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Shiromani Akali Dal Set For NDA Return?

SAD Backs Delimitation And Women's Reservation Bill After Sukhbir Badal Meets PM Modi



New Delhi: Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Saturday announced its support to the Delimitation Bill and the implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill. The development comes a day after party chief Sukhbir Badal met Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The Shiromani Akali Dal, at a meeting of its senior

leaders in Chandigarh today, demanded the immediate implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill in the country," Badal posted on X. He said that the party draws inspiration from the teachings of the Sikh Gurus, who championed the dignity, equality and equal rights of women. "The Shiromani Gurdwara

Parbandhak Committee (@SGPCAmritsar) has already set an example by providing for women's reservation in its House," he added. "After detailed deliberations on key issues before Parliament, the Shiromani Akali Dal also demanded a fair and equitable Delimitation that ensures equal

representation to all States," he added. The former Punjab DyCM further said, "The Shiromani Akali Dal supported the proposal which was put up by Govt of India at the floor of the house of uniform increase of 50% of seats of all states. The party emphasised that women reservation and Delimitation should be done immediately." For the unversed, Akali Dal had opposed the Delimitation Bill when Centre first brought it in Parliament in April and had voted against it along with the Opposition. The party had then described the bill as discriminatory towards Punjab, stating that the state will only see a marginal increase in seats while neighbouring states will gain more. With less than a year ahead of the Punjab Assembly elections, the support has intensified the buzz over former allies coming together.

'DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR GUIDANCE'

Raghav Chadha Spends Morning With PM Modi

New Delhi: Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha on Saturday shared details of his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, describing the interaction as a memorable and enriching experience. Chadha said he was grateful for the Prime Minister's time and guidance. "A morning I will cherish. Had the privilege of meeting Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji. A detailed and enriching interaction. Deeply grateful for his generous time and for the opportunity to benefit from his insights and guidance," Chadha

posted on X. A morning I will cherish. Had the privilege of meeting Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji. A detailed and enriching interaction. Deeply grateful for his generous time and for the opportunity to benefit from his insights and guidance. The meeting comes a day after Prime Minister Modi held a breakfast meeting with 45 Parliamentarians on Friday, a majority of whom had recently changed political affiliations and joined the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).



After All-Party Meet, Tamil Nadu To Pass Resolution Against Delimitation

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu government will pass a resolution in the assembly to formally register its objection to any move to begin delimitation in the state, following a meeting between all-party MPs and Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay today. The leaders decided to unilaterally say no to any delimitation exercise, citing the state cannot afford to see a change in the number of seats for elected representatives at least for

40-50 years, sources said. "We will not support delimitation. Chief Minister Vijay has taken a very good step by convening this all-party meeting. If delimitation is implemented, democracy will no longer remain in its true sense. The chief minister has reaffirmed his commitment to protecting the interests and rights of the people of Tamil Nadu," Congress MP Jothimani said. The leaders said they want the status quo to con-



tinue and won't support any change. MPs belonging to the ruling TVK alliance including from the Congress, VCK, MDMK

and IUML and also friendly parties such as the CPI and CPI(M) took part in the meeting. In total, 19 MPs participated. The opposition DMK in the state had however decided to boycott the MPs' consultation meeting, with its Deputy General Secretary Kanimozhi Karunanidhi questioning Vijay's priorities and instead, challenging him to take action against Karnataka's proposed Mokedatu dam.

CM Chandrababu Naidu Calls for Countering Opposition Conspiracies

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, August 8: Training classes were conducted for unit in-charges at the TDP central office. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, who attended the training programme, provided guidance on government schemes and party programmes. He said the training was aimed at developing leadership qualities among party workers. The Chief Minister urged party workers to understand the party's ideology and explain the government's good work to the people. He warned that if the government failed to communicate its achievements, there was a risk that people might believe false propaganda. He directed party workers to counter the conspiracies of the "Axe Party" at every stage and respond firmly to its attempts to mislead the public. Naidu said the "Axe Party" had attempted to spread misinformation regarding the conduct of the DSC examinations, but the government was able to



give strong counterarguments. He said the government had clearly explained that there were no irregularities in the conduct of the DSC examinations. As a result, leaders from several parties, except the "Axe Party," were openly stating that no mistakes had occurred, he said. He added that teachers recruited through the DSC had staged a protest on Saturday condemning the conduct of the "Axe Party." The Chief Minister said that if the government's good work was properly explained to the people, they themselves would

thwart the opposition's conspiracies. He cited the inauguration of Bhogapuram Airport as an example of how people cooperate and become partners when governments undertake good development works. Naidu said the teachers' protest against the "Axe Party" in Kurnool was another example of how people can expose conspiracies when the government acts transparently and presents the facts. He said he had recently presented a progress report on the state's financial situation. Despite facing several fi-

nancial difficulties, the government was putting the systems back on track while pursuing welfare and development, he said. The Chief Minister stated that the party was supreme for everyone, from an ordinary worker to the top party leader. He said he was continuously monitoring developments in every constituency. He made it clear that there would be zero tolerance toward those who ignored party workers or acted against party policies. Naidu asserted that there was no question of the "Axe Party" returning to power in the state. He directed party workers to ensure that, in every election, each booth secures more votes than it did in the previous elections. He observed that the conduct of government officials, public representatives and party leaders has a significant impact on the party's vote share. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu assured that steps would be taken to ensure due respect for unit and cluster in-charges and mandal presidents.

“Is There Even a Single DSC Candidate in the Axe Party’s Protests?”: CM

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, August 8: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu made it clear that everyone has the right to stage protests democratically. However, he warned YSRCP leaders that the government would not tolerate protests that cause inconvenience to the public. He said no violation of the law would be tolerated. Speaking informally to the media at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri on Saturday, the Chief Minister said the government would not remain silent if protests were held at bus stands or along roads in a manner that inconvenienced the public. CM Chandrababu questioned whether there was even a single DSC candidate among those participating

in the "Axe Party" protests, apart from alleged rowdies and members of the "ganja gang." He recalled that all those who participated in the protest in Kurnool city on Saturday were teachers selected through the Mega DSC recruitment. He said the teachers selected through DSC had collectively demonstrated their self-respect in response to the alleged damage caused by the "Axe Party." The Chief Minister said two major projects would be inaugurated by the end of August. He stated that the Veligonda project and the Uttaraandhra Sujala Sravanthi project up to Anakapalle would be realised this month. He expressed confidence that Uttaraandhra Sujala Sravanthi would be ex-



tended up to Visakhapatnam next year. Naidu also said that two key projects related to Amaravati would be launched this month. The Seed Axis Road would be inaugurated and MLA and MLC quarters would also be made available, he said. He added that construction works in the capital city of Amaravati were progress-

ing rapidly even during the monsoon. The Chief Minister said the Srisailem reservoir was likely to fill up within two days due to rains in the upper catchment areas. Subsequently, water was also expected to reach the Nagarjuna Sagar reservoir, he said. Naidu said the White Paper released on the state's financial affairs had received a good response among the people. He recalled that he had studied for 10 hours to prepare the presentation. He announced that a White Paper on the state's financial situation would be released every year hereafter. He said people would understand the situation only when the government clearly explained the state's financial position.

“We Won’t Stay Silent If You Speak Out of Line”: Bonda Uma Warns YSRCP Leaders

From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, August 8: TDP MLA Bonda Uma strongly criticised YSRCP leaders on Saturday, accusing them of unnecessarily creating controversy over the DSC examinations. Speaking to the media, he questioned whether they could take to the streets and use abusive language in the name of protests. Bonda Uma warned YSRCP leaders to keep their criticism dignified, saying that if they continued making objectionable remarks, they would face a strong response. He questioned why YSRCP leaders had failed to attend the

debate after he challenged them to discuss the DSC issue. He said that the TDP would not remain silent if opposition leaders came onto the streets and used abusive language. He further said, "Do you think you can insult us and expect us to remain silent? If I decided to resort to rowdiness, would you be able to move around freely on the streets?" He claimed that his constituency was among the top eight in the state in terms of development and resolution of public issues. The TDP leader warned that if YSRCP leaders crossed

the limits in their statements, they would receive a similar re-



sponse. Referring to YSRCP leader Perni Nani, he warned that if

they continued making irresponsible remarks, he would confront them and "settle the matter." He said intervention would be necessary only when political discourse crossed the limits. Bonda Uma also said he would not remain silent if Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu or Minister Nara Lokesh were insulted. Responding to remarks that he would not receive a party ticket, he said, "Who are you to say that I will not get a ticket? If our leader Chandrababu decides, he will give me the seat. You should worry about yourselves; you have no standing there."

I Will Stay Ten Steps Ahead of My Enemies: Budda Venkanna

From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, August 8: Budda Venkanna took oath as the TDP in-charge of the Vijayawada West Assembly constituency. TDP leaders and workers also grandly celebrated his birthday along with the oath-taking ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, Budda Venkanna expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh. He criticised a former Member

of Parliament for allegedly damaging the constituency. He said, "We will take four steps back for the party, but stay ten steps ahead when it comes to our enemies." Venkanna said Vellampalli Srinivas entered politics in 2009. He criticised Srinivas, saying he was not a political leader but a "lobbying leader" who relied on influence and recommendations. He further alleged that Srinivas was a "political chameleon" and made sev-

eral sharp remarks against him. Venkanna warned that he would not remain silent if Srinivas made what he described as irresponsible remarks against the Telugu Desam Party, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Lokesh. MP Kesineni Chinni, Vijayawada East MLA Gadde Rammohan Rao, NTR district TDP president Gadde Anuradha, Corporation Chairman Pattabhi, Politburo member Shareef,



other corporation chairpersons, senior leaders and TDP workers attended the oath-taking ceremony.

EDITORIAL

How sweet are wars!

Are we fed up with the wars that are going on around us? Are we also afraid? Yes, because we are ordinary people. But for some, every war is a celebration. The losses they cause to us as humans and to the world are many times greater than the gains they bring. Just look at the three wars currently going on between Ukraine and Russia, Iran and America, and Israel and Palestine and Israel and America, and you will learn these two things. In fact, wars have always existed, but the extreme loss of life and property caused by them became known to everyone in modern times in the First World War (1914-18). The number of dead and wounded is estimated at 40 million. There are no accounts of property losses. The losses continued in various forms in the post-war period as well. The countries that observed this, including those that fought the wars themselves, pretended to be enlightened. They established an organization called the League of Nations in 1920 to establish peace and security in the world. The world was happy to see that. But that happiness did not last long. Less than 20 years later, World War II broke out in 1939. It lasted until 1945. This time, the number of dead and wounded doubled to 80 million. Other losses are unimaginable. The impact of World War I caused economic collapse and led to a recession (1920-21), which worsened later (1929). It took 1520 years for Europe to recover after World War II. Just like after the First War, those elders were enlightened again after the Second War. They said that the United Nations was being established in 1945 to ensure peace and security in the world, this time stronger than the League of Nations. The Security Council, the International Court of Justice, and various international laws were added to that organization. Seeing that, the world hoped that at least this time, something good might happen.

This happiness did not last long. Since then, the wars, big and small, that have taken place and are still taking place are countless. Not to mention the losses. If we look to the future, some new wars are already brewing. Others seem likely to erupt at any moment. Why is all this happening? What are the reasons? Who is responsible? For whose benefit is all this happening? Who will bear the losses? Who wants wars? Who does not want them? Whose desires are there signs of fulfillment? What is the ultimate solution to this problem? Let's return to the three current wars mentioned above. The first is Russia-Ukraine. It began with Russia's invasion and occupation of Ukraine's Crimea in 2014. Immediately after that, the Russian-majority population of Donbass, in eastern Ukraine, began an uprising against the government there. Since then, the conflict has escalated into a full-scale war, escalating to a full-scale war in 2022. In the past four years, Russia has occupied about 80 percent of the territory of Donbass. The war is ongoing. The question is why there is a war. This issue has been discussed repeatedly, so the reasons are known to everyone. However, since the occasion has arisen, it is worth mentioning it briefly. After the collapse of the former Soviet Union in 1991, the Warsaw Pact, which was led by it, was also dissolved. When these two rivals in the then bipolar world were no longer there, the NATO military alliance led by the US was no longer needed. But that alliance was continued. Moreover, contrary to the promise given to Russia that NATO would not expand any further, more European countries were included in that military organization and were taken towards Russia's borders. In that process, Ukraine became the last border. That's how the problem started. Russia repeatedly asked that Ukraine not be included in NATO. However, America and Europe turned a deaf ear and refused to give such a guarantee. With that, Russia began two types of actions for its self-defense. One, the occupation of Crimea, where the Russian speakers are in the majority. That was done quickly. Then, an attempt to take over the Donbas, where the Russian speakers are in the majority. If these two things happened, their strategy was that these two regions could stand as a defensive wall between them and Europe. If that is the case, the question is what is the purpose of America and Europe in expanding NATO when both the Warsaw Pact and the Soviet Union have dissolved and there is no longer any threat to them. If they had not done that, the Russia-Ukraine war would not have happened in the first place, right? There is no secret in this. Russia, the largest country in the world, has immense natural resources. Therefore, America and Europe have calculated that if Russia is treated the same way as the Soviet Union was broken up, they will not only be in their hands, but that country will never be able to compete with them again. Thus, this war has become very sweet. They are pushing Ukraine forward like a dice and supplying them with weapons and waging a continuous war. Their companies are profiting from selling weapons and lending money to that country. No one can say how long this will go on. The second war, Palestine and Gaza, is similarly bittersweet. According to the original United Nations resolution of 1947, Palestine and Israel should be two independent states. But since then, Israel, America, and Europe have been known to disrupt it. Israel believes that if that resolution is implemented, its goal of Greater Israel will not be achieved, while the American alliance is skeptical that it will be hindered in that region, which is rich in energy resources, and that it will face problems in its geostrategic strategies. So it is clear what everyone has been doing together for the past eight decades. This did not start with the recent surprise attack on Israel by Hamas militants in 2023. This is just a new phase. We are also seeing two new situations in this phase. US President Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu are openly declaring that they will completely occupy Gaza, expel its people, and build resorts. Accordingly, on the one hand, the Israeli army is continuously carrying out a massacre against the Palestinian people, while on the other hand, the American president is establishing a fraudulent organization called the 'Board of Peace' under his chairmanship and is taking steps to cooperate with Israel. While this is the situation in Gaza, Netanyahu, who has declared that the West Bank, the second part of Palestine, is not actually part of Palestine, is continuing to occupy that area in various ways. Thus, this second war has also become sweet with sweet goals. If the situation continues like this, the United Nations resolution declaring Palestine a separate state will soon become null and void. That talk has already started in the Western world. Meanwhile, companies ranging from American and European to Indian companies are making sweet profits by selling weapons to Israel.

84 Years After Quit India Movement, The Nation We Must Still Build

On August 8, 1942, at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Bombay, the Indian National Congress launched the Quit India Movement, or “Bharat Chhod Aandolan”. That evening, Mahatma Gandhi delivered a historic address that redefined India's struggle for self-determination. Striking at the core of colonial subjugation, Gandhi issued an unequivocal mandate to the nation: "Do or Die." Eighty-four years later, as India reflects on this pivotal milestone, the Quit India Movement stands out as the ultimate mass movement that rendered British rule in India untenable. By 1942, the geopolitical landscape of World War II had brought the global crisis to India's doorstep. Japanese forces were advancing rapidly across South-east Asia, while the British imperial administration unilaterally dragged India into the global conflict without consulting its elected leadership in the provinces. The failure of the Cripps Mission in early 1942 shattered any remaining hope for a peaceful constitutional transition to self-rule during the war. Frustration turned into resolute action as Gandhi, alongside leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, recognised that incremental demands were no longer sufficient. Nothing short of immediate, complete independence (Purna Swaraj) would suffice. Gandhi called upon every Indian to imprint the mantra of "Do or Die" upon their hearts, declaring that they would either free India or perish in the attempt.

The British authorities

moved swiftly to crush the rebellion before it could organise. In the early morning hours of August 9, 1942, the colonial government arrested almost the entire top leadership of the Indian National Congress under emergency war regulations. Far from smothering the movement, this widespread crackdown transformed it into an unprecedented, decentralised groundswell of popular defiance. Courageous figures who evaded arrest stepped up to guide the nation from underground networks. Aruna Asaf Ali famously hoisted the Indian Tricolour at Gowalia Tank Maidan on August 9, while leaders such as Jayaprakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia, and Usha Mehta (who operated a secret underground radio station) kept the public informed and motivated. Across the country, students, farmers, factory workers, and women took to the streets in massive numbers. Boys hawking newspapers chanted “Times of India! Quit India”. Strikes, public demonstrations, and non-cooperation crippled communications and the colonial administrative machinery. In regions such as Ballia in Uttar Pradesh, Tamruk in Bengal, and Satara in Maharashtra, local citizens went so far as to temporarily oust imperial officials and establish independent parallel governments. Though countered with severe state repression, including tens of thousands of arrests, military firings, and strict censorship, the sheer scale of public resistance demonstrated that British moral and administrative authority had collapsed beyond repair.

The Quit India Movement



served as the final countdown to independence in 1947. While the immediate uprisings were forcefully suppressed within months, the movement made it unmistakably clear to the imperial power that governing hundreds of millions of rebellious citizens was an impossibility. Five years later, the ultimate goal was achieved. There is one negative that must be acknowledged. By going to jail in large numbers, the Indian nationalists ceded space to British collaborators, and notably the Muslim League, to assume power in the provinces that they had not earned in the elections. This they used to distribute patronage and taxpayer funds to their supporters, build up their organisation and establish an uncontested dominance they had never previously enjoyed. While jailed Congressmen were cut off from the people, the League went from 2 lakh members before the

war to 2 crore at the end of it. When the elections of 1946 came, the League swept the Muslim seats, which they had never done before. Coming to power in Punjab, Sind and Bengal, they demanded Partition. The vivisection of the country became inevitable. Still, observing the 84th anniversary of August Kranti is far more than an exercise in historical memory. It is an enduring tribute to the power of citizen agency, moral conviction, and collective courage. In an evolving world, the spirit of 1942 serves as a reminder that nation-building is an ongoing responsibility, continuously fuelled by the same passion for justice, unity, and self-reliance that filled the air at Gowalia Tank eight decades ago. That collective spirit cannot remain locked in the past, for political independence was merely the first phase of the national journey. Today, nation-building pre-

sents a new frontier of challenges, from narrowing economic disparities and fostering social cohesion to pioneering technological advancement and navigating climate resilience. Just as the generation of 1942 took collective ownership of the country's destiny, the responsibility now falls on India's citizens today to safeguard democratic institutions, promote inclusive growth, maintain social harmony among all our fellow-citizens and uphold the ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity. The "Do or Die" resolve of the freedom struggle no longer finds its contemporary echo in resistance to foreign rulers. But its spirit demands of us active civic participation, unyielding moral responsibility, and a shared commitment to building a progressive, self-reliant India for generations to come.

10 Years Of Losses, One Historic IPO : How China Built A \$488 Billion Chip Miracle

On July 26, 2026, CXMT Corp., formerly ChangXin Memory Technologies, sold 6.688 billion shares at 8.66 yuan apiece on the Shanghai Stock Exchange's STAR Market. Read those numbers again. In Chinese numerology, six signifies smoothness, and eight, prosperity. An issue price and share count composed entirely of sixes and eights is not an accident of arithmetic. Somewhere in the structuring of the second-largest IPO in China's history, exceeded only by Agricultural Bank of China's 10-billion-dollar sale in 2010, someone decided that the state's memory chip champion needed luck as well as capital. It received both. On July 27, the first day of trading, the stock rose 466% to close at 49 yuan, valuing the company at 3.3 trillion yuan, about 488 billion dollars, making it the most valuable company listed on the mainland. Turnover in the single stock was 141 billion yuan, nearly 7% of all transactions in China's onshore market that day. The retail tranche had been oversubscribed 212 times, with 9.4 million individual orders worth 7.07 trillion yuan. The debut was not really about one company. It was a referendum, conducted in household savings, on whether China can build a semiconductor industry the world cannot ignore. The verdict deserves examination.

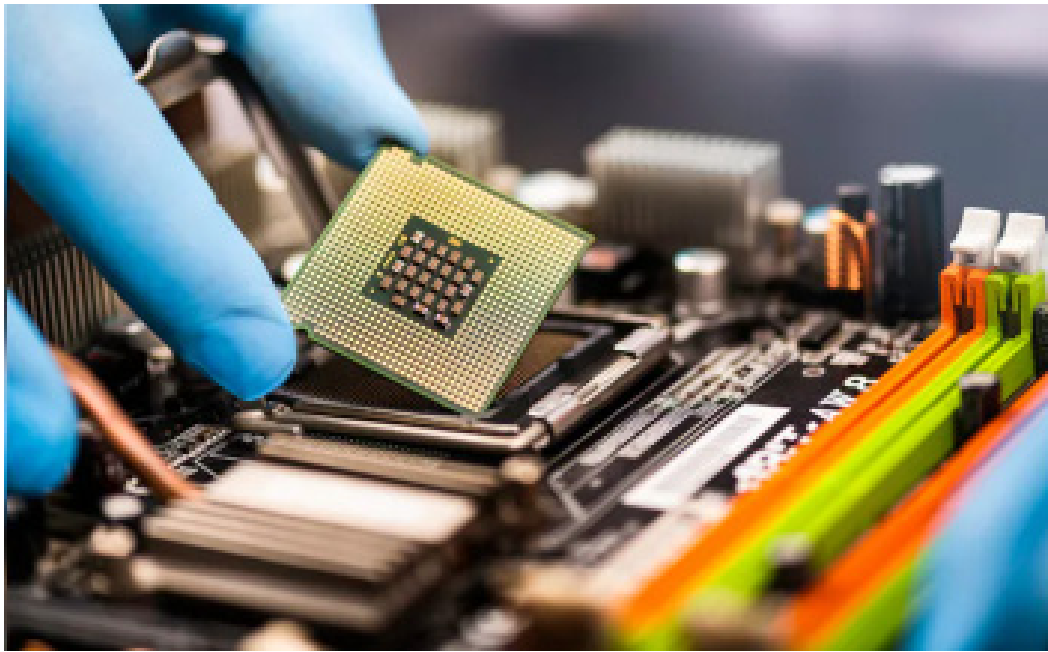
It Was Never A Smooth Sail

First, the facts, shorn of froth. CXMT was founded in 2016 in Hefei, capital of Anhui, a city better known than for white goods rather than wafers. The Hefei municipal government took an 80% stake in the first phase of a 150-billion-yuan memory fab (semiconductor fabrication) project, the largest single industrial investment Anhui had made. For a decade, the company lost money, about 5 billion dollars in total. Then, demand for dynamic random access memory, the workhorse chip that feeds data to processors, exploded with the AI data centre buildout. Revenue grew roughly 700% be-

tween 2025 and 2026, reaching 7.5 billion dollars in the first quarter of 2026 alone. Counterpoint Research puts CXMT's share of the global DRAM (Dynamic Random-Access Memory) market at 8%, up from 3% a year earlier; Omdia had it at 7.67% in the fourth quarter of 2025, fourth in the world behind Samsung, SK Hynix and Micron. All this happened after the Bureau of Industry and Security's export controls of October 7, 2022, which cut Chinese chipmakers off from advanced equipment, and despite Washington's on-again, off-again threat to put CXMT on the dreaded 'Entity List', a designation planned in 2025 and then withdrawn as part of a bargain over tariffs and rare earths. What does this mean for the world? Five implications suggest themselves.

The Disruptor Arrives

First, the memory oligopoly is broken, or, at least, breached. For three decades, DRAM has been a three-firm affair, prone to brutal cycles: losses in 2023, gross margins above 80% at Micron and SK Hynix in 2026. Chris Miller, author of Chip War, calculates that the world will spend nearly 0.7% of global GDP on memory chips this year, against a two-decade average in which all semiconductor companies together took 0.47%. Into this seller's market walks a fourth producer, roughly half owned by government-linked entities, which has already demonstrated a ten-year tolerance for losses. Prices will, obviously, eventually reflect that. Second, export controls have produced a paradox their authors did not intend. Denied the most advanced lithography tools, CXMT and its peers concentrated on advanced packaging and on wringing more from older equipment, working with end users such as Huawei. Limiting CXMT may help it leapfrog over incumbents who delay innovation to protect returns on existing machines. Necessity, as ever, is unsentimental about intellectual property regimes. Third, the world's technology market is bifurcat-



ing. Apple, facing memory prices that forced it to raise iPad and MacBook prices, has lobbied Washington for permission to buy Chinese DRAM. On July 16, 2026, the chairman of the House Select Committee on China wrote to the Commerce Secretary demanding the opposite: CXMT's addition to the Entity List and a directive barring American firms from buying Chinese memory. When the world's most valuable company must petition two governments to purchase a commodity chip, the word "market" is doing heavy lifting.

Learn From The 'Bog Fund'

Fourth, capital markets have become an instrument of industrial policy. China's Big Fund, a massive state-backed investment vehicle established in 2014 to achieve self-sufficiency in semiconductors and critical tech, has committed roughly 680 billion yuan of state money in total across three phases; the STAR Market (China's tech equities market) now channels household savings into the same sectors, with Yangtze Memory, Baidu's Kunlunxin and possibly DeepSeek, queued behind CXMT. The Hang Seng China Semiconductor Chips Index has risen 65.25% in a year. Whether 49 yuan, over 1,600 times earnings, is a price or a prayer is a separate question.

The mobilisation is the point. Fifth, dependence is being reversed, not removed. The strategic anxiety of the last decade was the world's reliance on Taiwan for logic chips. The next may be reliance on China for memory, built by capacity added without concern for near-term profitability. And what can one learn from China? Four things, at least.

Time Is The Challenge

One, patience is the rarest but the most critical input. Hefei carried a loss-making fab for ten years. India approved the Semicon India programme on December 15, 2021, with Rs 76,000 crore; Micron's Sanand plant is packaging chips and the Tata fab at Dholera expects first silicon in 2026 to 2027. The test is not the announcement. The test is whether the exchequer's nerve survives a decade of red ink. Two, constraints can be converted into curriculum. China's chipmakers learnt multi-patterning, packaging and design economy because they had no choice. A country entering at the trailing edge should treat the trailing edge as a school, not a humiliation. Three, build the supply chain, not the trophy. The third phase of the Big Fund, 344 billion yuan registered in May 2024, is directed less at fabs than at equipment, materials, and components. A fab with-

out an equipment and chemicals hinterland is just an expensive photo opportunity. Four, demand is policy too. China's National Bureau of Statistics reports 279.8 billion integrated circuits produced in the first half of 2026, up 23.1%. Those chips had buyers: automobiles, appliances, telecom, data centres running open-source Chinese models that Trendforce says hold about 15% of the global AI model market. A domestic market that absorbs imperfect early output is what allows yield curves to climb.

The Inevitability Of 'Good Enough' Chips

The wider frame is uncomfortable for both cheerleaders and sceptics. The sceptics should note that "good enough" chips, made at scale and sold cheap - they are already 30% of the world's legacy chip market on Rhodium Group's estimate - are how industries are actually conquered. The cutting edge is where reputations are made, sure. But the trailing edge is where money is. The cheerleaders should note the caveats. China currently has no EUV (extreme ultraviolet) lithography, the manufacturing technology critical for producing microchips. It does reportedly have a domestic immersion DUV (deep ultraviolet) lithography tool, but that will ship in single digits this year, against ASML's 130.

Art Should Reach the People, Not Remain Confined to Walls: Minister Dr. Pemmasani

Guntur, August 8, Pen Power: Union Minister of State Commission. Speaking to artists, sculptors and students, Dr. Pemmasani said art was one of the oldest forms of human expression and reflected a society's culture, history and heritage. He appreciated the initiative for bringing nearly 800 artists together on a single platform and providing them recognition and opportunities. He said art promotes mental well-being, creativity and new ideas, and stressed the need to encourage talent beyond conventional career choices. Dr. Pemmasani appealed to the people of Guntur to visit the Art Street and experience folk, traditional, sculptural and modern art forms. He expressed hope that such programmes would be expanded in the future to bring greater recognition to artists and enhance the reputation of Guntur and Andhra Pradesh.



for Rural Development and Communications Dr. Pemmasani Chandrasekhar said art should not remain confined to galleries and walls but should reach the people. He inaugurated the two-day "Amaravati Chitrakala Veedhi" (Amaravati Art Street) programme at Koritapadu in Guntur, organised by the Andhra Pradesh Creative and Cultural

choices. Dr. Pemmasani appealed to the people of Guntur to visit the Art Street and experience folk, traditional, sculptural and modern art forms. He expressed hope that such programmes would be expanded in the future to bring greater recognition to artists and enhance the reputation of Guntur and Andhra Pradesh.

World Tribal Day Celebrations to Be Held Grandly in Polavaram District District-level celebrations on August 10 at Rampachodavaram Tribal culture, traditions and rights to be highlighted

Collector K. Dinesh Kumar

Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, August 8: The first-ever World Tribal Day celebrations after the formation of Polavaram district will be organised on a grand and innovative scale, District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar said in a statement issued on Saturday. The district-level celebrations will be held on August 10 at the Government Junior College premises in Rampachodavaram. Tribal communities, youth and cultural groups from various mandals will participate in programmes showcasing tribal culture, traditions and way of life. The Collector said the celebrations aim to introduce the rich tribal heritage to the public and create greater awareness about tribal rights. The event will feature sports competitions, traditional dances, folk performances, tribal art forms and cultural programmes. Special awareness sessions will also be conducted with legal experts and officials on tribal rights, the Forest Rights Act, PESA Act and 1/70 Act.

Cash Prizes for Cultural Competitions

Special competitions will be organised for skits and cultural performances reflecting tribal traditions. The winners will receive ₹30,000 for first prize, ₹20,000 for second prize and ₹10,000 for third prize. Selected teams will also get an opportunity to perform at the main district-level celebrations. Special exhibition stalls showcasing tribal traditions, handicrafts, cuisine and lifestyle will also be arranged. Collector Dinesh Kumar appealed to citizens, students, youth, voluntary organisations and cultural groups to participate in large numbers and make the celebrations a success.

The Collector conveyed his greetings to the tribal communities on World Tribal Day and reaffirmed the district administration's commitment to protecting their culture, traditions and rights.



Five-Day 'SPARK' Bootcamp Held at Vignan's Institute



Visakhapatnam, Pen Power, August 7: A five-day intensive bootcamp titled "SPARK – Idea Exploration and Validation" was successfully conducted at Vignan's Institute of Information Technology, Visakhapatnam, in collaboration with RTIH, from August 3 to 7. The programme aimed to promote entrepreneurial thinking among students and help them transform innovative ideas into feasible and sustainable startup ventures. Around 65 students from various branches, along with students and faculty from other institutions, participated.

on students' startup ideas. Principal Dr. J. Sudhakar and Rector Dr. V. Madhusudana Rao encouraged students to pursue innovation and entrepreneurship with dedication and perseverance. The bootcamp was coordinated by Dr. B. Omkar Lakshmi Jagan, with mentoring support from faculty and student ambassadors. The programme concluded successfully with the theme "Think, Innovate, Validate, Elevate," strengthening students' entrepreneurial skills and their ability to develop innovative, market-oriented solutions.

Experts conducted sessions on startup ecosystems, innovation frameworks, design thinking, customer discovery, idea exploration and business validation. Students were trained to identify real-world problems, develop innovative solutions, validate ideas and turn them into potential business ventures.

During the pitching sessions, Brijesh, Co-founder of Spread, and K. Vikas, Founder of Edumoon, shared their entrepreneurial experiences and provided valuable feedback

Training, Workshops and Job Melas to Empower Women: Collector Lakshmeesh

Vijayawada, August 8, Pen Power: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesh said the RISE Centre at Guntupalli in Ibrahimpattanam Mandal is playing a key role in empowering rural women by providing training, technical support, guidance and market opportunities. During his visit to the Self-Employment Expo at the RISE Centre on Saturday, the Collector inspected 27 stalls showcasing products made by women-led industrial units supported by the centre. He said daily training programmes, weekly workshops and job melas are being conducted at the centre. So far, 30 workshops have been organised, reaching nearly 5,000 women, many of whom have started successful enterprises. Lakshmeesh said the centre is helping women transform their skills and ideas into self-employment and business opportunities, particularly in food processing and value-added products. Training is also being provided in modern technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, along with awareness on ONDC and FSSAI certification. He urged aspiring women, irrespective of educational qualifications, to make use of the RISE Centre and called for collective efforts by DRDA, MEPMA and other departments to further strengthen the initiative.



Farmers Urged to Shift to Alternative Crops: Collector Saikanth Varma



Guntur, August 8, Pen Power: District Collector C.M. Saikanth Varma urged farmers to adopt alternative crops requiring less water in view of reduced rainfall and limited water availability due to the El Niño effect. Speaking at the Joint Guntur District Zilla Parishad General Body Meeting held at the ZP meeting hall on Saturday, the Collector directed officials to create awareness among farmers about low-water-consuming crops. He said 4,400 tonnes of DAP and 18,000 metric tonnes of urea were currently available in the district and warned of strict action against the sale of unauthorised mixed fertilisers

in the name of DAP.

ZP Chairperson Kattera Heni Christina said 710 development works worth ₹175 crore had been completed during the last five years and 127 compassionate appointments were made. Vemuru MLA Nakka Anand Babu also urged farmers in the delta region to opt for alternative crops instead of paddy. ZP CEO Jyothi Basu said ₹38.43 crore had so far been paid as compensation to farmers who gave land for the Guntur Channel project. Bapatla MP T. Krishna Prasad, MLC Mari Rajasekhar, MLAs, officials, ZPTCs and MPPs attended the meeting.

Collector Dinesh Kumar Meets District Principal Judge Discussions Held on Coordination Between Administration and Legal Services



Rampachodavaram, Pen Power, August 8: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar met the Principal District and Sessions Judge of the erstwhile East Godavari district, Junaid Ahmed Maulana, on Saturday as a courtesy call. The meeting was held at the residence of the Principal District Judge in Rajamahendravaram. The two discussed coordination between the district administration and the judiciary in implementing development and public welfare programmes. Special discussions were held on the arrangements for the "Mega Tribal Legal Literacy Camp and New Module Camp", to be organised at Rampachodavaram in connection with World Tribal Day. They also reviewed measures to expand legal services, strengthen legal awareness programmes and improve coordination between government departments and the judicial system. The Principal District Judge stressed the need for mutual cooperation and effective coordination to ensure that legal services reach the public more efficiently. Collector Dinesh Kumar conveyed his greetings to the Principal District Judge during the meeting.

Collector Focuses on Ongole Beautification

Ongole, August 8, Pen Power: Prakasam District Collector and Ongole Municipal Corporation Special Officer P. Rajababu has focused on the beautification and development of Ongole city. He conducted an extensive tour of the city on Saturday and inspected areas where development and beautification works are proposed.

As Ongole Municipality is set to complete 150 years by the end of next month, the Collector said plans are being prepared to install welcome arches at major entry points, statues of prominent personalities at key junctions, murals highlighting the city's history and heritage, increased greenery, art galleries and a Fame Wall featuring notable personalities.

Rajababu said a special plan be prepared in coordination with the Ongole MP and Ongole and Santhanuthalapadu MLAs and released within three days. He also reviewed repair works required at Prakasam Bhavan, the district administrative headquarters.



The Collector said efforts are being made to make the celebrations and beautification works a lasting landmark in Ongole's history. Municipal Commissioner Venkata Krishnayya, Municipal Engineer Esaiah and other officials accompanied him.

MongoDB Immersion Day Held at Pragati Engineering College

Gandepalli, Pen Power, August 8: Pragati Engineering College at Surampalem, in collaboration with ICT Academy, conducted "MongoDB Immersion Day" on Saturday.

The programme was attended by G.N. Basavadarshan, Senior Academia Partnership Manager, Asia-Pacific, MongoDB; Saravanan Gurusamy, Assistant Vice President-Academic Operations, ICT Academy; and Dr. N. Dinakar Reddy, State Head, Andhra Pradesh, ICT Academy.

An MoU was signed between Pragati Engineering College and MongoDB through ICT Academy to enhance students' industry-oriented technical skills, practical learning and career opportunities.

The speakers explained MongoDB database usage,

structure, latest features, coding, project development and the importance of communication skills.



College Chairman Dr. Paruchuri Krishna Rao, Director Management M.V. Haranatha Babu, Vice President M. Satish, Director-Academics Dr. K. Satyanarayana, Principal Dr. G. Naresh, faculty and students participated in the programme.

Road Repairs Accelerated with Pothole Repair Machine: Commissioner Mayur Ashok



Guntur, August 8, Pen Power:Guntur Municipal Commissioner K. Mayur Ashok said road repair works across the city have been expedited using an advanced Pothole

Repair Machine to ensure safer and pothole-free roads. He said recent rains caused potholes on several major and internal roads, creating difficulties for commuters and motorists. Around 800 potholes have been identified across the wards so far, of which nearly 540 have already been repaired.

The machine enables faster and quality repairs compared to conventional methods, helping restore roads with minimal disruption to traffic. Engineering officials have been instructed to closely monitor the works and ensure that quality is not compromised.

Priority is being given to major junctions, bus routes, schools and hospitals with heavy vehicular movement. Complaints received from the public are also being reviewed regularly to identify severely damaged stretches and take up immediate repairs.

Rs75 Lakh Worth of 15 Advanced Medical Equipment Donated to Siddhartha Medical College

Vijayawada, August 8: Alumni of Siddhartha Medical College donated 15 advanced medical equipment worth ₹75 lakh to the college hospital, with the aim of improving patient care and providing students exposure to modern medical technology. District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesh appreciated the alumni for supporting their alma mater and contributing to better healthcare services. Hospital Superintendent Dr. Raghunandan and Principal Dr. A.Y. Rao said the donated equipment, including a sterile connecting device and advanced gel technology, would significantly improve blood compatibility testing and transfusion services, particularly for children. Officials said nearly 6,000 patients received blood transfusion services at the hospital over the past six months. The new equipment is expected to further strengthen and streamline blood transfusion services.



Awareness Programme on Drug Abuse Held



Gandepalli, Pen Power, August 8: An awareness programme on drug abuse was organised by the National Service Scheme (NSS) at Aditya University, Surampalem,

Gandepalli mandal. B.V.S.S. Udayanath from the Narcotic Drugs Department addressed the students and explained the harmful effects of drug abuse, its impact on youth and the need to stay away from drugs.

As part of the programme, an essay-writing competition was also conducted. Aditya University Dean-Student Affairs Dr. Kishore and NSS Convenor Dr. Veeranjanyulu attended as chief guests. Associate Dean Vilas Anil Chavan and Department In-charge P.V. Nageswara Rao also participated and guided the students.

The chief guests appreciated the initiative aimed at creating awareness among youth about the dangers of drug abuse.

Vanrang 2026 Brings Maharashtra's Tribal Heritage To Mumbai, Showcases Art, Culture And Livelihoods

Mumbai: The second day of the three-day state-level 'Vanrang 2026' Tribal Culture Festival witnessed an overwhelming response from visitors at the Y.B. Chavan Centre in Nariman Point, Mumbai. The festival, which showcases the rich art, culture, traditions, handicrafts and lifestyle of Maharashtra's tribal communities, has brought the colours and heritage of remote tribal regions to one of Mumbai's most prominent locations. The second day witnessed the presence of NCP (SP) national president and senior leader Sharadchandra Pawar. His presence added significance to the event, where the efforts of Maharashtra minister Narhari Zirwal towards tribal development and promotion of tribal art and culture were appreciated. Several prominent personalities attended the event, including Pratibha Pawar, Padma Shri award-winning Tarpa player Bhiklya Dhingra, NCP youth leader Yugendra Pawar, Kalyan-Dombivli Mayor Harshali Thavil, former MLA Sunil Bhusara, Uran Municipal Council President Bhavanatai Ghanekar, Bigg Boss fame Shiv Thakare, Pravin Gaikwad, actress Medha Dhande and veteran actress Savita Malpekar.

One of the major highlights of 'Vanrang 2026' is the effort to connect tribal artisans, traditional healers, women's self-help groups and farmers directly with consumers. Traditional handicrafts, Warli and Gond paintings, organic agricultural products and natural medicinal products



are being showcased and sold directly to visitors. The initiative aims to reduce the role of middlemen and ensure that the financial benefits generated from the sale of tribal products reach the artisans and producers directly, thereby creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for tribal families. During the festival, Minister Narhari Zirwal's efforts towards tribal development, rights and the preservation of tribal heritage came in for appreciation. The focus has been on taking tribal development schemes beyond announcements and ensuring their implementation on the ground. According to the organisers, initiatives such as a Tribal Industrial Cluster and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) are aimed at providing tribal youth with skill development, education and employment opportunities.

Efforts are also being made to provide institutional and financial support to tribal athletes, artists, writers, traditional healers and students pursuing higher education.

'Vanrang 2026' is showcasing the rich traditions of the Bhil, Kokna, Thakur and Gond communities, including folk dances, traditional music, handicrafts, traditional attire and indigenous cuisine. A Tribal Mosaic Art installation created by renowned artist Chetan Raut near Marine Drive, opposite NCPA, has emerged as one of the major attractions of the festival. A photography exhibition by acclaimed photographer Colston Julian is also drawing considerable attention from visitors. The second day also featured discussions on the challenges faced by tribal athletes in the presence of Arjuna Award-winning athlete Kavita Raut and Anil Vasave, who became the first tribal mountaineer from Maharashtra to summit Mount Everest in May 2026. Masterclasses by Padma Shri awardees Rahibai Popere, popularly known as 'Seed Mother', and Bhiklya Dhingra were also organised. Visitors actively participated in live workshops on Warli and Gond painting, getting

an opportunity to experience tribal art firsthand. As part of the festival, the prestigious 'Vanrang Awards 2026' are being presented to the Swades Foundation for its contribution towards the development of 1,000 villages, Padma Shri Bhiklya Dhingra for Lifetime Achievement, mountaineer Anil Vasave in the field of sports, and IAS officer P. Anbalagan for his contribution to industrial development. The festival will conclude on August 9 with a grand closing ceremony. A special 'Tribal Lunch', featuring traditional dishes prepared by tribal women under the guidance of Taj chef Raghu Devra, will be another major attraction of the concluding day. With tribal art, culture and traditional knowledge finding a platform in the heart of Mumbai, 'Vanrang 2026' is emerging as an important initiative to promote tribal heritage, provide direct market access to tribal communities and create new opportunities for their economic empowerment.

Meta Restricts Instagram Post On Kashmir Pellet Victim Insha Mushtaq In India Under IT Rules

New Delhi: Meta has restricted access in India to an Instagram post based on a report about Kashmir pellet victim Insha Mushtaq, as the use of pellet guns has again come under scrutiny following recent protests at Jantar Mantar. The Instagram post, based on a report by The Hindu, was unavailable to users in India on Saturday afternoon, August 8. "We restricted access to this content pursuant to legal requirements under India's Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules," a message displayed on the link to the post read. The restriction comes amid renewed attention on the use of pellet guns after protests by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) and youths at Jantar Mantar on July 20. Pellets were used on protesters during the demonstration, bringing the controversial method back under scrutiny. The Supreme Court was also hearing petitions against the use of pellet guns. The latest developments have revived attention on people who suffered serious pellet injuries in Kashmir, including



Mushtaq, who was blinded in 2016. Amid the renewed focus, the Jammu and Kashmir government announced an LPG dealership for Mushtaq, 10 years after she suffered her injuries. Mushtaq was preparing for her Class 8 examination near a window at her home in July 2016 when security forces, who were chasing protesters, fired a barrage of pellets. Dozens of pellets struck her eyes, leaving her blind for life, The Hindu reports.

More than 6,000 civilians suffered pellet injuries in 2016 when street protests erupted following the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani in an

encounter in south Kashmir. Mushtaq's case became one of the stark reminders of the human cost of pellet use. A decade later, the renewed debate over pellets and the government's decision to provide her an LPG dealership have brought her story back into public focus. Meta's decision to restrict access to the Instagram post adds another dimension to the issue. While the message on the platform says the restriction was imposed pursuant to legal requirements under India's Information Technology rules, the information available does not specify the particular legal

direction or provision that resulted in the post being blocked. The episode also raises questions about public access to reporting on issues of significant public interest. When a story concerns the lasting consequences of the use of force and an issue being examined by the country's highest court, restricting access to such reporting deserves scrutiny. For Mushtaq, however, the renewed attention is tied to an injury that changed her life. Ten years after pellets blinded her, her experience has once again become part of a wider debate over their use.

India Kidney Transplant Crisis: Over 200 Patients Died Awaiting Transplants In 2025, Delhi Reported 132 Deaths

New Delhi: More than 200 people died in India in 2025 while waiting for a kidney transplant, with Delhi accounting for 132 deaths, the highest in the country, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha. In a written reply, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Prataprao Jadhav said 73,646 patients were awaiting kidney transplantation across the country as of July 27. The figures underline the enormous gap between the number of patients waiting for a kidney and the availability of organs for transplantation. Delhi has consistently reported the highest number of deaths among patients on the kidney transplant waiting list since 2021, according to the national registry portal.

In 2021, 176 people died in Delhi while waiting for a kidney. The number stood at 118 in 2022 and rose to 159 in 2023. Another 148 people died in 2024 before they could receive a kidney. The trend is worrying, particularly because the national capital continues to account for a substantial share of the reported

deaths. In 2025, Delhi recorded 132 deaths among people awaiting kidney transplants, TNIE reports. After Delhi, Rajasthan recorded the highest number of deaths among people on the kidney transplant waiting list in 2025, with 19 fatalities. Goa reported 17 deaths, Maharashtra 15, Madhya Pradesh 11, and Haryana 10. Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh recorded seven deaths each, while Bihar reported five and Punjab four. Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh reported two deaths each. Himachal Pradesh, Puducherry, and West Bengal recorded one death each.

Taken together, the figures show the human cost of waiting for an organ. For patients and their families, a place on the transplant waiting list can become a race against time. Jadhav said the government launched a nationwide, year-long public awareness campaign, Jug Jug Jiyo Abhiyaan, on August 3 to promote organ and tissue donation. The National Registry Portal has also been upgraded and launched as a digital plat-

form called e-Pratyaaropan. The platform aims to digitise organ donation and transplantation processes, improve transparency, and ensure smooth services for patients in need. The measures are important, but the number of people dying while awaiting transplantation also highlights the need for greater awareness about organ and tissue donation. Jadhav said that under the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA), 1994, and its rules, respective state governments are responsible for ensuring that transplant hospitals report data to the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Registry (NOTTR).

The registry is maintained by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO). NOTTO, along with Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisations (ROTTOS) and State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisations (SOTTOs), conducts awareness programmes across the country to spread information and promote organ and tissue donation by engag-

ing with various stakeholders. Awareness activities such as poster-making, slogan-writing, and special pledge campaigns are organised regularly to encourage organ and tissue donation. A 24x7 call centre with the toll-free helpline number 1800114770 is also operational to provide information, tele-counselling, and coordination for organ donation. Messages promoting donation are disseminated daily through social media platforms. Citizens can also pledge to donate organs and tissues through the NOTTO web portal. More than five lakh Aadhaar-verified pledges have been registered so far. While awareness campaigns, digital systems, and pledges are steps towards strengthening the transplantation system, the deaths of more than 200 people in a single year serve as a stark reminder of what is at stake. For thousands of patients still waiting for a kidney, greater organ donation can mean the difference between receiving a transplant in time and never getting that chance.

Assam Government Releases 10 Captive-Bred Vultures Into Biswanath Wildlife Division In Conservation Milestone

Dispur: In a significant step towards strengthening vulture conservation in Assam, the state government has released 10 captive-bred vultures into the Biswanath Wildlife Division. The initiative aims to support the recovery of declining vulture populations and restore the ecological balance in the region. Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah released 10 captive-bred vultures into the wild from the Jatayu Aviary at Tewaripal in Biswanath Wildlife Division.

The programme formed the highlight of the Minister's visit to Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve and Nameri Tiger Reserve, during which the minister has also inaugurated the Florican Eco-Reserve, the Florican Eco-Tourism Gate at Naramari

and the Nameri Silver Jubilee Conference Hall, besides launching several



community development initiatives.

Assam's release of captive-bred vultures marks a historic milestone, as it is the first-ever release of captive-bred slender-billed vultures equipped with GSM-GPS satellite

transmitters for post-release monitoring anywhere in the world. The

populations in India witnessed a severe decline over the past few decades, particularly due to the use of veterinary drug diclofenac in livestock. The drug can be fatal to vultures when they consume the carcasses of treated animals.

The decline in vulture numbers has raised concerns about ecological and public health consequences. With fewer vultures to dispose of carcasses, other scavengers may increase, potentially contributing to the spread of infections. Captive breeding and subsequent release into suitable habitats have therefore emerged as important conservation strategies. Such programmes seek to increase wild populations while ensuring that released birds can adapt to their natural surroundings.

Bhopal Taxi Drivers Announce Statewide Protest, CM House Gherao From August 18 To 20 Over Fare Policies

Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh): Taxi drivers in Madhya Pradesh have announced a statewide agitation against the alleged arbitrary fare policies of aggregator companies. The Bhopal Taxi Drivers' Union, affiliated with the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, and Taxi Union Kalyan Samiti Sarv Bharat have decided to organise a rally on Aug 15, followed by a state-level protest between Aug 18 and 20. The unions are also planning to gherao the Chief Minister's residence over their demands. The decision was taken during a meeting of taxi drivers and union representatives at Chinar Park in Bhopal on Saturday. The final date for the indefinite protest has not been announced yet. Taxi Union Kalyan Samiti Sarv Bharat's Bhopal in-charge Javed Khan said a rally would be taken out from Boat Club to Lalghati on Aug 15. He said the protest would remain peaceful



and constitutional and would highlight the concerns of taxi drivers before the state government.

The unions have alleged that Madhya Pradesh does not have a clear policy for fixing taxi fares, allowing companies such as Ola, Uber and Rapido to allegedly determine fares arbitrarily. They have demanded a permanent government-approved fare structure, including a base fare of Rs.50-60 per ride, a time charge of Rs.1-1.50 per minute and a distance

charge of Rs.22-30 per kilometre depending on the vehicle category. Bhopal Taxi Drivers' Union general secretary Rajesh Kumar Nagle said drivers from across the state would be invited for the larger protest. He added that the government should first decide taxi fares and then direct aggregator companies to follow the approved rates.

The union has also raised concerns over the alleged operation of private vehicles and illegal bike taxis for commercial purposes,

claiming it affects the earnings of registered taxi operators. Earlier, taxi drivers had boycotted airport rides on June 23, 24 and 25 to press for their demands. The union claimed that companies had temporarily revised fares after the protest but later returned to previous rates. The drivers said their demand was not limited to a percentage-based fare hike but a complete overhaul of the fare system, including base fare, time charges and per-kilometre payments.

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One of the major highlights of 'Vanrang 2026' is the effort to connect tribal artisans, traditional healers, women's self-help groups and farmers directly with consumers. Traditional handicrafts, Warli and Gond paintings, organic agricultural products and natural medicinal products are being showcased and sold directly to visitors. The initiative aims to reduce the role of middlemen and ensure that the financial benefits generated from the sale of tribal products reach the artisans and producers directly, thereby creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for tribal families. During the festival, Minister Narhari Zirwal's efforts towards tribal development, rights and the preservation of tribal heritage came in for

appreciation. The focus has been on taking tribal development schemes beyond announcements and ensuring their implementation on the ground. According to the organisers, initiatives such as a Tribal Industrial Cluster and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) are aimed at providing tribal youth with skill development, education and employment opportunities.

Efforts are also being made to provide institutional and financial support to tribal athletes, artists, writers, traditional healers and students pursuing higher education. 'Vanrang 2026' is showcasing the rich traditions of the Bhil, Kokna, Thakur and Gond communities, including folk dances, traditional music, handicrafts, traditional attire

and indigenous cuisine. A Tribal Mosaic Art installation created by renowned artist Chetan Raut near Marine Drive, opposite NCPA, has emerged as one of the major attractions of the festival. A photography exhibition by acclaimed photographer Colston Julian is also drawing considerable attention from visitors. The second day also featured discussions on the challenges faced by tribal athletes in the presence of Arjuna Award-winning athlete Kavita Raut and Anil Vasave, who became the first tribal mountaineer from Maharashtra to summit Mount Everest in May 2026. Masterclasses by Padma Shri awardees Rahibai Popere, popularly known as 'Seed Mother', and Bhiklya DHINGA were also organised. Visitors actively participated in live workshops on Warli and Gond painting, getting an opportunity to experience tribal art firsthand. As part of the festival, the prestigious 'Vanrang Awards 2026' are being presented to the Swades Foundation for its contribution towards the development of 1,000 villages, Padma Shri Bhiklya DHINGA for Lifetime Achievement, mountaineer Anil Vasave in the field of sports, and IAS officer P. Anbalagan for his contribution to industrial development. The festival will conclude on August 9 with a grand closing ceremony. A special 'Tribal Lunch', featuring traditional dishes prepared by tribal women under the guidance of Taj chef Raghu Devra, will be another major attraction of the concluding day. With tribal art, culture and traditional knowledge finding a platform in the heart of Mumbai, 'Vanrang 2026' is emerging as an important initiative to promote tribal heritage, provide direct market access to tribal communities and create new opportunities for their economic empowerment.

24-Year-Old Law Graduate Jumps To Death From 13th Floor After Alleged Threats By 2 Women To Frame Him In Police Case In Bandra

Mumbai: Mumbai Police have registered a case of abetment of suicide against two women after a 24-year-old law grad allegedly jumped from the 13th floor of a building in Bandra East. The youth was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital, where he was declared dead. The youth lived with his parents and younger brother in Bandra East. He had previously worked as a law clerk with a judge but was currently working from home, according to report. The incident came to light after his mother reportedly noticed that he was under severe stress. The report further stated that the youth had allegedly received phone calls from two women threatening to frame him in a police case, which

reportedly caused him significant stress. Subsequently, on August 6, the youth's mother received a phone call from two of his friends, who told her about his alleged relationship with a woman in Bengaluru while they were studying there. They reportedly informed her that the relationship had deteriorated and that the woman and her sister had allegedly started threatening the youth. Following the conversation, the mother confronted the youth, who reportedly admitted to the alleged relationship and told her about the threats he had allegedly received. The situation reportedly left him increasingly stressed. Later, while the mother was speaking to the youth's friends over the phone, the youth went

into his room and reportedly locked the door. Before his mother could intervene, he allegedly jumped from the 13th floor. While she asked the driver to bring duplicate keys to open the door, the driver reportedly informed her that a crowd had gathered below the building. The mother rushed downstairs, where the youth was found after the fall. He was taken to a nearby hospital, where he was declared dead. Following the death of her son, the mother then approached the officials at Kherwadi Police Station and filed an FIR against the two women. She also informed the police that a text message had earlier been sent to her younger son's phone by one of the accused.

Gutkha In Mouth, Drunk Headmaster Defecates, Makes Students Clean

Maihar: He comes to school drunk. He defecates on the premises. He makes students clean up the mess. The disturbing allegations were levelled against a primary school headmaster by young students and their parents in the Maihar district of Madhya Pradesh. "Sir comes drunk. He defecates inside the school and then makes us clean it up. He chews Rajshree (a gutkha brand) and spits all over the school," said a student at Amura Primary School. A boy studying in Class 3 was one of those who were forced to clean faeces. "Sir made me pick up excreta and abused me. He comes drunk and can't teach multiplication tables," he said. But that's not all. Kol is always late to the school, alleged the villagers and the parents. He shows up as late as noon. Left with no instructions during this time, the children keep wandering around, their parents claimed. Regular classes are not held, and the mid-day meal system is disrupted. Moreover, he spits gutkha (chewing tobacco) all over the premises, the stains of which were visible on the walls. The most serious al-



legation is that the teacher defecates inside the school under the influence and makes the students clean it. The parents argued that this constitutes a serious violation of the children's mental and physical well-being. Radha Dwivedi, mother of one of the students, said that the headmaster makes the children sweep the floor and fetch water. "The teacher has no fixed schedule. When he does arrive, he chews gutkha and spits all over the school. He comes drunk and is not able to speak to anyone. He treats the school like a toilet. He relieves himself wherever he

pleases and makes the children clean it. Not just my child, he makes others do this too," she said. Another guardian said Kol usually comes to school around 11 am-12 pm. There is no fixed time. Neither is the midday meal served, nor are the gutkha stains whitewashed, she claimed. "The children just wander around while he is in an intoxicated state. After defecating, he makes the children clean it up," stated Kranti Yadav, mother of another student. Rukmani Bunkar, another mother, echoed similar concerns. "The children get no food or drink, and he teaches them nothing. There is no

one here to oversee things," she alleged. NDTV caught Kol off-guard when he was watching YouTube videos on his tablet in the school. He denied the allegations. And asked about the gutkha stains all around him, a visibly drunk Kol replied, "We will clean it up." Block Education Officer (BEO) Rajesh Dwivedi has assured that the matter has come to his notice, and a show-cause notice has been served to the concerned teacher by the cluster principal. A proposal to suspend the headmaster is being sent to the District Education Officer (DEO)'s office, he added.

In Outreach To Sikhs, AAP Government Makes U-Turn On Extremist's Parole



Chandigarh: With the Sikh religious leaders up in arms and a proposed BJP-SAD alliance gearing up to eat into its vote base from the community, the Aam Aadmi Party-led Punjab government has made a U-turn on pro-Khalistan extremist Jagtar Singh Hawara's parole application -- a move seen as the party's outreach months ahead of the assembly polls. In March 2026, the Punjab government had written to the Tihar Jail authorities recommending rejection of the parole application of Hawara, convicted for as-

sassinating former chief minister Beant Singh in 1995. Come August, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann urged the Governor of Punjab, Gulab Chand Kataria, to grant 10 days' parole, allowing him to meet his ailing mother. In a letter to the Governor, Mann said, "Owing to her old age, the mother of Jagtar Singh Hawara is facing age-related health issues. This has resulted in deterioration of her health, which is a major cause of concern for everyone." "It is imperative because of the deteriorating health condi-

tion of his mother," he insisted, according to a government statement. Just a few months earlier, the Punjab government had recommended not releasing Hawara, citing 25 criminal cases against him. Two debilitating controversies may have forced the AAP government's hands -- the Chief Minister's alleged controversial video and the anti-sacrilege legislation. Both issues have strained the government's equation with the Akal Takht, the highest Sikh body. The government's

move might help Bhagwant Mann gain traction and sympathy in the panthic belt. Another possible reason is the proposed alliance between the BJP and SAD. If the two parties join hands and appeal to religion-based voters, they could erode Mann's support in the community. The decision on granting parole rests with the Chandigarh and Delhi administrations, both of which are governed by the BJP. Hence, by appealing to the Governor, Mann has put the party in a spot.

Who is Jagtar Singh Hawara?

Hawara is a member of Babbar Khalsa, a banned terrorist organisation. He was convicted as a conspirator in the assassination of Beant Singh. 17 people died along with Beant Singh in the blast. He was handed the death penalty in 2007. In 2010, the Punjab and Haryana High Court commuted the death penalty to life imprisonment. He has appealed against the verdict in the Supreme Court, where the case is pending.

Girl, 16, Rescued From Kolkata's Red-Light Area After Being 'Sold' By Lover: Cops

Kolkata: Police here have rescued a 16-year-old girl from the city's infamous red-light area of Sonagachi within an hour of receiving a distress call that she had been "sold" to a person after running away from home with her "lover", an officer said on Saturday. The native of North 24 Parganas was rescued from a room in the Sonagachi area following a call to the police helpline and an email to the child helpline while Shafiqul Molla (20) and Saharul Laskar (39) were arrested, the officer said. "After receiving the information, a team of the Barabazar police station immediately began a search in the

Sonagachi area. The girl was rescued within an hour," a senior police officer said. The girl told police that she had left her home with Shafiqul Molla, with whom she was in a relationship, and came to Kolkata. She was subsequently sold her to Saharul Laskar in Sonagachi, the victim told police. Police contacted the person who had made the distress call and subsequently confirmed the identity of the rescued girl. "Saharul Laskar is a resident of Durga Charan Mitra Street, while Shafiqul Molla is from Garulia in Shyamnagar in North 24 Parganas. Both the accused have been questioned. We



are also examining whether any other persons were involved," the officer said. A case has been registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya

Sanhita, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, he said.

Trilateral Makkah Defence Pact Is A Bid To Reshape Regional Alignments

On August 7, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan signed the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, an “Islamic NATO”-style mutual-defence pact, in Islam’s holiest city rather than any capital. Born from doubts about US protection after Iranian strikes went unanswered, and Yemen’s collapsing truce, the deal reshapes regional alignments – unsettling Iran, unnerving Israel, and drawing wary attention from India amid a related disinformation flare-up. On August 7, in the holy city of Makkah, three men who lead very different countries stood together and signed a document that many in the region had been quietly expecting, and dreading, for months. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif put their names to the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, a pact declaring that an armed attack on any one of the three states “shall be regarded as an attack against them all.” It is the kind of language usually associated with NATO’s Article 5, and the comparisons to an “Islamic NATO” or “Sunni NATO” of the newly-signed arrived within hours.

Choosing Makkah over Riyadh, Ankara or Islamabad was itself a mes-

sage, and arguably as deliberate as any clause in the text. Makkah is not a seat of government or a political centre; it is Islam’s holiest site, the destination of the Hajj, and a place whose authority derives from faith rather than from any single state’s sovereignty. By signing there, the three governments reached for a register above ordinary interstate diplomacy – casting the pact not merely as a transactional security arrangement between Riyadh, Ankara and Islamabad, but as an act consecrated by shared religious identity, invoking the “bonds of brotherhood and Islamic solidarity” that their own joint statement explicitly cited. That framing does real work. It offers the two non-Arab signatories, Türkiye and Pakistan, a claim to legitimacy in Saudi-led regional affairs that a Riyadh-only signing would not have conveyed, and it lets Saudi Arabia – custodian of the two holiest mosques – project itself as leader of a broader Muslim collective rather than just one more Gulf state seeking allies.

It also, pointedly, signals to Iran, which anchors its own regional legitimacy in a rival (Shia) religious framing, that Sunni-majority powers can marshal comparable civilisational weight. At the same time, the venue lets all three governments

soften what is, underneath the symbolism, a hard-edged military commitment: a pact “sanctified” in Makkah is easier to sell domestically and regionally, as an act of Islamic solidarity and collective defence of the Ummah, than as a conventional alliance aimed at balancing Iran and hedging against Israel – even though that is precisely what it is. The pact is not, on its face, revolutionary. It builds on a bilateral Saudi-Pakistan defence agreement signed less than a year earlier, in September 2025, itself a response to Israel’s strike on Hamas leadership in Doha. What is new is the addition of Türkiye – NATO’s second-largest military and a fast-growing drone and defence-manufacturing power – and the elevation of a bilateral understanding into a trilateral, mutual-defence architecture that Turkish officials say is explicitly open to other regional states. The timing is not coincidental. Since late February, the Middle East has been consumed by the US-Israeli war against Iran, a conflict that has drawn in Gulf states, the Houthis, Iraqi militias and, increasingly, Saudi Arabia itself. Iranian missiles have struck Saudi energy infrastructure and even US bases in the region; Riyadh’s expectation of American protection, by

most regional accounts, went unmet. That failure is the crucial variable.

Analysts at the Al Jazeera Centre for Studies trace Gulf doubts about US security guarantees back to the 2019 Abqaiq-Khuraish attacks, but say they deepened sharply after February 2026, when Iranian strikes on Saudi and Qatari energy sites drew no meaningful American retaliation.

Layered onto that is a second, more immediate emergency: the collapse of the Saudi-Houthi truce. In the days before the Makkah signing, Iran-aligned Houthi forces killed dozens of Yemeni government troops and fired missiles and drones at Saudi Aramco facilities in Jizan and Yanbu, part of what the Houthis call retaliation for Saudi strikes on Hodeidah.

For Pakistan, the calculus is different but complementary. Islamabad has been fighting a border conflict with Afghanistan since February and came close to open war with India in May 2025.

A formal alliance with two wealthy, strategically vital partners buys Pakistan diplomatic heft, economic engagement – and a stage on which its “battle-hardened military” and status as the Muslim world’s only nuclear power become geopolitical currency rather than merely a South Asian

fact.

For Türkiye, the pact consolidates its role as the Muslim world’s most capable conventional military power and deepens what Ankara hopes will be commercial payoff: Turkish officials in Ankara say the deal should also boost economic ties with Riyadh and Islamabad, built as it is on “trust.”

Officials on all three sides have been careful to describe the agreement as defensive and not aimed at any specific country. A Turkish official told Reuters it does not abrogate existing bilateral or multilateral arrangements and is open to other states joining. A Saudi source insisted the deal was “not a military axis or sectarian bloc.” Pakistan’s foreign ministry called it a milestone “intended to strengthen collective deterrence.”

But the analytical fine print matters. Harlan Ullman of the Killowen Group cautioned that the operative phrase is “should be regarded as an attack on all” – not “will necessarily be.”

Nobody has yet published the full text, and it remains unclear how automatically, or how far, the three states are actually obliged to come to one another’s defence. The most consequential ambiguity concerns Pakistan’s nuclear arsenal. Islamabad

has repeatedly said its bomb is “not on the radar” in its dealings with Saudi Arabia, and it did not respond militarily when Iran struck the kingdom earlier this year.

Yet, the symbolism of a nuclear-armed state formally binding its security to a non-nuclear one, at a moment when Israel is widely assumed to be the region’s other nuclear power, is impossible to fully separate from deterrence logic – whatever the diplomats insist.

The regional order it signals

What the Makkah pact really represents is less a military alliance than a statement of diminished faith – in the United States as reliable guarantor, and in existing regional architecture generally. RUSI’s Burcu Ozcelik argues its core purpose is counterbalancing Iranian influence and building deterrence against Israel, “rather than moving towards a confrontation with Tehran.” That reading fits the pattern: none of the three governments wants a wider war, but all three want to signal that they can no longer be picked off individually. Iran’s response has combined dismissal with menace. Ebrahim Rezaei, an influential member of Iran’s parliament, mocked the agreement as one that “will not bring them



security, just as years of one-sided dependence on the Americans did not,” and suggested Riyadh should “reform your policies” rather than “beg” for protection elsewhere – an implicit threat that Tehran’s pressure campaign, via the Houthis and Iraqi militias, will continue regardless of paper guarantees.

Israel has not issued an official response, and neither Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office nor its foreign ministry has commented, so far. But the pact lands amid rising Turkish-Israeli friction over Gaza and Syria, and echoes warnings from figures like former Israeli premier Naftali Bennett, who in February accused Ankara of building

a “hostile Sunni axis” with nuclear-armed Pakistan. Analysts note the deal could complicate Israel’s freedom to act militarily against Iran’s remaining allies or against Gaza without weighing a wider regional response – even without a nuclear component, the mere existence of a three-way mutual-defence commitment raises the cost of unilateral Israeli action.

It also arguably further distances Saudi Arabia from any near-term normalisation under the Abraham Accords framework, since a security architecture explicitly hedging against Israeli power sits uneasily alongside overt strategic alignment with it.

APEDA Facilitates First-Ever Export of GI-tagged Mithila Makhana by Sea Route from Bihar to Australia

New Delhi (PIB): The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) facilitated first-ever commercial sea shipment of 18 Metric Tonnes of GI-tagged Mithila Makhana was exported from the BIADA Industrial Area, Bihta, Bihar, to Australia. The consignment, sourced from Makhana growers of Darbhanga district, is expected to strengthen the international presence of Bihar’s flagship GI product while creating enhanced income opportunities for farmers through export-led market access.

The export consignment was flagged off by the Agriculture Minister, Government of Bihar Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha. The ceremony was attended by the Director of Horticulture, Government of Bihar, officers of APEDA, representatives of the exporter, logistics partners and progressive Makhana growers from the region.

The initiative has enabled farmers to realise nearly 18 per cent higher returns than prevailing market rates, highlighting the benefits of export-oriented value chains and direct market linkages. The export is expected to strengthen the international presence of GI-tagged Mithila Makhana, create sustainable export opportunities for Bihar’s Makhana sector and contribute to higher farmer incomes.

The consignment was exported by M/s NIAD Green, with logistics support from M/s Jitban Supply Chain Pvt. Ltd., a startup supported under APEDA’s BHARATI (Bharat’s Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement, and Incubation for Export Innovation). Comprising premium-quality raw GI-tagged Mithila Makhana, the consignment was sourced directly from farmers of Darbhanga district and packed at the BIADA Industrial Area, Bihta, Bihar.

Speaking on the occasion, Agriculture Minister, Government of Bihar, Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, said that Makhana is the identity of Bihar and greater participation of Bihar-based exporters in international trade would enable farmers to secure better price realisation. He emphasised the importance of maintaining quality standards to meet global market requirements and stated that the Government of Bihar is continuously working to strengthen the Makhana value chain by supporting growers, processors and exporters. He further said that all necessary support would continue to be extended to the Phori community, whose traditional skills are integral to Makhana processing. He added that the first-ever sea shipment of GI-tagged Mithila Makhana to Australia reflects the growing global demand for Bihar’s agricultural products and opens new opportunities for farmers and exporters.

APEDA, under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, facilitated the export in association with the Department of Agriculture, Government of Bihar. APEDA has been consistently promoting Makhana exports through capacity building, market development initiatives, export facilitation and stakeholder engagement. The Authority also supported the exporter in market access facilitation and coordination, contributing to the seamless movement of the consignment to Australia.

Bihar accounts for nearly 85 per cent of India’s Makhana production. To further strengthen the sector, a separate HS Code for Makhana came into effect from July 2025 under the Finance Bill, 2025. During FY 2025–26, India exported more than 7,000 Metric Tonnes of Makhana and value-added Makhana products to over 20 international destinations, including the USA, the Middle East and Africa. APEDA continues to work closely with State Governments, exporters, startups, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) and other stakeholders to enhance the global competitiveness of India’s agricultural products while creating sustainable export-led growth opportunities for farmers across the country.

Today’s Horoscope



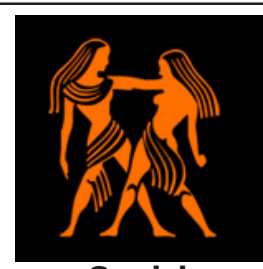
Aries

You need to exhibit extreme courage and strength as you face some traumas. You could easily overcome these by your optimistic attitude. Avoid any long-term investments and try to go out and spend some pleasant moments with your good friend. Entertainment will be fun if it includes the whole family. You can quarrel with your partner on this day just to prove yourself right. However, your partner will calm you down with better understanding. If travelling make sure you carry all-important documents. After so many being-mean days, you and your spouse will fell for each other again. Spending a bit too much time on social media is not only wastage of precious time, but also not a very good thing for your health. Remedy :- Give raw coal, black sesame seeds and black or blue woollen clothes to a poor person to maintain discipline in your life.



Taurus

Emotionally you will not be very stable- therefore be cautious how you behave and say things in front of others. Although no one prefers to lend or give away their money to anyone, but you'll feel relieved by lending your money to a person in need. Friends will come to your aid if needed. You are likely to be misunderstood in lover affair. Today you should focus on important issues. You might get irritated of your life-partner's babbling today, but he/she will do something really great for you. If you are married, then you may hear any complaint related to your children, which can make you upset. Remedy :- Health will enhance by placing crystal balls in bedroom.



Gemini

A day when smile will perpetually be on your face and strangers will seem familiar. The money you had saved up from a long time can come to use today. However, the expenditure can lower your spirit. Your witty nature will make you popular at social gatherings. Don't forget to forgive your beloved today. Rituals/hawans/auspicious ceremonies will be performed at home. Marriage is not just about living under one roof. It's very important to spend some time with your partner. Doing anything more than your capacity can prove to be harmful for you. Remedy :- Have a head and body oil massage before meeting your lover for a smooth love life.



Cancer

In spite of your high spirits you will be missing someone who couldn't be with you today. New contracts might look lucrative but will not bring gains as desired- Do not make hasty decisions when it comes to investing money. Family members may not fulfil your expectations. Don't expect them to work according to your whims and fancies rather try to change your style to seize the initiative. Apologize for your rude behaviour in love. You will love walking under the clear sky and breathing clean air in your free time today. You will remain mentally calm, which will benefit you throughout the day. Remedy :- Help anyone in need, and share your time, energy, and other emotional and intellectual resources for continuous enhancement in your financial situation.



Leo

Your mind will be receptive to the good things. Today, you will understand the importance of money and how unnecessarily spending it can negatively affect your future. This period is also good for taking your parents into confidence regarding your new projects and plans. Try to coax your partner into understanding, otherwise you might get in trouble. If you are able to find time for yourself, even after a busy routine, then you should learn to utilize it properly. Doing this can help you improve your future. You keep getting jokes on married life over social media, but today you will get really emotional when the startling beautiful facts about your married life will come afore you. Remedy :- Always keep a piece of silver or silver coin in your pocket/person to gain good amount of money.



Virgo

Umpteen nervous breakdowns could weaken your resistance and thinking power. Encourage yourself to fight the disease with positive thinking. Due to the placement of the Moon, your money can be spent on unnecessary things. If you wish to accumulate wealth, then talk to your spouse or parents about it. Your family members are likely to create a mountain out of a molehill. Spell of love is all set to bind you this day. Just feel the bliss. Today, you will have ample time to spend with your spouse. Your lover will feel overwhelmed at the attention and love s/he will get. Remedy :- Donate a cow and improve your health. If this is not possible, donate an equivalent amount to the cost of the cow at a temple or hermitage.



Libra

Some family members could irritate you by their envious behaviour. But no need to lose your temper otherwise situation could go out of control. Remember what can't be cured must be endured. You can acquire money from an unknown source today, which will resolve many of your financial troubles. Give priorities to the needs of family members. Involve yourself to share their joy and sorrow to realize them that you care for them. Keep your love fresh like precious things. The elders of this zodiac sign can go and meet their old friends today in their free time. Life will be really exciting when your spouse will come to you forgetting all the tiffs, embracing you with love. There is a possibility to go shopping today with your family, however you might feel tired afterward. Remedy :- Healthy life will be maintained by donating boiled grams to needy persons.



Scorpio

Lovely mood of your spouse may brighten your day. Money position improves as delayed payments are recovered. Festive atmosphere at home would ease your tension. Make sure you also participate in this and not remain like a silent spectator. Today your beloved would find it extremely difficult to deal with your erratic behaviour. You will make up your mind to do some of your favourite things today but won't be able to do so due to the abundance of work. After a heated argument during the day, you will spend a wonderful evening with your spouse. You might feel that you have wasted most of the day. Therefore, it is better to plan your day in a more productive way. Remedy :- Keep a black-white dog at home to stay happy.



Sagittarius

Today is not a very high-energy day for you and you will get irritated over small matters. Financially, you will remain strong. Due to the benefic placement of planets and nakshatras, you'll come across numerous opportunities to earn money today. You will upset your spouse if you spend money on things that you don't immediately require. Physical existence is now of no consideration, as you feel yourself into each other in love all the time. You can read a book in your free time. However, you may constantly feel disturbed by the members of your family. Remedy :- For the betterment of health, string black and white pearls and wear around neck.



Capricorn

Your positive outlook will impress those around you. Your efforts to save money can fail today. Although you do not have to worry about it, as the situation will soon improve. A dispute is likely to occur between family members regarding money matters. You should advise all family members to be clear about finances and cashflow. Time to refresh your friendship by reminding good times you shared. Volunteering work that you do today will help not only those you assist but will help you look at yourself more positively. Today, you will realize that your marriage had never been so beautiful. Remedy :- To gain good financial income, abandon the consumption of alcohol and non veg food. Also, avoid violent and critical behaviour and cheating tendencies.



Aquarius

Do not allow the feeling of frustration overtake you. You will be in the mood to travel and spend money- but you will be sorry if you do. Good time for entering a matrimonial alliance. Love is the feeling to be felt and shared with your beloved. Today you will put your mind to test- Some of you would get involved in playing Chess- Crosswords and others will write a story-poetry or work out some future plans. Today, you will spend the best time of your life with your spouse. A family member can share a love-related problem with you today. You must listen to him/her diligently and try to give accurate advice and suggestions. Remedy :- Avoid the usage of oil on Thursdays and stay healthy.



Pisces

Try to avoid long journey as you are too weak to travel. You need to keep an eye on where your money is being spent, otherwise you may face problems in the coming times. It is high time to change your dominating attitude in family. Work in close cooperation with them to share the ups and downs of life. Your changed attitude will give them unlimited joy. Time, work, money, friends, family, relatives; all on one side and you with your partner will be on other side today, all into each other. The natives of this zodiac sign would like to spend more time alone than meeting people today. Today, your free time can be spent by cleaning the house. Remedy :- Worshipping Banana tree and lighting a ghee lamp. diya on Thursdays near this tree will be auspicious from the health point of view.

Ariha Pangambam wins India's first-ever Asian gold in aerobic gymnastics



Manila: Indian aerobic gymnast Ariha Pangambam said her historic gold medal at the Asian Aerobic Gymnastics Championships was the result of her determination to make amends after narrowly missing out on a podium finish at the previous edition, revealing that she trained for around six hours every day in preparation for the competition. Ariha created history by becoming the first Indian to win a gold medal in the Senior Women's Individual category at the Asian Championships. She scored 19.100 points in the final held in the Philippines, including 8.650 in artistry, 7.600 in execution and 2.850 in difficulty. "At that moment I was totally overwhelmed.

This medal means a lot to me because I really wanted to have a medal not just for myself but for our whole country," Ariha told IANS. The 19-year-old had finished fourth at the previous Asian Championships, missing out on a medal by a narrow margin. That disappointment became a major source of motivation as she prepared for the latest edition. "In the previous Asian Championship, I was in fourth position just by some few points. I regretted a lot. So, I always thought that next time I need to take a medal," she said. "Rather than taking a medal, what I used to think is that being a performer, I always wanted the people, whether the

judges or the audience, to understand what I am trying to tell with my performance. I tried to bring it on the stage, and I would say that's how I got the medal," she added. The road to the historic achievement involved an intense training routine, with Ariha putting in around six hours of work every day across morning and evening sessions. "I train for like six hours daily, morning and evening sessions. And not just that, I would say it is because of my coach and my parents as well, because without them I won't be able to achieve this much," Ariha said. Her gold medal marked a landmark moment for Indian aerobic gymnastics, with the country winning its first-ever Asian Championships gold in the discipline after 10 editions of the continental competition. Inderjeet Singh Rathour, Head of the Indian delegation, which included 50 athletes, described the achievement as a major breakthrough for the sport in India. "It is a very big achievement because this is the 10th Asian Championship. In gymnastics, it had never happened that our national anthem has been played, so we have got the gold. This was a very big achievement for us," Rathour told IANS. Rathour believes the historic success could also help increase awareness and

participation in aerobic gymnastics, which remains relatively less known in India compared to several other sports. "After this, we will find that in gymnastics there will be a lot of improvements. It is not so much a known sport, but after we get something like this, a gold and big achievements, different children and different parents are always interested to adopt that game. So, we find a great future ahead for that," he said. Rathour also highlighted the sustained efforts behind Ariha's development, saying the team had been working towards such a breakthrough for nearly a decade. "As I said, we are working on this for the last 10 years. After COVID, we were also working very hard. When she was a youth, she used to play, and now she has come to the senior level. The performance and everything was up to the mark, and we have received the gold," Rathour added. India's campaign in the championship also included a bronze medal in the Senior Aero Step category, giving the country a gold and a bronze from the continental event. For Ariha, however, the gold represents more than a personal milestone. It is the culmination of the disappointment of finishing fourth at the previous edition, years of preparation, and a desire to make her performance meaningful on the biggest stage.

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia to meet VVS Laxman over India players' injury management



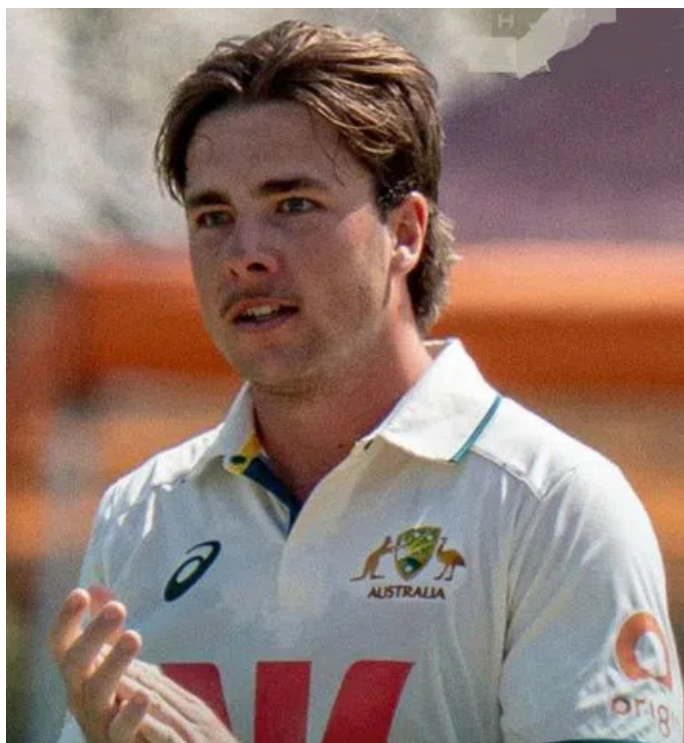
New Delhi: Concerned with the spate of injuries that has rocked Indian team of late, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia will be meeting Head Of Cricket VVS Laxman on Sunday to take a stock of the rehabilitation management programme at the Centre of Excellence (COE). India will be missing the services of Jasprit Bumrah (knee swelling), B Sai Sudharsan (left foot big toe), Harshit Rana (hamstring), Nitish Kumar Reddy (hamstring) and Washington

Sundar (quadriceps) due to various injuries. Akash Deep (lower back stress fracture) has been out for the longest time since Bengal's Ranji Trophy semi-final defeat. Adding to that, white ball experts Hardik Pandya (quadriceps), Varun Chakravarthy (hamstring) and Prince Yadav (hamstring) are also at the Centre of Excellence where the Sports Science team is overworked without a figure head since the resignation of Nitin Patel in early 2025. Right

now the challenge is to get all these players back on the park. Sudharsan and Bumrah were enlisted in the squad subject to fitness but COE's team of experts decided to exercise caution looking at the bigger picture. "Yes, secretary Saikia will be in Bengaluru to take a stock of the situation along with VVS Laxman. There is a meeting scheduled between the two. It is not known whether head coach of national team Gautam Gambhir or chairman of selec-

tors Ajit Agarkar will join online or not. It will be interesting if both Saikia and Laxman can front up and answer a few media queries with so many conjectures," a BCCI source in the know told PTI on conditions of anonymity. There are also rumours that COE and the current selection committee has always not been in sync with regards to the injury management timelines and some of the players being released before they ticked all the boxes. The issue of Harshit Rana reaching England after being distinctly overweight has not gone down well with the selection committee. Similarly, the selection committee was initially made to believe that Bumrah and Sudarshan will be at least available for one of the two Test matches. However once the dust settled down, it was found that Bumrah, post impact injury is finding that there is water retention in his knee which requires more time to heal. In case of Sudharsan, he was batting 75 minutes a day for some time but the pain still persists on his big toe. Nitish Reddy tried to increase his pace by a good 7 to 8 kmph and that put a toll on his hamstring and quadriceps.

Campbell Thompson takes 8/25 as CA XI crush Bangladesh by innings and 38 runs



Darwin: Bangladesh suffered a major setback ahead of their Test series against Australia after they were dismissed for just 54 in their second innings, handing the Cricket Australia XI an innings and 38-run victory in a three-day warm-up game. Left-arm pacer Campbell Thompson was the chief destroyer for the hosts, finishing with 8-25 as Bangladesh's batting collapsed in just 17 overs on the third morning. Bangladesh had resumed their second innings with two wickets already down and needed to produce a strong response after conceding a 92-run first-innings lead. However, they failed to withstand the CA XI attack and were bowled out before lunch. Tanzid Hasan was the only Bangladesh batter to cross the 10-run mark, scoring 22. Thompson, a 22-year-old South Australian who had played only one first-class match before this game, took the first five wickets to fall in the second innings after beginning the damage late on the previous day. Off-spinner Corey Rocchiccioli briefly interrupted Thompson's run by taking a wicket, adding to the six wickets he had claimed in Bangladesh's first innings. Thompson then returned to finish the job. He dismissed Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto for a duck after trapping him lbw and ended the match by taking the final two wickets with successive deliveries. "Sometimes you get lucky. It felt my way today, which was nice. It's always a good experience and opportu-

nity to come and play up against a Test side a few days out from a series. Then to play alongside experienced Aussie guys as well, like Kurtis Patterson and Corey Rocchiccioli and stuff like that. So, just involving myself around these guys has been awesome," Thompson said after the match. The CA XI had earlier posted 355 in their first innings, with opener Sam Wyllie leading the way with 130. Kurtis Patterson contributed 53, while Doran scored 76. Hasan Mahmud was Bangladesh's most successful bowler with 4/42. Bangladesh managed 263 in their first innings, largely because of an unbeaten 109 from Mehidy Hasan Miraz. The visitors had struggled at the top of the or-

der before Mehidy's innings helped them reach a competitive total. Rocchiccioli claimed 6-83 in that innings, while Thompson's second-innings burst ensured Bangladesh could not force the CA XI to bat again. For Bangladesh, the defeat comes at an important stage of their preparations. They now have four days to regroup before facing Australia in the first Test. The series will be Bangladesh's first Test tour of Australia in 23 years, with the visitors set to face a formidable pace attack featuring Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood. Bangladesh will need a significant improvement with the bat after their collapse in Darwin if they are to compete against Australia's Test attack.

Disappointing match, but we move on': Simmons after Bangladesh loss



'Darwin: Bangladesh head coach Phil Simmons admitted his side's batting performance was a major disappointment after they suffered an innings and 38-run defeat against a Cricket Australia XI in their final practice match ahead of the Test series. Bangladesh were bowled out for just 54 in their second innings on Saturday after being forced to follow on, with left-arm pacer Campbell Thompson claiming 8-25 to complete a dominant victory for the CA XI. The visitors had made 263 in their first innings, with Mehidy Hasan Miraz scoring an unbeaten 109, but the CA XI responded with 355, led by Sam Wyllie's 130 and useful

contributions from Doran and Kurtis Patterson. Bangladesh began their second innings with two wickets already down and failed to put up a fight, with Tanzid Hasan's 22 the highest score. Their collapse came in only 17 overs and before lunch on the third day. Simmons acknowledged that Bangladesh did not show enough discipline with the bat but believes the team still has three days to prepare for the opening Test against Australia. "I think the three days that we have had and working on things, I think they have been very good. I think we let ourselves down with the bat in this practice match, and you look at how we

got out, and it wasn't nice," Simmons said after the game as quoted by Cricinfo. "But I think that we have three days to work on what we have to do properly in the Test match, and I trust that the guys are going to put in the work over these next three days to get us where we want to be for that Test match. It was a disappointing match, but we move on, and we look forward to the Test match," he added. Bangladesh will now turn their attention to the opening Test, which begins on August 13 and will be their first Test in Australia in 23 years. The visitors are also hoping to have key spinner Taijul Islam available for the Test after he suffered a hand injury during the practice match. Taijul was struck on the index finger of his left hand while batting on the opening day and was diagnosed with a bone contusion. The injury prevented him from bowling during the CA XI's first innings. However, Bangladesh remain optimistic about his availability for the first Test. "The injury is better; both the pain and the swelling have come down. We have four days to go for the first Test, so I am optimistic that Taijul will be totally available for it," team physio Bayjedul Islam Khan said.

Yoga medallists honoured at renovated Senior Citizens Welfare Hall in KPHB

Hyderabad: The beaming faces of yoga medallists across different age groups said it all. The renovated Senior Citizens Welfare Counselling Hall in KPHB Colony, funded by local MLA Madhavaram Krishna Rao, who also inaugurated the facility, became the venue for a touching felicitation ceremony for yoga medallists ranging from a six-year-old to those aged 60-plus. The gesture was aimed at inspiring more youngsters and senior citizens to become champions in the days to come. International yoga master CM Ramakrishna was also felicitated on the occasion. Among the medallists who won medals representing India at an international yoga competition in Malaysia were V. Sai Raghavendra, M. Jaswanth Kumar, T. Jhansi Mohana and KVM Reddy. While the yoga medallists were honoured, the occasion also highlighted the new spacious hall, which



can accommodate around 10 carrom boards and could become a hub of carrom activity in the days to come. "We are grateful to our MLA and all the members and office-bearers involved in putting this beautiful venue right in the middle of a residential colony," was the near-unanimous opinion of

the senior citizens, whose passion for sports, especially carrom, is well known. They have already hosted a major event in the past. "We hope this will usher in a new chapter in promoting carrom, yoga and chess in this region. It is always great to see such warmth, affection and passion to

promote sports among senior citizens such as Messrs Sivasankar Reddy, Sadasiva Reddy, Koteswara Rao Venkataiah, Radhakrishna and KVM Reddy, who are also the office-bearers of the SCWC," said BK Haranath, founder-president of Hyderabad.

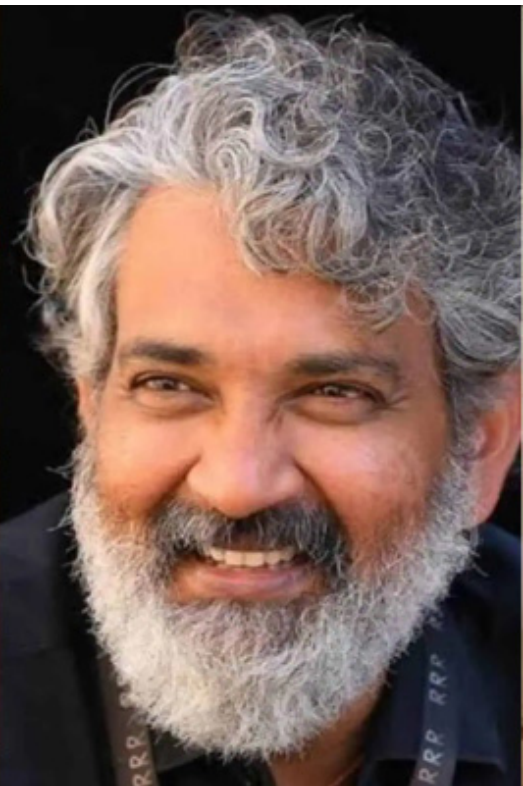
Neeraj Chopra congratulates Ashish Yadav after U20 Worlds javelin silver

New Delhi: Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra has congratulated fellow Indian javelin thrower Ashish Yadav after his silver-medal finish at the World U20 Athletics Championships, calling the achievement particularly special from the perspective of a javelin thrower. Ashish secured the second spot in the men's javelin final with a best effort of 74.09 metres, which came in his third attempt. His performance earned India a podium finish at the global junior event. Chopra, who recently won a silver medal at the Commonwealth

Games, took to X to applaud the teenager and backed him to achieve greater success in the future. "Always a great feeling to see Indian athletes competing and winning at the International level; this one is a little more special for me as a javelin thrower. Super proud of you, Ashish, on your Silver at the U-20 Worlds; this is just the start!" Chopra wrote on X. South Africa's Heymans claimed the gold medal after producing a winning throw of 80.50 metres, while Dominica's James finished third with 73.89 metres. India had another representative in the javelin competi-

tion, with T. Dharanidharan ending the event in sixth position. His best effort measured 72.35 metres. Ashish's silver adds to India's growing presence in javelin at the junior level, a discipline that has been transformed by Chopra's achievements over the past decade. Chopra himself created history at the 2016 World U20 Championships by winning the javelin gold with a then-world junior record of 86.48 metres. He has since gone on to become India's most decorated track and field athlete, winning Olympic gold at Tokyo 2020 and silver at Paris 2024.

Varanasi Plot Feels Familiar, But Rajamouli Mark Matters!



After setting the pan-India bar so high with films like Baahubali and RRR, master storyteller SS Rajamouli is coming up with a more ambitious attempt with his science fiction adventure Varanasi, which stars Superstar Mahesh Babu and renowned actress Priyanka Chopra in lead roles. Just like how he did for his previous films, Rajamouli has already revealed the core plot of Varanasi

in his recent foreign trips. Accordingly, the synopsis of this big-budget entertainer is currently making rounds in the media.

Going by this brief description about the film, the story set in the modern era is about a high-stakes race against time as a giant asteroid threatens to destroy the historic city of Varanasi. The lead protagonist named Rudhra, who is a rug-

ged explorer, joins forces with an able historian Mandakini to embark on an adventurous pursuit to retrieve an artifact that could save the city from catastrophe. If this synopsis is true, it sounds a bit familiar because there are numerous Hollywood films following a cosmic threat, a hunt for an ancient relic, and a globe trotting chase. Though the template seems to be relatively new for Indian audiences,

it is a typical set up for many science fiction thrillers and treasure troves in Hollywood. Despite all familiarity, one can be very sure that Rajamouli will still command the viewers attention and keep them glued to seats with his narration. This has been the biggest strength of his craft all these years. He has already proved several times on how to keep the viewers engrossed despite narrating formulaic stories. Be it Eega, Maryada Ramanna, Yama Donga, Maghadheera, Baahubali, RRR, all films turned out to be blockbusters because of his ability to make them visually appealing, emotionally touching and seamlessly engaging.

On the top of his vision is the strategy to keep audiences well prepared about his stories before coming to the theatres. Letting them know the core premise during promotional interviews, he clears away narrative confusion and allows viewers to immerse themselves entirely in the experience, the character arcs, and the emotional depth built into the world. Similarly, the premise of Varanasi might feel familiar on paper. But, it is Rajamouli's treatment that matters the most at the end of the day.

Ramayana Walking On A Sword With Overseas Release?

The countdown for the grand release of Ranbir Kapoor's epic mythology 'Ramayana' has kicked off last week with the release of an extravagant four minute trailer in multiple languages.

As the Nitesh Tiwari directional is set for a worldwide release, the team has unveiled the English version of the trailer recently. Interestingly, the English trailer has revealed the release date as November 6th, which is two days before the Diwali festival. This has sparked a wide debate among trade circles and moviegoers.

The makers have quickly cleared the confusion and said that the film will release earlier in overseas markets because of practical reasons related to distribution and weekend schedules. The team believes this will help the movie reach global audiences in a better way without affecting its overall release plans.

As confirmed earlier, the film will hit the screens all over India on Diwali festival which falls on November 8th. However, it will be screened earlier on November 6th in Overseas to cash in on the weekend.

Though this is a clever strategy, it will have some challenges that cannot be ignored.



Piracy has become much faster than before in the current era because of increased dependence on social media. Even a small leak can spread across social media and messaging platforms within minutes.

For a film carrying huge expectations, this can have a direct impact on the audience's experience. The team has already faced a similar issue during the trailer launch. Videos from special screenings were

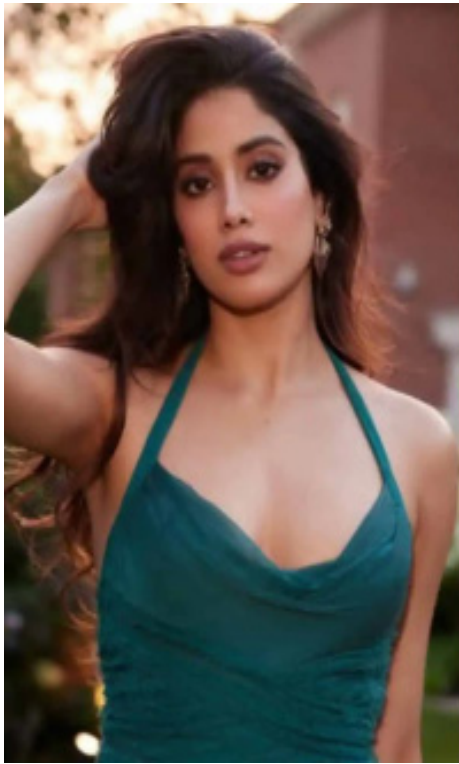
leaked online in poor quality. Those clips did not represent the actual visuals but still created a wrong impression among many viewers.

Luckily, the trailer has offset the negative perception and created a good impact despite few complaints regarding visuals. Still, the makers need to be extra careful. Strong and quick action against leaks will be important as Indian market is equally crucial for a film like

Ramayana. Moreover, the director revealed that the first part would end in a cliffhanger and leave the viewers hanker for the release of the second part. This has already become a big talking point among audiences as they are eager to see how the climax unfolds even though it is a known story. So, any leaks about such suspense elements after the overseas release likely to spoil the experience of moviegoers back in India.

Janhvi & Sreeleela In Multistarer Obsession?

In what could be said to be a major casting coup, popular heroines Janhvi Kapoor and Sreeleela are reportedly set to share screen space for the first time in an upcoming Hindi romantic thriller that will be directed by Umesh Bist. The yet-untitled film will reportedly revolve around two women who find themselves emotionally drawn to the same man. The film will have romance, obsession, and unexpected twists at its core. While the makers have locked Janhvi Kapoor and Sreeleela as the female leads, the hunt for the male lead is still underway, and some young and popular actors from Bollywood are being looked at as of now. Backed by noted producers Ektaa Kapoor and Guneet Monga, the film will go on floors in November this year. For Sreeleela, the film marks another significant step in her Bollywood career, while Janhvi Kapoor continues to look for a proper hit in Hindi. Fans are eager to see what kind of songs this film will have, as both Janhvi and Sreeleela are top dancers. But the real focus is now on the main lead and who that big star is going to be; one needs to wait and watch.



Anupama Sets Instagram On Fire In Stunning Saree Look



Anupama Parameswaran is turning heads with her latest photoshoot, and fans can't stop gushing over her effortless charm.

The actress was seen in a stunning maroon printed saree with a halter-neck blouse, paired with statement bangles and soft curls. Shot against a rustic backdrop with natural greenery, the pictures gave off a warm, boho-chic vibe that perfectly complemented the earthy tones of her outfit.

Anupama's styling once again proved why she's a fan favourite when it comes to ethnic fashion, blending traditional prints with a contemporary silhouette effortlessly.

On the work front, Anupama is all set to explore a new genre with her upcoming film Bhogi, a period action drama directed by Sampath Nandy. The film also stars Sharwanand and Dimple Hayathi in key roles and promises an intense storyline set against a historical backdrop, marking a fresh addition to Anupama's filmography.

Anirudh Proves Why He's The G.O.A.T. Of His Generation



Music composer Anirudh Ravichander is riding high on the success of DC. DC marks Lokesh Kanagaraj's acting debut with critically acclaimed filmmaker Arun Matheswaran wielding the megaphone. Solid performances coupled with gripping narrative, DC is further boosted by Anirudh's terrific background score, which has become a talking point in most of the reviews. Anirudh has elevated the gangster revenge drama with his BGM work. He has delivered the perfect background score without going

overboard with loudness. His music blends well with the mood and emotions of the film, and this is winning praise from all corners. There were some flaws in the film, but Anirudh lifted them with his thumping and electrifying beats. His music became the biggest asset of the film, showcasing what makes Anirudh's work truly special.

For the past few days, there have been opinions that Anirudh is losing steam with his recent outings. But DC has emerged as the biggest answer

to all those doubts. His thumping background score and electrifying beats once again prove why Anirudh remains one of the most powerful music forces in Indian cinema. Now, all eyes are on his next release, The Paradise. The Aaya Sher track from the film has already become a chartbuster, raising expectations for the music and background score. Meanwhile, Anirudh has a solid line-up of films ahead. After The Paradise, he has two of his biggest releases lined up, Rajinikanth's Jailer 2 and Shah Rukh Khan's King.

Actor, Producer & Now Distributor: Yash Taking On Too Much?

Yash is leaving no stone unturned to make Toxic one of the biggest releases of his career. As per the latest update, Yash has reportedly decided to distribute the film in Karnataka through his own banner, Monster Mind Creations. The decision reflects Yash's growing confidence in the film and his desire to have greater control. Over the last few months, Toxic has secured massive distribution deals across various territories. The film has already locked pre-release business Pan-India, creating huge expectations ahead of its release. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic is a period gangster drama featuring Yash in a powerful role. The film has generated tremendous buzz thanks to its unique setting, large-scale production values, and star-studded cast. With the trailer set to arrive shortly and the film scheduled for a grand theatrical release on August 26, industry circles are closely watching Yash's latest business strategy. A top actor turned producer and now a distributor, he is doing it all for his film. If Toxic lives up to expectations, Yash could emerge as one of the few major stars successfully balancing both creative and distribution responsibilities. Let's see how all this pans out in the days to come.

