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Officer trainees of Indian information service and Indian statistical service call on the president

TSIT

New Delhi: A group of Officer Trainees of the Indian Information Service and the Indian Statistical Service called on the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (August 19, 2026). Addressing the officer trainees, the President said that both the Indian Information Service and the Indian Statistical Service, though different in functions, share a common purpose, which is to strengthen the quality of governance and serve the people of the country. Effective communication and credible information are essential pillars of a vibrant and responsive democracy. The President said that as the officer trainees embark upon their careers, they should continue to learn and adapt. The world of tech-



nology, media, economics and public policy is changing rapidly. She advised them to remain curious, develop new competencies and learn from experience. She advised them to be judicious in their decisions, compassionate in their conduct and unwavering in upholding integrity. She underlined that the authority entrusted to them carries with

it a profound responsibility to serve the people with fairness, humility and dedication. The President said that the Indian Information Service has played a significant role in strengthening the Government's connect with citizens. She highlighted that social media has fundamentally transformed the way citizens receive, share and

respond to information. She advised Indian Information Service officers to use social media platforms not only to inform and engage, but also to listen, understand and respond to concerns of the people. She said that in an environment where information travels very fast, accuracy, credibility and public interest should always guide their

communication.

The President said that as India moves towards 2047, the role of Indian Information Service officers will become even more significant because a well-informed citizen is able to participate actively in development and democratic processes. The President said that in today's data-driven world, the quality of public policy depends greatly on the availability of accurate, timely and credible data. The Indian Statistical Service plays an important role in generating, analysing and interpreting official statistics that form the basis of the decisions affecting the lives of millions of our citizens. She stated that the work of Indian Statistical Service officers will support evidence-based policy-making across diverse sectors of the economy and society.

SC TO HEAR REVIEW PLEAS AGAINST 2022 VERDICT UPHOLDING ED'S POWERS

TSIT

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday, August 20, agreed to list for hearing a batch of petitions which sought a review of its 2022 verdict that had upheld the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) powers to arrest, attach properties involved in money laundering and carry out search and seizure under the PMLA. A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana took note of the submissions of senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Karti Chidambaram, that the notices on the petitions were issued way back in August 2022 and they needed to be heard now. The CJ said, "The matter has been listed to record the parties' consent on bench allocation." He said if the matters are to be listed before the bench which had heard them earlier then three existing benches have to be "broken" as the other two judges are now sitting in different combinations. In view of the urgency, the matter will be heard by the bench comprising the CJ and Justices Bagchi and Mohana, the bench said,



adding that the next date of hearing will be notified later. On July 31 last year, the bench had said that it would first hear arguments on the issue of maintainability of petitions seeking a review of the 2022 verdict. The 2022 judgement had upheld the ED's powers to arrest, attach properties involved in money laundering and carry out search and seizure under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The bench had noted that the ED has proposed three preliminary issues that primarily deal with the question of the review petitions' maintainability. The bench said the review petitioners

have proposed 13 questions for its consideration. "Since the proposed issues are arising in the review proceedings, we propose to firstly hear the parties on the issue of maintainability of the review petitions, followed by the substantive questions proposed to be raised on behalf of the review petitioners," the bench had said. It said eventually, the questions that might finally arise for consideration would also be determined by the court, if it holds that the review pleas are maintainable. "They are justified in raising first of all preliminary issues — whether the review is maintainable."

UGC equity regulations 2026 under reconsideration: Centre to SC

TSIT

New Delhi: The Centre on Thursday, August 20, told the Supreme Court that the 2026 University Grants Commission equity regulations on preventing caste-based discrimination

on campuses are under reconsideration. On January 29, the apex court had directed that the University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions)

Regulations, 2026, be kept in abeyance. The matter came up for hearing on Thursday before a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana.



Union Cabinet Approves Four Railway Projects Worth Rs 9,450 Crore, Total Infrastructure Package Valued at Rs 13,041 Crore

Patna/ New Delhi: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved five major infrastructure projects with a combined estimated cost of Rs 13,041 crore to strengthen rail and road connectivity across the country. The Cabinet approval includes four railway multi-tracking projects with a total estimated cost of around Rs 9,450 crore, along with a four-lane national highway project in Bihar. The government said the projects will increase transport capacity, reduce logistics costs and provide a boost to economic activity across several states. According to a government release, the four railway projects have been approved in West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and



Andhra Pradesh to expand the capacity of the Indian Railways network. The projects are targeted for completion by 2030-31. Once completed, the projects are expected to add around 410 kilometres of additional railway capacity, helping ease congestion on busy routes and improving the movement of freight trains. The largest project is the 173-kilometre Kharagpur-Bhadrak (Ranital) fourth-line project, which has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs 3,352 crore. The

other approved projects include the Bhadrak-Haridaspur fourth line, costing Rs 1,583 crore; the Gummidipundi-Gudur third and fourth lines, costing Rs 2,229 crore; and the Cuttack-Paradeep third and fourth lines, for which Rs 2,286 crore has been approved. The projects are expected to increase railway capacity and enable passenger and freight trains to operate more efficiently. The government said the objective is not only to expand transportation infrastructure but also to build capacity to meet the growing passenger and freight requirements of the future. The addition of new railway tracks is expected to reduce congestion, improve train punctuality and provide better logistical support to industrial areas.

Credible News Vital for Strong Democracy Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla

Hyderabad, TSIT: Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Friday said factual, impartial and credible journalism was essential for strengthening democracy and urged the media to give priority to verification and ethical standards over speed, sensationalism and viral content. Inaugurating the first national conference of the Federation of Press Clubs, organised by the Hyderabad Press Club at Taj Krishna in Banjara Hills, the Governor said journalists had a greater responsibility in the digital era, particularly when social media was increasingly influencing Gen Z. "Verify first and report later," he advised journalists, stressing that young people should have access to factual and reliable



information rather than misinformation driven by social media trends. Shukla said Artificial Intelligence and data analytics were creating new opportunities for journalism, but deepfakes, AI-generated videos and fake news posed serious challenges. He called for greater digital literacy, AI literacy and fact-checking initiatives to combat misinformation. Describing the media as not only the fourth pillar of democracy

but also the eyes, ears and voice of society, the Governor said credibility and public interest should remain at the core of journalism. "We need to create greater public awareness about national initiatives such as Nasha Mukta Bharat and TB Mukta Bharat and expressed hope that the Federation would work for journalists' welfare, social security and professional development."

BOGUS STUDENTS, LIQUOR BOTTLES FOUND AT ZP SCHOOL: DIPKE

TSIT

Latur: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) leader Abhijeet Dipke on Thursday, August 20, claimed that bogus students were found seated in the classrooms during his visit to a Zilla Parishad school at Ausa in Latur district, and liquor bottles were found on its premises. Dipke visited the ZP primary school as part of his party's ongoing 'School Thik Karo' (improve government schools) campaign. The block education officers responsible for the poor condition of the schools in the area, who remain unavailable in the name of official tours, should be suspended within eight days, he demanded. The ZP school at Ausa, over 500 km from Mumbai,



lacked drinking water and its toilets had been cleaned shortly before his arrival, he told reporters. The premises had also been cleaned only a day earlier, he claimed, adding that photographs taken during the visit indicated that illegal activities were taking place within the school compound where liquor bottles were also found. Some students seated in the classrooms were not on the school's rolls, Dipke alleged.

Such Literary Works Help Strengthen Government Schools



Mahabubnagar, August 21 (TSIT Bureau): District Collector Khushboo Gupta on Friday unveiled 'Badi Moggala', a book authored by noted Palamuru poet Dr. Bhimpalli Srikanth, at the District Collector's Office in Mahabubnagar. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector appreciated the author for bringing out a book highlighting

the role of schools in shaping students' lives and the infrastructure and facilities being provided by the government.

She said the book reflected the author's respect and commitment towards the teaching profession. Such literary works would contribute significantly to strengthening government schools, she added.

PROTECT CHILDREN FROM PRESSURE: SC ON CBSE 3-LANGUAGE RULE



New Delhi: Observing that children should not come under any kind of pressure, the Supreme Court on Thursday, August 20, stressed the need to find a solution to issues arising out of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) policy mandating the study of three languages by Class 9 students.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana observed that there was nothing wrong in introducing the policy, but the only concern raised by the petitioners was about the manner in which it was being introduced. "Some of these problems, you may revisit."

CM Revanth Reddy Invites Oxford University to Set Up Education Centre in Hyderabad

Hyderabad TSIT BUREAU: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has invited the University of Oxford to establish a presence in Hyderabad by offering executive education programmes, specialised research initiatives and academic collaborations, as part of the State government's vision to transform Hyderabad into a global education hub. As part of the Telangana Rising delegation's visit to the United Kingdom, the Chief Minister visited the University of Oxford on Friday and held discussions with Prof. Maya Tudor of the Blavatnik School of Government and Prof. Faisal Devji of Balliol College. Revanth Reddy outlined the



Telangana Rising vision and explained the State's plans to build a globally competitive ecosystem for higher education, research and innovation. He invited Oxford to explore setting up a centre in Hyderabad and bring its executive education pro-

grammes, research capabilities and academic ecosystem to Telangana. CMO Advisor and Ex-officio Special Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao made a presentation on opportunities available to foreign universities under India's National Education

Policy and highlighted the advantages of Hyderabad and Telangana as destinations for international educational institutions. The Oxford academics responded positively and discussed potential areas of collaboration with the Telangana government, according to the Chief Minister's Office. The delegation also invited Oxford representatives to visit Hyderabad for the Telangana Rising Global Summit scheduled for December 7, 8 and 9, 2026. During his Oxford visit, Revanth Reddy also visited Somerville College and viewed the portrait of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, an alumna of the college.

RSB Global Organises Mega Blood Donation Camp at Gamharia Unit 4 to Mark Chairman Dr R.K. Behera's Birthday

TSIT
Seraikela/ Gamharia: RSB Group organised its annual blood donation camp at RSB Unit 4 in Gamharia as part of the birthday celebrations of Group Chairman Dr R.K. Behera. The initiative reflected the group's core philosophy of placing humanity and social responsibility alongside industrial excellence. Around 340 units of blood were collected during the camp. Members of the Behera family, including Sangeeta Behera and Nalini Behera, were present on the occasion and encouraged employees and volunteers

who came forward to donate blood. The initiative also reflects the vision of RSB Group Vice Chairman and Managing Director S.K. Behera, who has consistently emphasised social responsibility, public welfare and continued support for communities alongside industrial growth. Speaking on the occasion, Sangeeta Behera said a birthday celebration becomes truly meaningful when it is connected with serving humanity. She appreciated the employees and team members who voluntarily came forward to donate blood and said their participation



reflected the spirit of service associated with the RSB family. Nalini Behera said every unit of blood donated could provide a new hope for someone in need. She appreciated the enthusiasm among employees across workshops and offices, saying the initiative had trans-

formed the occasion into an opportunity to help save lives. Jaya Singh, Lead HR, RSB Global, highlighted the organisation's values and the dedication of its workforce. She said that under the guidance of Dr R.K. Behera and the leadership of S.K. Behera, RSB Group has con-

tinued to view social welfare as an important foundation of its progress. The Gamharia Unit 4 blood donation camp witnessed active participation from employees and volunteers, resulting in the collection of approximately 340 units of blood. RSB Group conducts blood donation camps and various other social welfare initiatives throughout the year across its units in India and abroad. The group collectively contributes around 4,000 units of blood annually through its various facilities worldwide. The Gamharia units alone contribute approximately 1,800

units of blood every year, making a significant contribution to local healthcare services and emergency blood requirements. Founded in Jamshedpur in 1975 by Chairman Dr R.K. Behera and Vice Chairman and Managing Director S.K. Behera, RSB is a global engineering and manufacturing group headquartered in Pune. The group operates advanced manufacturing facilities across major industrial centres in India, including Jamshedpur, Pune, Dharwad, Chennai, Sri City, Pantnagar, Cuttack and Lucknow, as well as in the United States and Mexico.

Youth's Body Found Hanging from Tree in Kotalpokhar, Police Begin Investigation



TSIT
Kotalpokhar: The body of a 30-year-old man was found hanging from a tree near a pond at Kodhatola Math in Bhadaitand under Mayurkola Panchayat on Thursday, creating panic in the area. The deceased was identified as Rajesh Marandi, son of late Shyam Marandi and a resident of Piprajodi. As news of the incident spread, a large number of villagers gathered at the spot. Local residents informed Kotalpokhar police, following which Sub-Inspector Bishwanath Rajak reached the scene along with police personnel. The deceased's elder and younger brothers also arrived at the location and identified the body as that of Rajesh Marandi. According to the family, Rajesh lived with his mother and two brothers. The family said that an argument had taken place at home on Wednesday following which Rajesh left the house at around 4 pm carrying a bag. When he did not return home, his family members began searching for him. After an extensive search, his body was found hanging from a tree near the pond at Bhadaitand. The family was devastated following the incident. Police took the body into custody and initiated the process of sending it for post-mortem examination. Police have begun an investigation to determine the circumstances surrounding the death and establish the cause of the incident.

Tragic Accident in Chandil: School Bus Helper Dies, Police Begin Investigation

TSIT
Chandil: A tragic accident near the New Bridge at Chandil Golchakkar on Thursday morning claimed the life of a school bus helper associated with Dayamati Modi Public School (DMPS), Humid. The deceased was identified as Prahlad Mahto, a resident of Rugri under Chowka police station. According to preliminary information, the accident occurred at around 8 am when Prahlad Mahto reportedly fell from the school bus while on duty. He was seriously injured after one of the bus wheels ran over his leg. Following the incident, local residents and school management personnel rushed him to the Chandil Community Health Centre. However, doctors examined him and declared him dead. News of the accident prompted family members and vil-



lagers to reach the hospital. The incident has left the local community in mourning. BJP youth leader Akash Mahto and JKLM leader Gopesh Mahto also reached the Chandil Community Health Centre after learning about the incident. They met the bereaved family and expressed their condolences. Akash Mahto demanded a fair investigation into the accident and sought appropriate compensation and all possible assistance for the deceased's

family. Police reached the spot after receiving information about the incident and began an investigation. The body was taken into custody and sent to Seraikela Sadar Hospital for post-mortem examination. Police said the exact circumstances and cause of the accident would become clear only after the investigation is completed. Prahlad Mahto was reportedly a key earning member of his family. His sudden death has left his family devastated.

Income Tax Employees Stage Protest in Ranchi, Demand Restoration of Old Pension Scheme

TSIT
Ranchi: The Ranchi unit of the Income Tax Employees Federation (ITEF) organized a demonstration and meeting during the lunch break at the Central Revenue Building in Ranchi, demanding the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). Around 150 income tax employees participated in the programme and strongly raised their demand for a secure and dignified life after retirement. Addressing the gathering, ITEF Ranchi unit secretary Abhash Nath said employees who dedicate their most productive years to government service deserve financial security, dignity and certainty after retirement. He said the employees would not accept any arrangement in place of the Old Pension Scheme. ITEF Ranchi unit president Manoj Kumar Shukla said the organization's campaign



for OPS would continue. He described the demand as an issue of employees' dignity, social security and financial protection after retirement, rather than merely a matter concerning pension. Rupak Prasad called upon employees across the country to remain united in support of the Old Pension Scheme. He said employee unity was their greatest strength and urged government employees to collectively raise their voice for the right to a secure and dignified retirement. The Ranchi unit of ITEF clarified

that its demand for the restoration of OPS was aimed at ensuring retirement security, social protection and a dignified post-retirement life for employees who have devoted decades to government service. The participation of around 150 employees reflected the unity and commitment among the workforce regarding the demand. The employees maintained that while retirement marks the end of government service, it should not become the beginning of financial insecurity.

NITI Aayog Adviser Reviews Ground-Level Progress of Aspirational Block and District Programme in Mandro



TSIT
Mandro: NITI Aayog Adviser Anurag Singh visited the area on Thursday to assess the ground-level progress of development initiatives being implemented under the Aspirational Block and Aspirational District Programme. He reviewed progress across key performance indicators (KPIs), particularly in education, healthcare and nutrition, and interacted with officials and field-level staff. During the visit, Singh first inspected UMS Purbatola in Mandro. He subsequently visited the Anganwadi Centre at Mathadih and the Primary Health Centre at Tetaria to assess the facilities and implementation of various government programmes. The NITI Aayog adviser reviewed the progress achieved against the prescribed indicators and issued necessary directions to officials to ensure effective implementation of schemes and the achievement of targeted outcomes. During the school inspection, Singh reviewed the academic arrangements and facilities being provided to students. At the Anganwadi centre, he assessed the services available to children and beneficiaries. He also reviewed the healthcare and medical facilities at the Primary Health Centre. Singh emphasised the need to ensure that the benefits of government welfare schemes reach people at the grassroots level, particularly those at the most disadvantaged sections of society. He also stressed maintaining quality, transparency and continuity in development works. District Planning Officer Anup Kumar, Aspirational Block Fellow Manish Kumar and other concerned officials and employees were present during the inspection.

Ranchi to Hold Special Camps at All Polling Booths on August 22-23, Final Opportunity to Submit Forms 6 and 8

TSIT
Ranchi: A second and final special camp under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) 2026 will be held at all polling stations across Ranchi district on August 22 and 23, 2026, to facilitate the addition of names to the electoral roll and the transfer of family members' names to the same polling station. The camps will be conducted from 10 am to 4 pm on both days. District Election Officer-cum-Deputy Commissioner, Ranchi, Manjunath Bhajantari, has appealed to all eligible citizens to visit their respective polling stations on the scheduled dates, complete the required forms and ensure that all necessary procedures related to their names in the electoral roll are completed. Form 6 for Addition of Names to Electoral Roll Form 6 can be submitted by eligible Indian citizens who are Indian nationals, have attained the age of 18 years or will attain 18 years



by October 1, 2026, and are ordinarily residing within the area of a polling station in Jharkhand. Eligible citizens can submit Form 6 along with the required declaration to have their names included in the electoral roll. Form 8 for Bringing Family Members to the Same Polling Station Form 8 can be submitted when family members are registered at different polling

booths or polling stations but are currently residing at the same address. The form can be used to request the transfer of their names to the same polling station. The district administration has urged all eligible citizens to make use of the second and final special camp and complete the necessary electoral roll-related procedures within the stipulated period.

PEHOWA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SECRETARY SUSPENDED ON COMPLAINT OF PROPERTY ID

TSIT
Chandigarh , August 20 - Chief Minister Mr. Nayab Singh Saini has suspended the Pehowa Municipal Council Secretary on a complaint related to property ID. On Wednesday itself, he had given clear instructions to the officials across the state that no person should need to come to him with the problem of property ID and the resolution of complaints should be ensured at the local level itself. The very next day after the Chief Minister's directives, the government took immediate action after a com-

plaint regarding property IDs surfaced in Pehowa. The state's Urban Local Bodies Department suspended Ashok Kumar, Secretary of the Pehowa Municipality, with immediate effect. During the suspension period, his headquarters has been designated as the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana, Panchkula. This action, taken following the Chief Minister's directive, sends a clear message that negligence in resolving public complaints will not be tolerated at any level.

Two Arrested in Bike Theft Case from Seraikela Sadar Hospital, Two Splendor Motorcycles Recovered

TSIT
Seraikela: Police have solved a motorcycle theft case reported from the premises of Seraikela Sadar Hospital and arrested two accused persons. Two Splendor motorcycles, including the one allegedly stolen from the hospital premises, were recovered from their possession. According to police, on July 27, 2026, the complainant had arrived at Seraikela Sadar Hospital with his wife for medical treatment on motorcycle number JH05CZ-2871. He parked the motorcycle inside the hospital premises. After completing the treatment, he found that the motorcycle was missing. Following a written complaint regarding the



theft, Seraikela Police Station registered Case No. 63/26 on August 1, 2026, under Section 303(2) of the

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). On the instructions of the Superintendent of Police, a raiding team was

formed under the leadership of Seraikela Circle Police Inspector Rajesh Tudu to investigate the case. Acting on technical and manual inputs, the team arrested two persons allegedly involved in the theft. The arrested accused have been identified as Suraj Nath, 24, son of Siddheshwar Yogi and a resident of Ladaipur under Rajnagar police station, and Abhishek Mahto, 26, son of Haripad Mahto, a resident of Dugni, Joradiha, near the old FCI godown under Seraikela police station. Both are residents of Seraikela-Kharsawan district. Based on information provided by the accused, police recovered two black Splendor motorcycles.

Huge Crowds Gather in Atadgram for Maa Mansa Puja, Cultural Programmes Draw Enthusiastic Audience

TSIT
Ichagarh: A three-day fair is being organized in Atadgram of Ichagarh block on the occasion of Maa Mansa Puja, drawing large crowds of devotees and visitors. The entire village has been decorated with attractive electrical illumination and colourful lights for the festivities, while more than a dozen grand idols of Maa Mansa have been installed at different locations. The fair began on Wednesday and has been witnessing a steady flow of devotees. Cultural programmes organized every evening have emerged as a major attraction for visitors. A Baul music programme was held on Wednesday night, with artists entertaining devotees through traditional folk



songs. On Thursday night, a Boogie-Woogie dance programme was organized, attracting a large number of people from neighbouring villages. The audience enthusiastically enjoyed the performances and continued dancing and cheering late into the night. According to local residents, Maa Mansa Puja has been celebrated in Atadgram for many years with great devo-

tion and traditional fervour. Special rituals are performed at various Mansa temples during the festival. On Wednesday night, the traditional practice of sacrificing goats and ducks was also observed at several temples. Rituals Begin with Kalash Installation The tradition of inviting and installing the sacred kalash holds special significance during Maa Mansa Puja. Devotees bring

a kalash from a sacred river, pond or other water body and install it at the temple following prescribed rituals. At several locations, rituals are followed by the traditional sacrifice of goats, ducks and chickens. Traditional events such as Jant and Jhapan have also remained important attractions of Mansa Puja celebrations. According to popular belief, Maa Mansa is regarded as the mind-born daughter of Lord Shiva and the goddess of snakes. She is also worshipped by devotees as Bishahari, Nagmata and Nagabhagini. Local residents believe that worshipping Maa Mansa protects families from snakebites and other misfortunes. Mansa Puja continues to preserve the traditions.

EDITORIAL

ON CONGRESS' PROBLEM WITH VANDE MATARAM

Congress's latest CWC resolution to restrict Vande Mataram to its first two stanzas is not merely a dispute about a song. It raises a larger question: can a political compromise adopted by the Congress in the intensely communal circumstances of 1937 now be placed above the constitutional and statutory framework of the Republic of India? The answer has to be no. And Congress should perhaps revisit what one of its own tallest leaders, C. Rajagopalachari, wrote in 1939, before repeating the very mistake he had warned against. In January 1939, Rajaji wrote to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel about the concessions being made over Vande Mataram: "These concessions will not save the situation... If we set them forth as concessions they will only become points for further agitations and will make no gain for peace. On the other hand, the concessions may give rise to a weakening of Hindu psychology and produce depression all around." The passage is reproduced in Sabyasachi Bhattacharya's Vande Mataram: The Biography of a Song (2013) and in the Selected Works of C. Rajagopalachari. Rajaji was not writing with hindsight. He was watching the communal politics of the time unfold. His warning was simple: concessions made under communal pressure would not necessarily produce peace; they could become the starting point for further demands. The chronology matters. In 1937, Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the Muslim League made Vande Mataram a political issue. Congress leaders were themselves divided over how to respond. Jawaharlal Nehru, writing to Subhas Chandra Bose that October, acknowledged that the Anandamath background of the song "may provoke Muslims". There were also genuine concerns among some Congress leaders about the religious imagery in the later verses, and Tagore and Gandhi had reservations about their use in mixed political gatherings. Congress consequently decided in 1937 that only the first two stanzas would be sung at its national gatherings. But that was a political accommodation in a particular historical circumstance. It was not a constitutional amendment. It was not an Act of Parliament. And it certainly was not a permanent veto over how independent India would honour its National Song. Indeed, Rajaji's 1939 warning demonstrates that even within Congress there was a serious understanding of the danger of allowing such concessions to become precedents. The broader history is equally instructive. The Muslim League's objections did not end with Vande Mataram. The song became part of a larger catalogue of allegations against Congress governments - over the Congress flag, language, education and other matters. Congress disputed these charges, and Rajendra Prasad even challenged Jinnah to have them independently examined by a judicial committee headed by Sir Maurice Gwyer, Chief Justice of the Federal Court. The lesson is not that every Muslim objection should have been ignored. The lesson is that communal veto cannot become the organising principle of national life. Independent India subsequently made its own decision. On 24 January 1950, Dr Rajendra Prasad, presiding over the Constituent Assembly, declared that Jana Gana Mana would be the National Anthem and that Vande Mataram, "which has played a historic part in the struggle for Indian freedom, shall be honoured equally with Jana Gana Mana and shall have equal status with it." The Assembly responded with applause.

12 Hours of Saffron Mob Violence at Jadavpur University After BJP MLA's 'Tandav' Call

Kolkata: By the time the saffron flag-bearing men climbed Gate 4 of Jadavpur University in Kolkata and used its lotus-ringed emblem as a foothold, any pretence that Thursday's (August 20) mobilisation was a peaceful student protest had collapsed. The emblem, designed by Nandalal Bose, shows three flames surrounded by a blooming lotus. It had stood above the gate for more than two decades as a symbol of the university. Supporters of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), a student outfit affiliated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), marching under saffron flags climbed the gate, planted their feet on Bose's work to haul themselves up, broke part of it and then trampled on it. The three flames stand for all-round development, emotion and imagination, and spiritual life. The lotus petals represent the arts. Bose was a leading figure of the Bengal School of Art movement and a former principal of Kala Bhavana at Santiniketan. At its golden jubilee, the university adopted the motto "Development Through Knowing". His design was made to carry it. Men who spent their evenings calling other people anti-national broke it with their shoes. There was a grim irony in the spectacle. Even a lotus was not safe from the foot soldiers of lotus politics. The vandalism happened in broad daylight, with the police present, after a full night of arson, assault and intimidation that neither the university administration and nor the police have yet fully accounted for. Twelve hours of 'tandav' as police watch over Trouble was expected on Thursday morning and a large police force had been deployed. However, what the force largely did was just watch. Around 2.30 pm, an ABVP mob marching from the



Golpark area broke through one barricade after another and ultimately reached Gate 4 of the university. Half a kilometre away, at the 8B bus station crossing, a considerably larger gathering of Students' Federation of India (SFI) and Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) supporters was blocked by police barricades. SFI leader Dipsita Dhar alleged, "There are no female police officers present here, yet I am being physically handled." The ABVP march was briefly stopped near Jadavpur police station. But they removed the guardrails and barricades themselves and continued towards Gate 4. They tried every possible way to get past the gate, including attempts to climb it and topple it - that was when the emblem was broken. Students inside the campus said stones, eggs, bricks, shoes and filthy water bottles were thrown over the wall as the police simply watched. The force stood aside while the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) ideological supporters staged a show of strength

against a university still considered a Left bastion. Left supporters, after learning that the ABVP was advancing towards the campus, blamed the police for letting it happen. They then broke through the barricades, too, and headed towards Gate 4. Tempers rose quickly between SFI and ABVP supporters. The ABVP was unhappy with the police too - and that revealed something about the expectations behind their protest. A woman from the mob shouted, "Ekhan amader sarkar cholphche, aar amaderi atke dichche police. Eta kii kore hoy? (Now our party is running the government here in the state, yet the police are stopping us! How is this possible?)" BJP MLA's announcement the night before None of this arrived without warning. On Wednesday night, Jadavpur's BJP MLA Sarbori Mukherjee stood outside the university with right-wing supporters and threatened Left leaders, including Sujan Chakraborty and Srijan Bhattacharya, with conse-

quences. She announced, "Aaj sara rat tandav cholbe (There will be a massive scene all night)." Within hours, men described by students and university staff as 'outsiders' were inside the campus. The Wire tried to contact Mukherjee through WhatsApp on Thursday. She had not responded by late evening. The article will be updated if she does. Neither the ruling party or the university administration had publicly demanded an explanation from her at the time of this article's publication. A student dispute becomes the pretext Faculty of Engineering and Technology Students Union (FETTSU), an active student body at Jadavpur, had called a general body meeting on Wednesday evening at Aurobindo Bhavan, the administrative block near Gates 1 and 2 of the university. Supporters of the Democratic Students' Federation (DSF), another left-wing student body, and the ABVP also attended. The immediate dispute was small and procedural. It concerned

who would control the union's official email address, social media handles and bank account. ABVP supporters allegedly began chanting slogans describing DSF supporters as "Naxalites" and "anti-nationals". One ABVP supporter allegedly attacked Left-wing students with a bamboo stick. Students also alleged that a large number of people associated with the BJP and other right-wing groups gathered outside and assaulted Left supporters. Several students from both sides were injured and taken to government and private hospitals. Most were discharged after basic treatment. On Wednesday night, the ABVP demonstrated outside Jadavpur police station. An engineering student from the saffron camp filed a complaint against at least 11 students from the opposing side under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act. Students who opposed the ABVP said some of their members had also been injured. They claimed they

could not reach the police station to file a counter-complaint. After Mukherjee's warning that the "tandav" would continue all night, a large group of BJP supporters and other outsiders allegedly broke open a university gate and entered the campus. Students who spoke to The Wire alleged that fires were started on the campus around 1:15 am on Thursday. Within half an hour, they said, the CCTV control room was attacked and the footage was destroyed. Indranuj Ray, a leader of the left-wing student organisation Revolutionary Students' Front (RSF), posted on Facebook that "mobs of 400 in and around Gate 4, and a mob of around 800 are blocking all exits across 8B Bus Terminus." Several videos have circulated on social media, showing some men, who appeared considerably older than university students, pulling down Left-wing flags, tearing posters and setting fire to banners and flexes, though The Wire could not independently verify them. Outside Aurobindo Bhavan, men could be heard saying "Happy Diwali" as material was set alight. Students trapped inside could be heard shouting. The violence later reached the Jadavpur University Main Hostel, situated closer to the Jadavpur police station. A video showed right-wing goons trying to force open the hostel's main gate as frightened students pleaded for help. Security personnel were present on the other side but did not intervene. Left to defend themselves, the students eventually managed to stop the mob from entering the hostel. A student who was at the campus at the time told The Wire, "Outsiders backed by the ruling party attacked us and vandalised our campus. Sixty bike-borne goons entered and tried to set the whole campus on fire.

Faith is respected, but it is important to question wrong things

-Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

Religion is not merely a matter of worship or rituals in human life. It is deeply rooted in one's faith, culture, morality, tradition, and outlook on life. For thousands of years, religious texts have imparted to society the message of moral values, duty, compassion, restraint, truth, and philanthropy. This is why millions of people read religious texts with reverence and draw inspiration from them in their lives. But faith cannot mean accepting everything written in a book without questioning it, without understanding its context, and without testing it with logic. The most pressing question today is whether everything written in religious texts should be accepted as literal truth. If a statement bears the imprint of historical circumstances, if it reflects a particular social system, if its meaning has changed in today's context, or if its interpretation promotes discrimination between humans, is it anti-religion to question it? Certainly not. Questioning is the first step to knowledge and the hallmark of a healthy society. It is a grave mistake to consider religion and critical thinking as incompatible. Faith may be a personal belief, but when the interpretation of a religious idea begins to influence public life, law, education, social relations, or civil rights, public debate on that idea becomes natural and necessary. In a democracy, an idea cannot be exempt from criticism simply because it originates from a religious context. An impor-

tant distinction must be made here—criticism of religion and insulting a religious figure are two different things. Questioning a statement in a religious text, its interpretation, or its social impact should not be done with the intention of insulting the dignity of any religious person. Criticism should be directed at an idea, not at a person. Argument should be answered with logic, not emotional outrage. In our society, we often see a tendency that when a question is raised about something in a religious text, the focus of the discussion shifts from answering the question to the questioner's intentions. They are labeled anti-religious, anti-tradition, or anti-social. This shuts down dialogue and fosters fanaticism. If an answer to a question is available, it should be presented peacefully. If there are different interpretations of a statement, they should be discussed. And if something existed in a historical context, its context should be explained. Reading religious texts out of context and context can also create problems. Society thousands of years ago was unlike today's society. The social structure, governance system, education, science, family system, and economic conditions of that time were different. Therefore, to understand the meaning of an ancient statement, it is essential to understand its original context, language, symbols, and the social conditions of that time. A literal interpretation of the same statement in modern times can often lead to assumptions that are completely different from the

original context. Therefore, religious texts should be studied not only with devotion, but also with a view of knowledge, history, language, and philosophy. Devotion inspires humanity, while reason helps us understand the true meaning. A balance of both contributes to a more mature society. The most sensitive issue arises when an interpretation of a religious statement attempts to justify gender inequality, caste discrimination, untouchability, violence, social exclusion, or hatred against a particular community. Modern democratic society is founded on equality, freedom, dignity, and justice. Therefore, any interpretation that diminishes human dignity is bound to raise questions. The Constitution also plays a crucial role here. In a diverse country like India, different religions, sects, languages, and traditions coexist. Our social life is governed not by any single religious text, but by the civil rights and duties established by the Constitution. Every citizen has the right to their own religious beliefs, but they must also respect the freedom and equality of others. Therefore, it is essential to strike a balance between religious freedom and critical thinking. No one should be prevented from expressing their faith, and no one should be allowed to violate the rights of others in the name of their faith. Another challenge is the arbitrary interpretation of religious texts. Sometimes, the interpreters of religious texts have more influence than the original text itself. Different scholars interpret the same

statement differently. Some consider it symbolic, some historical, some spiritual, and some literal. Therefore, to claim that only one interpretation is the ultimate truth is not intellectually sound. The goal of religious education in society should not only be to teach people what to believe, but also to explain why. Asking questions will not diminish their faith; rather, it will likely deepen their understanding. A faith that fears questions can weaken; but a faith that can face questions becomes more mature and stronger. Today, in the digital age, this topic has become even more important. In the name of religious texts, incomplete quotes, mistranslations, and statements taken out of context spread rapidly on social media. People often believe a viral post to be true without even consulting the original text. This leads to religious controversies and increased social tension. Therefore, before objecting to a statement, it is essential to verify whether it actually appears in the original text, its correct translation, and its accompanying context. The critic also has a responsibility. If they are questioning a statement in a religious text, they should support their arguments with evidence, context, and logic. Deliberately misquoting, insulting followers of a religion, or inciting religious sentiments is not critical thinking. It is merely creating controversy. Similarly, religious scholars have a responsibility not to mistake criticism for hostility. Society changes, language changes, and questions change.

THE HUMAN COST OF INDIA'S MICROFINANCE BOOM

Delhi/Nadia (West Bengal): On a late February evening this year, in a small village in West Bengal state, two loan collectors parked their motorcycle outside the 36-year-old Sunita Das's house and refused to leave until she paid an overdue weekly instalment Rs 2750 (\$28). The problem was, she didn't have the money to pay it. The men were physically imposing. They shouted loudly enough for neighbours to hear and stayed for hours. Months later, the sound of a motorcycle still fills Das with fear. "[For a long time] they refused to leave without the money," Das says from her home in the village of Jamladanga Dighirpar, Nadia district. "When I could pay the instalments, there was no problem. But when I cannot, they speak to me very badly. They insult my children. They have no respect for a woman." In the end, they left and she paid the instalment a few weeks later. Das earns a living finishing handwoven sarees, unstable work that depends heavily on dry weather as rain prevents the dyed and starched fabric from drying properly. Hoping to supplement the family's income, she and her husband borrowed Rs 300,000 (\$3,150) from Bandhan Bank, a financial services company that provides microfinance and claims to empower women through small loans, to open a bicycle repair shop in 2024. When the business failed due to low earnings, she borrowed Rs 215,000 (\$2,230) a few months later in 2024 from Axis Bank's microfinancing unit, to keep up with repayments. She now owes both lenders close to Rs 245,000

(\$2,545). "You can't do any work when someone is sitting outside your door like that. I'm afraid when they come late at night. We worry that something bad might happen," says Das, whose hands are stained yellow with the starch used to craft sarees. Why microfinance targets women Her story is similar to that of thousands of women across India who take on multiple microfinance loans to support their families and livelihoods but struggle to keep up with weekly or monthly repayments when their incomes fall short. When they default, many women report facing intimidation, harassment and pressure from loan recovery agents. It has been nearly 50 years since Bangladeshi economist Muhammad Yunus pioneered modern microfinance with the promise of helping poor women escape poverty through small, collateral-free loans. For decades, microfinance was celebrated by economists and institutions as an anti-poverty tool. The model spread rapidly across South Asia. Governments embraced it. International development organisations championed it. India's microfinance sector now serves about 55 million unique borrowers through 76 million active loans, with borrowers collectively owing lenders Rs 2.77 trillion (\$29 billion) - 95% of them are women. As of 2025, women in India hold \$800 billion in credit, nearly five times the amount recorded in 2017. According to experts who spoke to Fuller, women like Das are deliberately targeted as borrowers, seen as more

reliable, but also easier to pressure and intimidate. Limited access to formal banking, land and independent income makes them vulnerable, while social norms around shame and honour intensify the cost of default. West Bengal has emerged as one of the largest markets for microfinance. There isn't a clear socioeconomic reason for this, but at least 26 major lenders compete for low-income borrowers, and among the 25 districts in India where private microfinance is most common, six are in West Bengal. Women's organisations and labour activists Fuller spoke to say that competition has fuelled mounting debt and increasingly aggressive recovery practices. Bandhan, one of the country's largest and oldest microfinance lenders, was founded in the state in 2001 and continues to have a significant share of its microfinance portfolio concentrated there. All six women interviewed by Fuller had borrowed from Bandhan. Monalisa Sinha, West Bengal state secretary of the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA), one of India's largest grassroots women's organisations, says cases like Das's are no longer isolated. "Particularly in rural parts of West Bengal and in low-income areas, you will see thousands of women are in debt and facing intimidation," Sinha says. Catastrophic consequences Interviews with borrowers, women's organisations and labour activists suggest that the transformation of microfinance from a development initiative into a competitive commercial industry has left many low-income women

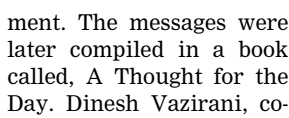
trapped between mounting debt and aggressive recovery practices, such as repeated visits to borrowers' homes, public shaming, verbal abuse and intimidation. Madhuj Sen Roy, a politician with the Communist Party of India (Marxist) who works with indebted women in West Bengal, says reports of women fleeing villages, facing harassment and threats, or dying by or attempting to kill themselves over debt have become "very common". Moumita Chakraborty, West Bengal Co-ordinator of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), says lenders cultivate relationships in villages long before repayments begin. "The agents come to villages, build relationships with people and tell them they will receive many benefits if they take a loan," she says. "Rural families have very little cash, and the companies take advantage of that." In an economy of low wages and high inflation, Sinha says that "hyper-competition" has produced "catastrophic" consequences for women. In 2025, a survey of more than 6,000 women across India by AIDWA found loan collectors barging into bedrooms, locking women inside their homes, seizing essential items, and in some cases physically and sexually assaulting borrowers. Six women interviewed in West Bengal by Fuller described recovery agents waiting outside homes for hours, repeatedly telephoning borrowers and their relatives, demanding repayments late into the evening, and returning week after week until instalments were paid.

August 2026: AI+ Smartphone today announced a price revision of Approx 72,000 across select devices in its smartphone portfolio, effective immediately. The adjustment comes in response to sustained increases in component and input costs impacting the broader smartphone industry. The smartphone industry continues to navigate a challenging cost environment, with rising costs across key components, particularly memory, alongside manufacturing, logistics and other critical inputs. These pressures have increasingly impacted device economics across price segments, requiring brands to reassess pricing while continuing to balance affordability with product experience. AI+ Smartphone has absorbed a significant portion of these incremental costs to maintain accessible pricing for consumers. However, with cost pressures continuing, the company has imple-



provide unparalleled value across our offerings.” The company emphasised that the revision reflects the broader change in industry cost structures and is aimed at maintaining a sustainable balance between affordability, product experience and long-term value. Despite the adjustment, A+ Smartphone will continue to focus on delivering a strong price-to-experience proposition across its portfolio, while closely evaluating market and supply-chain dynamics to ensure its devices remain competitively positioned for Indian consumers.

A rare collection of handwritten notes by Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi has been sold for \$1.69m (£1.24m) at an auction in Mumbai city. The notes, owned and preserved by the family of a close associate and freedom fighter Anand T. Hingorani, include 688 of Gandhi's handwritten messages on truth, non-violence and self-restraint written between 1944 and 1946. Auction houses Saffronart said the sale set a record for the highest price paid for an Indian historical document at an auction. Gandhi led India's non-violent struggle against British rule and is fondly known as the father of the nation. But the notes offer a more personal glimpse of the man behind the political leader. Gandhi wrote to Hingorani for around two years after the death of his wife, Vidya, offering him guidance, consolation and encouragement.



founder of Saffronart, said the collection allowed people to see Gandhi "through the lens of a close, personal

relationship". The notes were the highlight of Saffronart's "86-lot" auction, titled Gandhi: From

the Collection of Anand T Hingorani. The lot also included letters, manuscripts, photographs and personal objects preserved by the Hingorani family over generations. The collection spans more than two decades, documenting key moments in India's independence struggle as well as Gandhi's friendship with Hingorani.

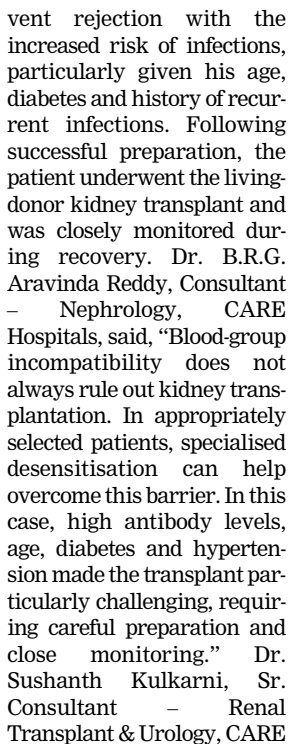
"These reflections offer a rare insight into how Gandhi lived the principles he advocated publicly, making this an especially valuable record of his thought and practice," Vazirani said in a statement. Other items in the auction were Gandhi's notes on God and the Hindu holy book Bhagavad Gita, his portable spinning wheel and two letters about the spiritual discipline of spinning. Saffronart has not disclosed the buyer's identity but said the notes would remain in India.

A close-up photograph of a computer keyboard. A prominent green key with the word 'Auction' in white text is the central focus. A wooden gavel with a dark head and a lighter handle rests diagonally across the green key. Surrounding the green key are standard white keyboard keys, including one with a double quote and apostrophe, one with a backslash and forward slash, and one with a question mark and forward slash. The lighting is soft, highlighting the textures of the plastic keys and the wood of the gavel.

Hyderabad: The Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIC) has achieved remarkable results through its e-auction of Plot No. P1 in Raidurg, generating Rs 1,386 crore from 5.25 acres of prime multi-use land. Plot No. P1 was auctioned against a reserve price of Rs 175 crore per acre and achieved a final realisation of Rs 264 crore per acre, marking a 50.9 per cent premium over the reserve price, according to a release on Friday, August 21. This outcome reflects the intensifying competition among premier developers and the market's increasingly bullish outlook on Hyderabad's strategic corridors, the release said. TGIC's earlier auction fetched Rs 237 crore per acre in May 2026. The auction was conducted through the MSTC e-Auction platform.

with JLL (Jones Lang LaSalle Incorporated) serving as exclusive transaction advisor, ensuring transparency, and enabling competitive participation from leading national developers. Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of TGIC, K. Shashanka, said, “The successful outcome of the Plot P1 auction speaks volumes about the confidence and conviction that the developer community places in Telangana’s future. What we’re witnessing is not just strong pricing but a clear endorsement of the state’s development philosophy—one rooted in transparency, infrastructure excellence, and creating genuine value for all stakeholders.” It is alleged that the land is a disputed Jamia Nizamia Waqf property.

Hyderabad, 21st August 2023: Doctors at CARE Hospitals, Hitech City successfully performed a complex ABO-incompatible kidney transplant on a 60-year-old teacher with high antibody levels and multiple underlying health conditions, giving him a new lease of life after two years of dialysis. His wife stepped forward as the donor despite their incompatible blood groups. The patient had been suffering from Chronic Kidney Diseases (CKD) for three years and undergoing dialysis three times a week for the past two years, leading to frequent hospitalisations and significantly affecting his quality of life. Despite these challenges, he continued working as a teacher. Finding a suitable donor was difficult due to his age, high antibody titres, hypertension and diabetes. When his wife volunteered to donate her kidney, their blood-group incompatibility presented an additional challenge. The multidisciplinary transplant team at CARE Hospitals planned an ABO-incompatible kidney transplant using a specialised desensitisation protocol. The patient underwent multiple sessions of plasmapheresis to reduce antibodies, along with immunosuppressive therapy to prevent rejection. The key clinical challenge was balancing the higher immunosuppression required to pre-



Hospitals, Hitech City, said, "This was a challenging transplant due to the blood-group mismatch, high antibody levels and the patient's other health conditions. With careful preparation and close coordination between the nephrology and transplant teams, we were able to successfully perform the transplant."

Dr. J. Al Ranganath, Consultant – Nephrology, CARE Hospitals, said, "After two years of dialysis three times a week, this transplant gives the patient an opportunity to return to a more independent and active life. The challenge was to prevent rejection while carefully managing the increased risk of infection." Dr. Pramod Gupta, HCOO, CARE Hospitals, Hitech City said, "This case combines advanced medical expertise

with an extraordinary act of family support. His wife came forward to donate despite the blood-group mismatch, and our multidisciplinary team worked together to make the transplant possible. It reflects our commitment to providing advanced treatment options even in complex cases.” ABO-incompatible kidney transplantation can be considered for selected patients with end-stage kidney disease who have a willing living donor but face a blood-group mismatch. It requires specialised desensitisation, immunosuppression and close monitoring to minimise rejection and infection risks. The case highlights an important message for patients and families: a blood-group mismatch does not always mean that living kidney donation is impossible.

The Telangana Government's new Government Order (GO) marks a major step forward in supporting and growing the Telugu film industry. Today, Telugu cinema reaches global audiences. High-budget films using advanced exhibition technologies like IMAX, Dolby Cinema, and HDR demand significant investments. The new policy recognizes this reality and offers a clear, regulated framework for eligible films to apply for enhanced ticket prices.

(AC, Non-AC, Special, or Multiplex) or location, all theaters must reserve 25% of their total seating capacity for a non-premium category. This ensures movies stay accessible to everyone. Five Shows a Day; Allowing 5 shows per day helps big releases meet peak demand quickly. This frees up screens faster for small and mid-budget films, creating more variety for moviegoers.

Worker Welfare Fund: the policy supports a dedicated welfare fund for cine workers, recognizing their vital contribution to the industry. This policy goes beyond ticket pricing. It builds a stronger, more sustainable film ecosystem that encourages investment, adopts modern tech, boosts smaller films, and protects workers. When Telugu cinema grows, the creative economy grows, creating new opportunities and a brighter future for all.

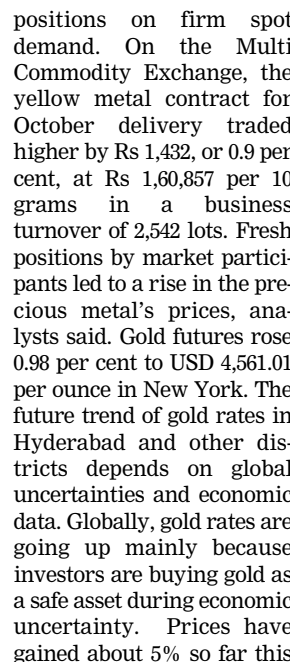
August 20, 2026: As India accelerates renewable energy adoption, company focuses on making the wider power generation ecosystem more resource-efficient and environmentally responsible. India's renewable energy transition is gathering momentum. But as the country adds clean energy at scale, the next opportunity is to ensure that every part of the energy ecosystem becomes more efficient and less resource-intensive. On Akshay Urja Diwas, Vedanta Power Limited highlighted its efforts in this direction, focusing on energy and resource efficiency across its power operations as an important complement to India's growing renewable energy base. India's ambition of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based power capacity by 2030 represents a fundamental transformation of its energy mix. Delivering the full benefits of this transition, requires more than adding renewable generation but it also requires an enabling power ecosystem to continuously improve how it uses fuel, water and other resources. This is

where energy efficiency becomes an important enabler of the clean energy transition. By improving the efficiency of existing infrastructure and introducing cleaner and more resource-efficient practices, the power sector can reduce its overall resource intensity while supporting the expansion of renewable energy. Vedanta Power is advancing this approach through a combination of alternative fuel use, resource efficiency, water optimisation and circularity across its operations. Vedanta Power's renewable energy integration efforts include the adoption of solar power for captive needs, alongside electrification of its fleet through electric vehicles (EVs), further reducing its dependence on conventional energy sources and supporting a lower-carbon operations. At Talwandi Sabo Thermal Plant in Punjab, approximately 3.61 lakh metric tonnes of biomass were utilised during FY2025-26, accounting for 5.21% of total fuel consumption. The initiative provides an alternative use for agricultural residue

while enabling existing power infrastructure to incorporate a supplementary, non-conventional fuel source. Water efficiency is another key area where the company is working to reduce resource intensity across its operations. At Vedanta Power's Meenakshi Energy Limited in Andhra Pradesh, saline water is used for operational requirements, enabling the facility to achieve zero freshwater consumption. The company has also planted 8.75 lakh trees cumulatively across its operational locations as part of its efforts to enhance green cover and support biodiversity. Commenting on the occasion, Rajinder Singh Ahuja, Whole-Time Director and CEO, Vedanta Power Limited, said, "Akshay Urja Diwas is a celebration of India's journey towards a cleaner energy future. As renewable energy expands, the opportunity is to make the entire energy ecosystem more efficient and resource-conscious. At Vedanta Power, we are working to reduce the resource intensity of our operations through alternative fuels, greater

water efficiency and circularity, while continuing to deliver reliable power. We believe that improving efficiency across the wider power ecosystem is an important complement to the growth of renewable energy and to India's long-term energy transition goal." These initiatives are part of the Vedanta Group's broader decarbonisation journey, under which the Group invested more than \$1 billion in FY2025-26 towards emissions reduction, resource efficiency and sustainable operating models. On Akshay Urja Diwas, Vedanta Power's approach reinforces a broader principle for India's energy transition: clean energy is not only about producing more renewable power; it is also about using energy and resources more efficiently across the system that enables it. By progressively reducing resource intensity and adopting alternative and circular pathways, Vedanta Power is working to build a cleaner and more efficient supporting ecosystem in the overall future energy mix.

Hyderabad: The gold rates in Hyderabad and other cities in India hit a three-month high on Friday, August 21. In Hyderabad, the prices of 24-carat and 22-carat yellow metal reached Rs 1,60,480 and Rs 1,47,100 per 10 grams, respectively. Why are gold rates surging in Hyderabad? The gold rates in Hyderabad and other cities are increasing due to global reasons, as India is an importer of the yellow metal. Globally, gold rates are going up mainly because investors are buying gold as a safe asset during economic uncertainty. Another reason is changes in US interest rates, bond yields and the dollar. Currently, the gold rates in Hyderabad have crossed the three-month high. On May 25 this year, 10 grams of 24-carat gold cost Rs 1,59,380, and 10 grams of 22-carat yellow metal cost Rs 1,46,100. Earlier, the rates declined to as low as Rs 1,40,780 and Rs 1,29,050 per 10 grams of 24-carat and 22-carat yellow metal on July 1, 2026. Futures trade The gold prices on Friday rose by Rs 1,432 to Rs 1.60 lakh per 10 grams in futures trade as speculators created fresh



week, including the biggest one-day rise since early February on Wednesday. The metal is also trading above all key moving averages, having broken above the closely watched 200-day moving average of around \$4,513, a move technical analysts typically view as bullish. Silver mirrored the rally, soaring to a seven-week high of Rs 2,45,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) from Rs 2,35,000 per kg. The white metal had traded near these levels on July 3, when it was quoted at Rs 2,45,000 per kg. "Gold hovered near its highest level in more than two months on Thursday, supported by a sharp decline in the US dollar and Treasury yields," Saumil Gandhi, Senior

Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. The dollar index slid to a three-month low, while lower Treasury bond yields improved the appeal of assets such as gold, he added. The rally in spot bullion prices came despite a retreat in the overseas markets. Gold dipped USD 66.31, or 1.47 per cent, to USD 4,456.72 per ounce, and silver dropped nearly 2 per cent to USD 65.82 per ounce. Spot gold was trading lower at USD 4,450 per ounce as crude oil prices surged over 2 per cent after the US President Donald Trump announced new economic sanctions on Iran, Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities at Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said. Gaurav Garg, Head of Research at Lemmon Markets Desk, said gold remained near its highest level since early June, supported by lower US Treasury yields and a weaker dollar after the US Treasury increased long-dated bond buybacks. The US Treasury Department said it will at least double the buyback quantum of off-the-run securities from USD 2 billion to USD 4 billion in the current August quarter.

NO BANGLADESH PREMIER LEAGUE THIS YEAR? TAMIM IQBAL REVEALS RS 31 CRORE LOSS IN BIG VERDICT

Bangladesh Cricket Board President Tamim Iqbal has said that the dates of a much-awaited home series against India could "move around" as the BCB reworks its calendar which may not feature its flagship T20 showpiece Bangladesh Premier league this year due to heavy financial losses. Speaking to reporters here, Tamim said the BCB will conduct a Game Development tournament at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium from August 28 to September 9 featuring players from Under-17, Under-19 and Under-23 categories. "There are discussions regarding the India series, the dates may move around," said Tamim. "And this tournament is taking place in Mirpur, but if necessary, it can also move to the Bashundhara ground (Dhaka). Once the India series is fixed, we will schedule it accordingly," he was



quoted as saying by 'Cricbuzz'. India have already scheduled a three-match T20 International series against Afghanistan in New Delhi from September 13 to 17. This has all but ruled out an India-Bangladesh series in the September window. The series was postponed last year due to unrest in Bangladesh. Speaking about the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), which has been mired in several controversies including corruption by players and franchises, Tamim said the Board

needs to improve its financial health. He said the BPL has caused losses adding up to 40 crore Bangladeshi Taka (Rs 31 crore) in the past two seasons. "I don't think BPL will be held this year...I don't want to organise the BPL this way...for the last two years, BCB has incurred losses of around 40 Crore Taka," Tamim said. "Until and unless we fix the issues, it is not absolutely important for us to host this event every year...Do we have the intention to do it? Hundred percent. Do I want to rush it? Absolutely not," he added.

JOSHUA FIGHT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT WILL HAPPEN - FURY

Tyson Fury says his fight with Anthony Joshua "doesn't look like it's going to happen" in a verbal tirade against his British rival and promoter Eddie Hearn posted on social media. The pair had been expected to meet in November in one of the biggest fights in British boxing history, but uncertainty over where the bout will take place has cast fresh doubt over the deal. Joshua and his promoter Hearn have signed a contract for it to be staged in the United Kingdom, while Saudi organisers are pushing for a move to the United States. "Doesn't look like they're going to sign the fight and it doesn't look like it's going to happen all because Eddie Hearn and that want more money," Fury said in a series of Instagram stories. Joshua and Fury have separate contracts with Saudi Arabian-owned Sela. New



York's Madison Square Garden is understood to be Sela's preference so that the fight - which will broadcast on Netflix - can cater for American audiences. On Thursday, Hearn told IFL TV that a list of changes required for the fight to take place in

America had been sent to Sela. Hearn says the main change concerns compensation for Joshua because of the different tax implications of fighting in America. "In layman's terms, by staging the fight in America, Anthony Joshua receives less money

than he would do if the fight was in the UK where he was contractually agreed," he said. Fury responded by calling Joshua and Hearn "disgusting" and "money-thirsty". "It is what it is. Same old cliché a decade later. Keep running you little cowards,"

he added. In further posts containing expletives, Fury called Hearn a "bag carrier" and criticised Joshua's mindset. "I'll move on and fight somebody else but just know you never had the guts to fight Tyson Fury, ever, you little coward," Fury added. In a post on Instagram, Fury, 38, said: "Doesn't look like they're going to sign the fight, doesn't look like it's going to happen. All because Eddie Hearn and that want more money. 'They have already had that much money off Turki (Alalshikh) over the last few years Eddie and AJ. They have had boxing deals, they have had darts deals, they have had snooker deals, they have had everything. 'And yet, they have got the audacity and cheek of flea-bitten rats to ask for more money from old Turki that you have had combined over the last couple of years."

'Pass On The Weed': South Africa Great Mocked For Stunning Sachin Tendulkar-Virat Kohli Comparison

Former Indian cricket team fast bowler Dooda Ganesh mocked South Africa great AB de Villiers for his recent comments on Virat Kohli and Sachin Tendulkar. De Villiers said that in his opinion, Kohli was better than Tendulkar when it came to seam-friendly overseas conditions. The former South Africa batter went on to suggest that Tendulkar was a pioneer for subcontinent batters but Kohli surpassed him. "I think of someone like Sachin Tendulkar way back, who started that trend for India. Yet, he wasn't as strong as someone like Virat Kohli, who was even better. But Sachin was the first guy to show that as a subcontinent batter, you can do well in bouncy and seam-



ing conditions. Virat took that forward and raised the bar," he said. Ganesh did not agree with the comment from De Villiers and came up with a cheeky comment on social media. "Pass on the weed, broth-

er," he wrote on X (formerly Twitter). Earlier, De Villiers pointed out that Kohli and Tendulkar's success away from home has inspired the current crop of Indian players, including KL Rahul and Devdutt

Padikkal, to raise their game on overseas tours. "Because of that, there are quite a few players now like [KL] Rahul and [Devdutt] Padikkal, who have started to up that trend and follow in the foot-

steps of a Virat and a Sachin," he added. De Villiers also suggested that Rahul still has room for improvement in terms of his returns away from home, despite showcasing the technique required to succeed in challenging conditions. "KL is a guy with a sound technique and is a big asset in that Indian lineup. But he averages only 34 away from home. So you'll expect more and that is one area where he has to work on. He has to get bigger scores once he gets in and not just get a 100 but make it a 180 because that first-ball duck and getting out to the newish ball is always around the corner. So for him, the name of the game will be to make the big scores even bigger," said .

"THERE'S NO TRUST":

R Ashwin Hits Bullseye Over India Star's Situation In Test Team

Former India all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin extended his support to spinner Kuldeep Yadav after the star failed to make an impact in the recently concluded first Test against Sri Lanka in Galle. Kuldeep returned figures of 25-0-103-1 on a pitch that offered plenty of assistance to the spinners. However, Ashwin sympathised with Kuldeep and criticised the team management, especially captain Shubman Gill, over the spinner's limited involvement in the match. Speaking on his YouTube channel, Ashwin suggested that Kuldeep was the third-choice spinner when he was part of the team and insisted that the situation has not changed one bit. "People will question

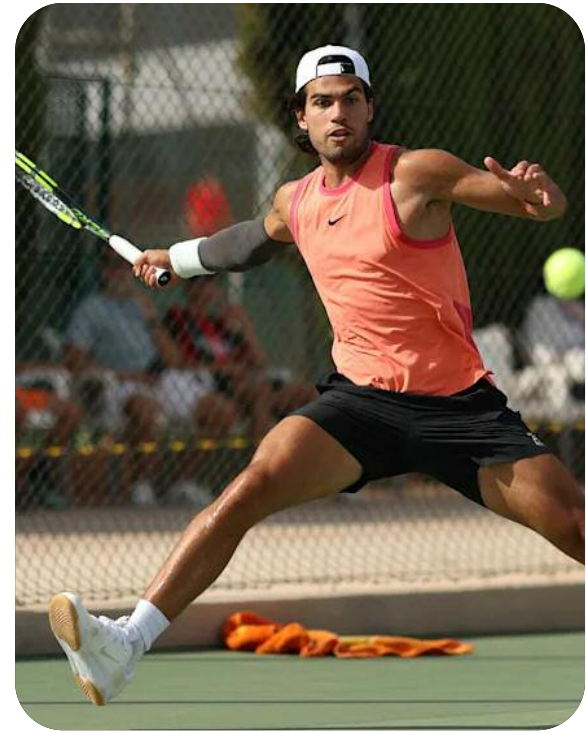


because Jadeja took the wicket from one end Suthar took wickets on the other end. Kuldeep is the third spinner. When me and Jaddu were playing. He was the third spinner. He is still the third spinner. It is not easy to play as a 3rd or 4th spinner in an 11. If a partnership is going on and you are bringing a bowler to break it, it is very difficult.

It is not easy to bowl to a bowler. And this Kookaburra ball - it is not easy to bowl to a Sri Lankan bowler after 30 overs. It slows down. What kind of a spinner is Kuldeep Yadav? He is not a fast spinner into the wicket. If you have seen Indian Test cricket historically in the last 10-15 years, the ball is old, and Jadeja bowls more," said Ashwin.

Carlos Alcaraz Set To Return From Wrist Injury And Defend US Open Title

Carlos Alcaraz is ready to return from injury to defend his U.S. Open title. "Here we go," Alcaraz posted on his social media pages Thursday, with one picture showing him in front of the U.S. Open logo. The seven-time Grand Slam champion has been sidelined since April because of a right wrist injury, forcing him to miss both the French Open and Wimbledon. Alcaraz won his second U.S. Open title last year, beating Jannik Sinner in the final. He then won the Australian Open and his next tournament, part of his 22-3 start to this season. But after winning his first match in the Barcelona Open, Alcaraz withdrew from the tournament because of the injury.



Bangladesh Captain Najmul Hossain Shanto Not Thinking About History Ahead Of Mackay Test

History books will look to add another chapter of glory when Bangladesh take on Australia in the second Test of the series on Saturday, as the Asian team can complete their first Test series win Down Under. However, amid talk of creating history, Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto is focusing only on playing good Test cricket and not on the result. Bangladesh need only a draw at the Great Barrier Reef Arena to secure their first-ever Test series victory against Australia, while another win would give them a stunning 2-0 sweep after their historic nine-wicket victory in the opening Test in Darwin. However, Shanto does not want his players to get carried away by the possibility of creating history and has urged the team to concentrate on the process and take the game session by session.



"No, I don't want to think that far ahead; I have been saying this from the beginning that we want to play good cricket," Shanto said at the pre-match press conference on Friday. "The important thing is how well we are playing each day, e a c h s e s -

sion. So that will be the target. I think if we follow the process properly, we can play good cricket session by session. The result will come automatically," he added. Bangladesh's historic win in Darwin gave them a huge boost, but Shanto believes the team must now put that result behind them and adapt to the new conditions in Mackay. "Before we came here, we always talked about it being a very challenging series for us. We have to enjoy this opportunity and this challenge. After the first Test, there is a lot of emotion going on, but as professional cricketers, we have to come again and again to face new conditions and new challenges," Shanto said.

Rising Stars Like India's Atiqa Mir Redefining Future Of Motorsport: World Body FIA



World motorsport body FIA has given a strong endorsement for Indian racer Atiqa Mir's special talent, saying rising stars like the 11-year-old are redefining the future of the sport. Atiqa, the first Indian to be backed by the F1 Academy, is currently giving the more experienced drivers a run for their money in the age 12-14 category across karting series in Europe. Her ultimate goal

is to reach F1, where no female has raced since 1992. "Rising stars such as Atiqa Mir are redefining the future of motor sport and her recent success shows how bright the future is for our sport," FIA, the world body for four-wheel motorsports, said in a post on social media on Thursday. "With incredible support from her FIA Member Club, the Western India Automobile Association, Atiqa has already represented her country at the MENA Karting Championship Nations Cup and has now started competing in international FIA Karting competitions on her journey to professional racing. Well done Atiqa and we look forward to following your continued success," the FIA added.

BADMINTON, PRESSURE AND VIP BRAGGING RIGHTS: THURSDAY WAS THE DAY TO BE AT IG STADIUM

Thursday was the best day to watch badminton...it featured Sindhu, Ayush, Satwik/ Chirag, Tressa/ Gayatri, Dhruv/Tanisha. It also featured 28-year-old fierce competitor Pornpawee Chochuwong. While the Indians dug deep for some good results and some upsetting ones, the Thai pulled off a stunner against World No. 4 Chen Yufei...14-year-old Rishika Santra, a badminton trainee at a city nursery, sat with her mother in anticipation of a thriller. "I had an idea that this would be one of

the best matches of the day when I looked up the schedule, and I wasn't disappointed at all," she said after the Thai shuttler completed a remarkable 17-21, 25-23, 21-17 turnaround. "I normally go from school to attend my training in the afternoons," the teenager explained, describing how her schedule has been disrupted by the World Badminton Championships. "But today, and for the last few days, I have skipped training after school. I have been coming here with my mother, and we both have

had lunch sitting under the trees of IG Stadium before heading to the badminton hall." Rishika's mum, Mrinal, gave up her career as a Chief Technology Officer at a European medical tech firm in Gurgaon to support her child's sports career. Mrinal feels that matches like the one between Pornpawee Chochuwong and Chen Yufei are great for role modelling. "This week I told her coach that Rishika should watch some good badminton. It is rare to see this level of badminton in Delhi." So what did

Rishika, the badminton cadet, learn? "How pressure makes a huge difference." As Pornpawee Chochuwong fell on the court after the 84-minute thriller, Rishika sat in the tribunes, gobsmacked. Pressure was the word of the day.



Critically acclaimed film 'Bandar' streaming on Zee5 from August 28th.. Bobby Deol impresses in a diverse role



Starring Sanya Malhotra, Sapna Pabbi, and Saba Azad in key roles.. A film revolving around allegations, opinions, and justice with a diverse story called #MeTooForMen - Zee5 has always been at the forefront of presenting diverse stories to the audience. Now it is ready to entertain with a different movie called Bandar. From the film 'Mrs.', which explored a woman's struggle for a unique identity in marriage, to 'Assi', which questioned rape incidents, victim blaming, and the challenges women face in seeking justice, Zee5 Hindi has always prioritized stories that question traditional

stereotypes rather than following them. Now with 'Bandar', Zee5 Hindi is bringing one of the most uncomfortable and controversial topics of discussion in today's society to the audience. Generally, for years, we have been hearing stories of women bravely speaking out about the injustices they have faced. However, 'Bandar' raises a crucial and thought-provoking question. Can men also be victims? That's the point. Based on the #MeToo movement, 'Bandar' explores the life of a man who is suddenly turned upside down by an allegation made by a woman. The film explores how public opinion.

PRABHAS REACTION TO ‘INDIA’S BIGGEST SUPERSTAR’ TAG?

Prabhas has earned a huge fan following across India after the massive success of the Baahubali, Salaar and Kalki films. Now, he is getting another big tag ahead of his upcoming film Spirit. That is 'India's Biggest Superstar' tag. This has become talking point in industry circles, especially in Bollywood circuit. Many movie lovers, especially Shah Rukh Khan's fans, were offended by that tag and even tried to defame Sandeep Vanga and Spirit. Yet, Sandeep continued with the same tag in the subsequent poster releases as well. Producer Pranay Reddy Vanga, brother of director Sandeep Reddy Vanga, revealed Prabhas' reaction when he was told about the 'India's Biggest Superstar' tag. According to Pranay, Prabhas simply replied, "Mee Ishtam Darling" (Your wish... Darling). Pranay Reddy Vanga shared this interesting detail during a conversation with Gulte in Romanchakam Promotional Event. Prabhas is currently one of the biggest stars in Indian cinema, with a massive fan base across different languages. His next major release is Spirit, directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, and expectations are already very high. The title credits of Spirit are also expected to attract attention, especially if Prabhas is presented with the 'India's Biggest Superstar' tag. With the film gearing up for release next year, all eyes are now on Spirit and the kind of impact Prabhas and Sandeep Reddy Vanga will create together. For the starters, Pranay is brother of director Sandeep Reddy Vanga. Fans of actor Prabhas have expressed concern about his health after an orthopaedic surgeon from Apollo Hospitals in Hyderabad shared a picture with him and wrote about the "private sacrifices" he has made. Orthopaedic surgeon KJ Reddy, who specialises in knee, hip and sports injuries, posted a picture with Prabhas on Instagram with the caption, "Some people inspire you through their success, while others leave a lasting impression through their humility." Reddy said he has been entrusted with taking care of the actor's health and praised him for remaining

humble despite his success. He wrote that it was a pleasure knowing Prabhas and described him as "warm and gracious". "It has been a pleasure knowing Prabhas and being entrusted with taking care of his health. Despite his immense success, he remains remarkably down-to-earth, warm and gracious. His positive attitude and wonderful nature make him truly special," he captioned the post. The doctor added a message to the picture saying that when people see a successful person, they usually see only the public achievements and not the private sacrifices made to reach that position. "Whenever you see a successful person, you only see the public glories, never the private sacrifices to reach them," the text on the photo read. Reddy also wished the actor good health, happiness and continued success. The post quickly caught the attention of Prabhas' fans, with many asking whether the actor was doing well. Several fans referred to his past leg and knee injuries and urged him to take care of his health. One wrote, "Thank you for taking such good care of our hero, Doctor. Please continue to take care of him and keep him in the best of health always. He truly deserves all the happiness, success and good health in the world. Prabhas." Another commented, "So true! Thank you doctor for highlighting this. People only see the box office numbers, but we know the blood, sweat, and dedication Prabhas puts into every single

role." "Each word of yours defines the wonderful human being Prabhas. Grateful for your kind words sir," wrote the next. "See how beautiful our brother is."



Super Judge A.R. Rahman Announces First Auditions for Tamil Idol: Sony VIZHA and Sony LIV Kick Off Search for Tamil Nadu's Next Singing Sensation



The wait is officially over for aspiring vocalists across Tamil Nadu. Sony VIZHA and Sony LIV have joined forces to launch the inaugural edition of Tamil Idol, spearheaded by musical maestro and Super Judge A.R. Rahman. The reality show aims to uncover raw, extraordinary musical talent across the state and give them a national stage. Aspiring singers between 14 and 30 years of age can audition at Velammal Vidyalaya Annexure, Mel Ayanambakkam, Chennai, for a chance to join this landmark talent hunt.

Tamil Idol is designed to celebrate the rich heritage and contemporary vibrancy of Tamil music. Participants will receive mentorship from top industry professionals, perform on a grand stage, and compete for a career-defining platform in the playback and independent music industries. Aspiring singers within the eligible age group are encouraged to arrive at the venue with valid identification and their prepared repertoire to secure their shot at becoming Tamil Nadu's next singing icon.

MALAVIKA MOHANAN OWNS ELLE COVER LIKE A BOSS

Malavika Mohanan, who has two much-awaited films, Sardaar 2 and Pocket Novel, in her kitty, is currently burning up the internet with her stunning new Elle magazine cover shoot. The actress, known for her effortless style, showed off three distinct looks that prove her versatility as a fashion icon. In the first look, Malavika wore a metallic silver-black shirt paired with a sheer black skirt, striking a bold pose against a fiery red backdrop. The second look saw her channel corporate chic with an oversized brown blazer and sequined mini shorts, styled in a quirky classroom-inspired setting. For the third look, she picked a flowy red silk dress with sheer black tights, giving major boardroom-glam vibes. With her sleek wavy hair and minimal jewellery, Malavika kept the focus firmly on the clothes, proving once again why she is one of the most fashionable actresses in the industry right now.



“Kingdom” fame Venkatesh V.P. as Hero: Production No. 3 from RUUDRANSH CELLULOIDS Announced Under Dheeraj Nyathi’s Supervision, Directed by Suresh Tej



Following the commercial success of “K-Ramp,” RUUDRANSH CELLULOIDS is gearing up to produce another new film. Successful producer Bommak Shiva is producing the movie, which features “Kingdom” fame Venkatesh V.P. as the hero. Suresh Tej is directing the film. The movie has been given the working title “DGP”

Venkatesh V.P. has earned recognition in the Malayalam television and film industries. He also successfully runs the restaurant startup “Suda Suda Idly.” He gained appreciation for his role as Murugan in “Kingdom,” starring Vijay Deverakonda. Now, he is making his debut as a lead actor with the film currently titled “D.G.P.”

Director Buchi Babu Launches First Lyrical Song from Jayaho Janardhana



Director Buchi Babu Sana, who gained Pan-India acclaim with the movie Peddi, has officially launched the high-energy first lyrical song, “Chinduveyave Chanduka Tukada,” from the upcoming film Jayaho Janardhana. The song features lyrics penned by National Award-winning lyricist Suddala Ashok Teja. High-octane male vocals are provided by Jangi Reddy—famous

for the blockbuster track “Aaya Sher” in Nani’s Paradise—while Mohana Bhogaraju lends her voice to the female vocals. Music composer Charan Arjun has provided a vibrant score that promises to stick with listeners on the first hear. Produced and directed by Panuganti Sharath Reddy under the Panuganti Productions banner, Jayaho Janardhana stars Naresh Vasam and Ramya Shree in lead roles.

CAN YASH’S TOXIC GET A TRIPLE-DIGIT OPENING?

Rock Star Yash, who scored Pan India success with KGF films, is hoping for a solid comeback with Toxic on August 26. The high-octane action thriller is slowly building strong buzz ahead of its release, despite some negative reactions to the content released so far. The film's advance sales for the opening day are doing well. As per trade estimates, Yash starrer Toxic has already reached around Rs 15 crore in advance bookings in India. If the film gets more buzz, especially in the Hindi belt, in the coming days, it has a chance of opening with a triple-digit number on Day 1. Considering the film's budget and business, Toxic needs to do big numbers at the box office. However, the talk after the first shows will be very important for its long-term performance. All eyes are on the opening talk and initial reviews from its premieres. Starring Yash in the lead role, the film features Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Rukmini Vasantha, Huma Qureshi and Tara Sutaria in key female roles. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic is made on a massive budget and backed by KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations. Yash's much-awaited film Toxic has cleared a key pre-release hurdle after receiving an 'A' certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), with no cuts ordered for

cuts. The film's 'A' certificate means that Toxic will be restricted to adult audiences. The certification comes ahead of its August 26 theatrical release and has drawn attention given the film's violent treatment and mature subject matter. Toxic has also received an adult classification in the UK. The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) flagged strong bloody violence and sex, while its content ratings also highlighted violence, injury detail, threat, horror, language, drugs, sexual violence, sexual threat and suicide and self-harm. The CBFC clearance marks an important milestone for the Yash-starrer as the film gears up for its worldwide theatrical release. The film has generated considerable anticipation with Yash returning to the big screen after the success of KGF: Chapter 2. Toxic is directed by Geetu Mohandas and stars Yash alongside Kiara Advani and other prominent actors. The film is expected to present Yash in a darker and more intense avatar. With the certification process now complete, the makers are set to focus on the film's theatrical release and final promotional activities. As Yash-starrer Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups heads towards its August 26 worldwide release, veteran filmmaker SV Rajendra Singh Babu has responded to the criticism of the film voiced by his

Babu has made it clear that he views them as her personal opinion while taking a strongly positive stand on Yash and Toxic. Asked about Rishika's criticism, the veteran filmmaker said, “That is her personal opinion. As I have said earlier, we should all be proud of the films Yash is making.” He also pointed to the scale of Toxic and what it represents for Kannada cinema.



the film. The board has asked the makers to make only two minor modifications ahead of its theatrical release on August 26. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic is a dark action drama featuring mature themes. The film has retained its reported runtime of 3 hours and 12 minutes despite its adult certification. According to the certification details, the CBFC has asked the makers to mute and replace two words or phrases in the Kannada version, with corresponding changes in the English subtitles. Mandatory anti-smoking and anti-drinking warnings will also be added. Beyond these modifications, the board has not ordered any

daughter, actor Rishika Singh. Rishika had recently raised objections to the visuals in the film's trailer and songs, particularly the way women are portrayed. Her comments sparked a reaction among Yash fans on social media. Now, speaking about her remarks, Rajendra Singh