonakshi then says, "No, then." Zaheer then takes out a Melody toffee and says, "Melody khao, khud jaan jao."

BRAIN HEALTH



oused within a bony skull, the human brain remains, in large part, a mystery to the medical community. The brain is believed to comprise more than 3,000 different types of cells, whereas most tissues have no more than a dozen. It is also difficult to access and is rarely biopsied. And yet the brain is the essence of who and what we are. The brain allows us to think, communicate, interact with others, perceive, move and experience the world. To flourish, our societies and economies depend in large part on our brains'

The science academies of the G7 countries have recommended that G7 leaders adopt brain health as a priority for all members



ability to function optimally. Given our ageing populations and declining birth rates, we are facing a perfect storm — fewer children and more elderly citizens — underscoring the vital need to

optimise brain health for every citizen. The June 2026 meeting of the Group of Seven (G7) countries in Evian, France, is an opportunity to make brain health a top priority.

Brad Pitt returns as stuntman



Filmmaker David Fincher's new feature film, which marks Hollywood star Brad Pitt's return as stuntman Cliff Booth, will be released on Netflix in December this year, the streamer has announced. The film, reportedly titled "The Adventures of Cliff Booth", is a sequel to Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" and is set in 1977 Hollywood.



Every day is a good day for hockey
- Mario Lemieux

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Indian hockey men's squad



Ketan Kushwaha to lead

Hockey India on Wednesday announced the 18-member U-18 men's squad

at SAI Bhopal under the team's coaching staff consisting of Sardar Singh and Rajnish Mishra. The tournament format places India in Pool A alongside South Korea, hosts Japan, Chinese Taipei, and Kazakhstan. The Indian team will kick off their pool-stage campaign on the opening day, May 29, against Kazakhstan, before taking on hosts Japan on May 31. They will then face South Korea on June 1 and wrap up their group

matches against Chinese Taipei on June 3. Following the gruelling group stage, the top two teams from Pool A and Pool B will advance directly to the crucial semi-finals. Forward Ketan Kushwaha will captain the Asia Cup side as they fly out to compete against Asia's top youth teams.



ockey India on Wednesday announced the 18-member U-18 men's squad for the upcoming Men's U18 Asia Cup slated to take place from May 29 to June 6 in Kakamigahara, Japan. The squad was selected after a rigorous National Coaching Camp at Udhav Das Mehta Central Centre

Pickleball body to hold junior trials

The Indian Pickleball Association (IPA) will conduct trials for the Indian Sub-Junior and Junior teams for the upcoming Pickleball WC from June 12 to 14. The three-day trials in Ahmedabad will determine the junior squad for the third edition of the Pickleball World Cup, sanctioned by the Global Pickleball Federation, which will be held in Vietnam from August 30 to September 9.



Waited for my chance: Pandey



KKR batter Manish Pandey revealed that he stayed prepared and waited for his chance in last four games before the opportunity finally arrived to deliver a crucial innings as KKR defeated MI by four wickets at Eden Gardens. Pandey played a composed knock of 45 off 33 balls on a difficult two-paced surface as KKR chased down 148 in 18.5 overs to keep their playoff hopes alive.

DID U KNOW?
The semis are scheduled for June 5, with the finals on June 6.

Hardik penalised for code of conduct breach



Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya has been fined 10 per cent of his match fee and also accumulated one Demerit Point for breaching Level 1 of the IPL's Code of Conduct for

Players and Team Officials during the IPL 2026 match against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

QUICK NEWS

Aston Villa clinch title

Aston Villa claimed their first European trophy in 44 years and a maiden UEFA Europa League title as goals from Youri Tielemans, Emiliano Buendia and Morgan Rogers sealed an emphatic win against Freiburg.

Neymar suffers fresh injury

Neymar has suffered a new injury scare less than a month before Brazil's opening match of the FIFA WC against Morocco. The 34-year-old Santos star missed his team's home Copa Sudamericana match due to a calf injury.

WC squad already decided

Spain coach Luis de la Fuente said that he has already decided on the 26 players who will form his squad for this summer's World Cup. De la Fuente will name his squad on Monday.



I want to be the best player in the history of Egyptian football
- Mohamed Salah

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Anukul Roy replaces Harsh Dubey in India 'A'

All-rounder Anukul Roy has been added to the India A squad for the upcoming tri-series against Sri Lanka. The 27-year-old has replaced Harsh Dubey, who has received his maiden call-up to India's Test and ODI squads for the upcoming series against Afghanistan. The tri-series, scheduled to be held from June 9-21 in Dambulla, will also feature hosts Sri Lanka 'A', and Afghanistan 'A'. Tilak Varma has been named the captain of the side.



'Want to make winning a habit'



Ahead of the Women's T20 World Cup, India captain Harmanpreet Kaur said that the Women in Blue want to make 'winning a habit' after their historic Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 title win. She believes the landmark victory has shifted the team's ambitions from chasing history to building sustained dominance.



Chaliha in QFs, Malvika bows out

India's Ashmita Chaliha continued her impressive run at the Malaysia Masters, storming into the women's singles quarterfinals with a 21-13, 21-16 win over Malaysia's Goh Jin Wei at the Stadium Axiata Arena in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday. Starting from the qualifiers, Ashmita looked

in complete control against the World No. 55. With the victory, Ashmita reaches the quarterfinals of a Super 500 event for the third time in her career. Malvika bowed out in the second round after a loss to former European Games champion Kjaersfeldt of Denmark on Thursday.

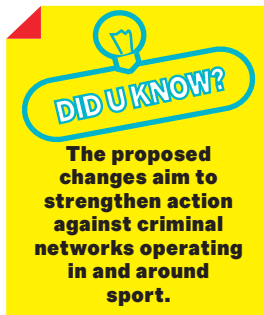
Freeing sport from crime

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has placed the proposed amendments to India's anti-doping legal framework in the public domain for consultation

Stricter anti-doping framework



The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has placed the proposed amendments to India's anti-doping legal framework in the public domain for consultation, seeking to introduce criminal penalties for organised doping activities while protecting athletes from criminal prosecution for standard anti-doping violations.



The proposed changes aim to strengthen action against criminal networks operating in and around sport.



The proposed amendments are aimed at tackling the wider ecosystem that enables doping in sport, including traffickers, illegal suppliers, organised syndicates, and support personnel involved in the commercial distribution and administration of banned substances and methods. The proposed framework seeks to criminalise a

range of activities linked to organised doping networks. These include trafficking and unauthorised sale or distribution of prohibited substances and methods, organised commercial activities related to doping, sale of prohibited substances without prescribed labelling, and advertisements or paid promotions encouraging doping practices.

Mo Salah headlines Egypt's WC squad

Ahead of the nation's final training camp this month, the Egyptian Football Association has announced a preliminary 27-player squad for the FIFA WC, with coach Hossam Hassan's selection highlighting a core group of ever-present

stars, including Mohamed Salah, Omar Marmoush, Trezeguet, and Mohamed Abdelmonem. Of the 27 players from the preliminary squad, only 26 players are to be selected after the friendly match against Russia scheduled for May 28.

FP SCHOOL EDITOR: AMRISH HERDENIA

FP SCHOOL is a publication for and of school students. Principals, teachers, parents and students are welcome to send news and pictures of functions held at schools, students who have excelled in different fields and stories, poems etc penned by students for publication to: freepresschool@gmail.com

Simple, creative projects & recipes to brighten your days



TINA KHATRI

Summer is the perfect time to get hands-on with simple crafts and refreshing snacks. From turning empty bottles into charming bird feeders to whipping up vibrant Indori-style Cucumber-Paneer Bhel Cups, these activities are easy, fun, and perfect for sharing with friends or family.

Each project uses everyday materials or ingredients you likely already have, making it a great way to enjoy creativity without extra cost. Dive in, make something delightful, and savour both the process and the results!

INDORI-STYLE Cucumber-Paneer Bhel Cups

INGREDIENTS (FOR 4 CUPS)

- ▶ 1 cup cucumber, diced small
- ▶ 1 cup paneer, cubed small
- ▶ 1 cup puffed rice (murmura)
- ▶ 1/2 cup sev
- ▶ 1 small tomato, finely chopped
- ▶ 1 small onion, finely chopped
- ▶ 1 small raw mango, diced finely
- ▶ 2-3 tsp tamarind chutney (imli)
- ▶ 1-2 tsp green chutney
- ▶ 1 tsp chaat masala
- ▶ 1/2 tsp roasted cumin powder
- ▶ Salt & black pepper to taste
- ▶ Fresh coriander leaves, chopped
- ▶ Lemon wedges

STEPS

1. Mix the base: In a large bowl, combine cucumber, paneer, puffed rice, raw mango and tomato/onion.
2. Add chutneys: Drizzle tamarind chutney and green chutney to taste.
3. Season: Sprinkle chaat masala, cumin powder, salt, and pepper.
4. Top it off: Add sev and chopped coriander.
5. Serve: Squeeze a little lemon juice before eating. Serve immediately in small cups or bowls.



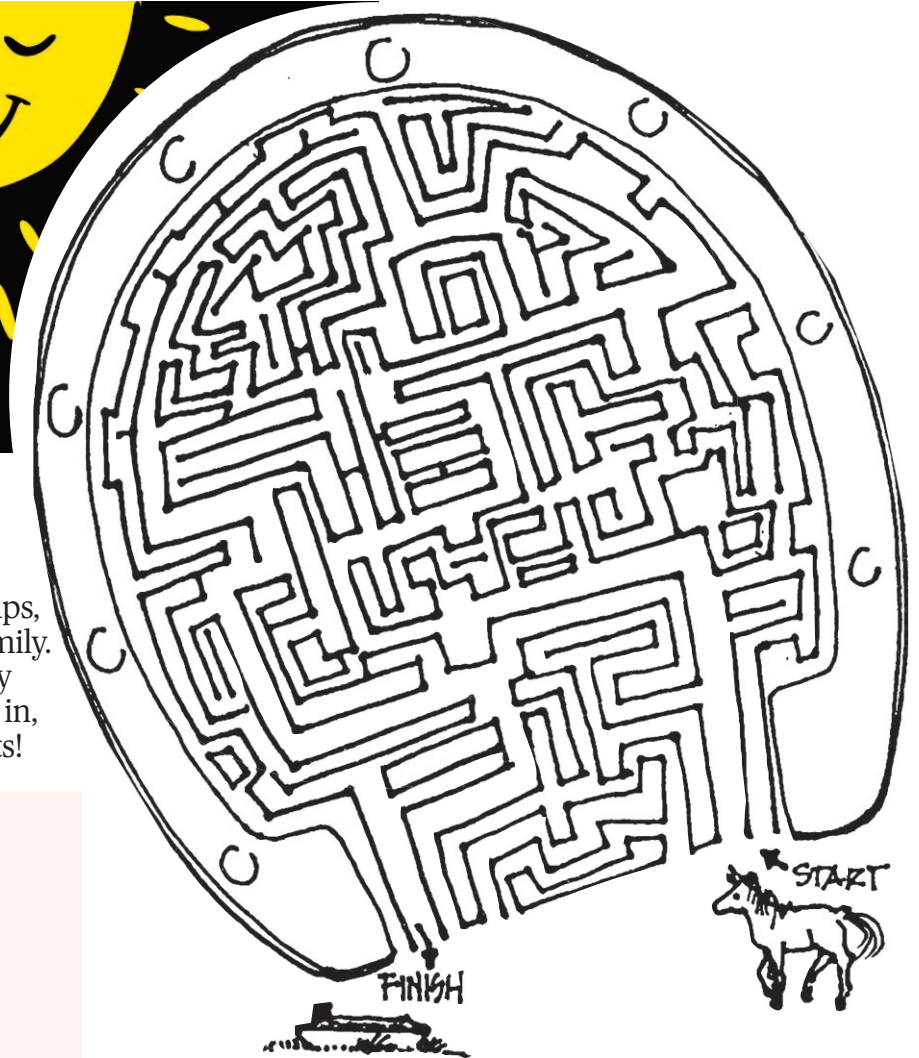
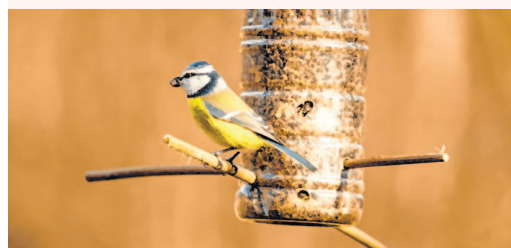
Bird feeder

MATERIALS:

- ▶ Empty plastic bottle (1-2 liters)
- ▶ Scissors or craft knife
- ▶ Wooden spoon or stick
- ▶ String or wire for hanging
- ▶ Birdseed

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Wash and dry the bottle, removing labels.
2. Cut two holes opposite each other near the bottom, just wide enough for the spoon or stick to pass through.
3. Directly below each hole, cut a small hole so the birdseed can drop onto the spoon.
4. Insert the spoon or stick through the holes so it sticks out evenly on both sides.
5. Unscrew the cap and fill the bottle with birdseed, then screw the cap back on.
6. Make two small holes near the top of the bottle and thread a string or wire through to hang your feeder.
7. Hang the feeder from a tree branch or hook, refill birdseed as needed, and enjoy watching the birds!



The Summer of _____ was 2. _____
Last summer, 1. _____ (person) was 2. _____
(verb ending in -ing) in 3. _____ (place) when 4. _____
(pronoun) discovered a 5. _____ (adjective)
6. _____ (object/portal). It glowed 7. _____
(color) and smelled like 8. _____ (food or object).
Suddenly, 9. _____ (creature) 10. _____ (verb
ending in -ed) out and shouted, "11. _____!"
Stepping through, 12. _____ (pronoun) landed on 13. _____
(adjective) 14. _____ (terrain). A 15. _____
(creature) with 16. _____ (body part) like
17. _____ (object) said, "If you want to 18. _____
(verb), you must 19. _____ (verb) with 20. _____
(magical object)."
Along the way, 21. _____ (pronoun) had to 22. _____
(verb) past 23. _____ (obstacle/creature).
Using 24. _____ (spell/item), 25. _____ (pronoun)
26. _____ (verb) the 27. _____ (obstacle).
Finally, 28. _____ (pronoun) reached 29. _____
(magical location) and discovered 30. _____
(object/secret). The land of 31. _____ (fantasy land) 32. _____
(verb) in 33. _____ (adjective) celebration.

ANSWER KEY BOX: 1. Lila 2. exploring 3. her grandmother's attic 4. she 5. shimmering 6. mirror-portal 7. emerald 8. mint chocolate 9. tiny griffin 10. fluttered 11. Follow me! 12. she 13. sparkling 14. floating islands 15. talking owl 16. wings 17. silk scarves 18. save the land 19. dance 20. the Crystal Amulet 21. she 22. jump 23. shadow trolls 24. glowing wand 25. she 26. vanquished 27. lava pit 28. she 29. Emerald Tower 30. Book of Endless Stars 31. Dragonfly Sky 32. erupted 33. joyful



Trials and tribulations over NEET UG paper leak



he cancellation of NEET (UG) 2026 was deeply painful for lakhs of sincere students and their parents. Many children have studied day and night for years, sacrificing sleep, festivals, family functions, and personal happiness with only one dream — to become doctors and serve society.

For honest students, this is not merely an examination; it is an emotional journey built on hard work, discipline, and hope. Naturally, the decision has caused disappointment, mental stress, and uncertainty in countless homes across the country.

However, the credibility of a national examination is equally sacred. If even a small doubt arises about fairness and transparency, then protecting the future of deserving students becomes more important than convenience. A compromised examination would have caused lifelong injustice to honest candidates.

We appreciate that the Government and investigating agencies have taken



DR T P LAHANE,
Former Dean Grant
Medical College and
J J Hospital

the matter seriously. Now the entire focus should be on conducting a completely transparent, secure, and trustworthy re-examination with strict accountability at every level.

At this difficult moment, I appeal to students not to lose courage. One examination cannot define your capability or your future. Your hard work is never wasted. Parents must stand emotionally strong beside their children and protect them from fear, frustration, and misinformation.

The country owes an honest and fair system to every sincere student. The dreams and sacrifices of our young generation must be protected at any cost.



When an exam breaks an entire generation

For millions of Indian students, NEET is not just an entrance examination; it is years of sacrifice, pressure, sleepless nights, coaching fees worth lakhs, and the constant fear of failure packed into a single day. Families invest their life savings, students give up their teenage years, and many begin to build their entire identity around one examination. For countless aspirants, success in NEET is seen not merely as an academic achievement, but as the deciding factor of their future, social status, and self-worth.

Yet, when paper leaks and irregularities occur, it is students who suffer while institutions often escape accountability. NEET has now faced major paper leak controversies twice within just three years, raising a serious and deeply troubling question: what exactly is the system doing to protect the future of millions of students? An examination that determines careers for more than 22 lakh aspirants cannot afford repeated failures in transparency and security.

A single leaked paper can destroy the credibility of an examination overnight. One institutional failure becomes a personal disaster for thousands of hard-working students who spent years preparing honestly. Trust, once

broken, is extremely difficult to rebuild. Students begin to question whether merit still matters when dishonesty and negligence continue to interfere with such a crucial process.

What makes the situation even more painful is the emotional damage caused by re-examinations. Many students who performed well the first time are unable to repeat the same performance under renewed stress, anxiety, burnout, and fear. The human mind is not a machine that can simply restart after every failure of the system. Behind every rank and score is a student carrying exhaustion, uncertainty, and emotional pressure that often goes unnoticed.

Students currently in Classes 11 and 12 are watching all of this unfold with fear instead of motivation. Many are beginning to lose hope before even entering the examination hall. A nation cannot call itself youth-driven while repeatedly breaking the spirit, trust, and mental well-being of its youth.



Arya Gurjar,
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