

Youth Beaten To Death By Friends Over Ganja Dispute

Hyderabad: A 22-year-old man from Pusamamula under the Hayathnagar mandal near the city was allegedly beaten to death by his friends after being lured out of his house in the early hours of Wednesday, reportedly over disputes over ganja transactions and an altercation involving a girl. According to police, the deceased, identified as Nishani Suhas, was addicted to Ganja and also involved in selling it to fund his addiction. Also Read - TGHRCTakes Suo-Motu Cognizance of Nagarkurnool Food Poisoning Incident Earlier, when he was staying in Secunderabad, his mother Nandini realized he was going astray and bought a house in Pusamamula to keep watch over him. After losing her husband and getting her daughter married, Nandini had pinned all her hopes on her son. Police said Suhas was close friends with Rakesh from

Secunderabad, Parashuram and Raju from Nadimipally and Pedda Amberpet, and one other person. Since Suhas did not have a mobile phone, he allegedly used one of their phones to chat with a girl on Instagram. He is said to have sent her obscene messages and also to have spoken to her inappropriately. The girl later informed her boyfriend, who was one of their friends, about the incident. Also Read - YS Jagan, TDP Leaders Feature onReddy Welcome Revanth Reddy Welcome Banners in Khammam Combined with previous fights over money during their ganja dealings, and his indecent behavior with the girl, they allegedly planned to eliminate him. In the early hours of Wednesday,



Parashuram, Raju, Rakesh and another person made an audio call to Suhas's mother Nandini from Parashuram's Instagram account as he did not have a phone. When she did not answer, they went directly to the house and took hiReddy Welcome m out. Also Read - Govt Grants Property Tax Exemption to SVK in Gachibowli The group took him to a deserted area on the outskirts of Pasumamula village and attacked him. Suhas who

managed to run about half a kilometer in an attempt to escape, however they chased and beat him up brutally and on his genitals until he died. Police sources said his body was later dumped on a cement bench near the cremation ground on the Pedda Amberpet-Pasumamula road and fled. Hayathnagar police have registered a case and are investigating. One suspect is in custody and being questioned, while efforts are on to nab the others.

Boat Rides in Papikondalu Suspended as Godavari Swells

Hyderabad: The Godavari River that flowed at a dangerous level at Bhadrachalam gradually receded after reaching a maximum 56.16 feet with the inflows of over 15.96 lakh cusecs of water. The roads from Bhadrachalam to Venkatapuram were submerged at Thurbaka, Kudunuru, and Alubaka and several stretches were closed at Nellipak in Bhadrachalam and merged Etapaka mandal on the Vijayawada-Jagdalpur highway. Also Read - Leaders Remember Pingali Venkayya's Legacy and Service Due to this, traffic to Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha came to a standstill. Boat ride in



Papikondala also came to a halt. The road leading to Parnasala Ramalayam in Dummugudem mandal was also flooded by the backwater of Godavari. Traffic to Sunnambatti village in Dummugudem

mandal was stopped. Rehabilitation centers were set up in Burgampadu, Dummugudem and Charla mandals and people from low-lying areas were evacuated. Travel on canoes and fishing

were banned. Also Read - CV Anand Extends Friendship Day Greetings Burgampahad mandal was caught in a waterlogged situation as the Godavari rose significantly. Traffic between Burgampahad, K ukkurun, B hadrahalam, Irivendi and Ashwapuram mandals were stopped from Friday night to Saturday after the river flowed violently. As a precaution, people have been evacuated and shifted to safer areas. Houses in Pata Sarapaka, Irivendi and Mothe villages were submerged. Around 75 families have been shifted to rehabilitation centers.

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Leaders Remember Pingali Venkayya's Legacy and Service

Hyderabad: Eminent personalities recalled the services of Pingali Venkayya who was an Indian freedom fighter, known for designing Indian National Flag in connection with birth anniversary “Remembering Pingali Venkayya on his birth anniversary the visionary whose design laid the foundation of India's National Flag. A freedom fighter, educationist and patriot, his contribution continues to inspire generations and stands as a timeless symbol of unity, courage and national pride,” Union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy said in a post on ‘X’. Also Read - CV Anand Extends Friendship Day Greetings Pingali Venkayya was an Indian freedom fighter, known for initial design of Indian National Flag. Apart from his role in the independence movement, Venkayya was a lecturer, author, geologist, educationalist, agriculturist, and a polyglot. Venkayya joined the British Indian Army at age 19 and served in South Africa 1899 to 1902. During his service, he recognized the



need for a national flag for India as Indian soldiers were required to salute the Union Jack, the British flag. Inspired by his experience and later by attending the 1906 AICC session in Calcutta, he developed a vision for a flag representing Indians, opposing the practice of hoisting the British flag at Congress meetings. Also Read - used informally at Congress meetings from 1921 and served as the foundation for the Indian national flag, which was officially adopted in its final form by the Constituent Assembly on July 22, 1947.

Venkayya was an agriculturist, as well as an educationist who set up an educational institution in Machilipatnam. Revanth, Chandrababu Pay Tributes to Pingali Venkaiah Venkayya presented his design for an Indian national flag to Mahatma Gandhi in 1921 during Congress meetings from g Gandhi's visit to Vijayawada. The flag initially consisted of red and green stripes representing Hindus and Muslims, respectively, and, on Gandhi's suggestion, a white stripe was added to represent other communities in India.

This flag design was used informally at Congress meetings from 1921 and served as the foundation for the Indian national flag, which was officially adopted in its final form by the Constituent Assembly on July 22, 1947. Venkayya was an agriculturist, as well as an educationist who set up an educational institution in Machilipatnam. Despite his contributions, he died in poverty in 1963 and remained largely unrecognized in his later years. In 2009, the Indian government issued a postage stamp in his honour.

Bonalu Gets AI-Powered Crowd Management: Sajjanar

Hyderabad: Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar along with his family offering Bonam to the Goddess Sri Ujjaini Mahankali in Secunderabad on Sunday as part of Ashadamasam Bonam celebrations. Speaking on the occasion, Sajjanar stated that the Ashadam Bonalu festival holds a rich historical significance in the city. He noted that the celebrations are currently underway across the city in a peaceful, devotional, and joyous atmosphere. Also Read **Leaders Remember Pingali Venkayya's Legacy and Service He highlighted that after the peaceful conclusion of the Golconda and Balkampet Bonalu festivities, the celebrations at the Sri Ujjaini Mahankali and Lal Darwaza temples are now being conducted on a grand scale. He emphasized that the Hyderabad City Police Department has put in place robust security measures with the safety and protection of devotees as the utmost priority. Around 2,500 police**



personnel have been deployed to oversee bandobast for the Ujjaini Mahankali Bonalu celebrations. Also Read - CV Anand Extends Friendship Day Greetings Taking into account the annually increasing turnout of devotees, an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based crowd management and surveillance system has been introduced at the Mahankali Temple for the first time. Through this advanced AI system, CCTV cameras installed around the temple premises are integrated with Facial Recognition

Technology. This enables the immediate identification and tracking of habitual offenders, chain-snatchers, and pickpockets, allowing operational teams to respond swiftly. Also Read - Revanth, Chandrababu Pay Tributes to Pingali Venkaiah Furthermore, the system accurately monitors incoming and outgoing footfall through queue management. The density of crowds in different sections and queue lines inside the temple is continuously analyzed via threshold mapping. In

the event of overcrowding beyond permissible limits, proactive measures will be triggered to prevent stampedes or any untoward incidents. The Police department is working in close coordination with the Department, GHMC, and other government agencies to ensure smooth conduct. The Commissioner appealed to all devotees to seek the blessings of the Goddess in a peaceful manner and extend their complete cooperation to the police force for the successful completion of the festival.

Godavari River Flood Recedes at Bhadrachalam

Amaravati: The APSDMA on Sunday said flood flow in the Godavari river has begun receding at Bhadrachalam, where the second warning level has been withdrawn, though heavy discharge continues at the Dowleswaram Barrage. The water level at Bhadrachalam stood at 47.9 feet, while it was 21.5 metres at Kunavaram and 13.3 metres at Polavaram. The inflow and outflow at the Dowleswaram Barrage near Rajahmundry were recorded at 14.6 lakh cusecs. Also Read - Nandyal: Sri Sangameswara Temple Submerged by Krishna Backwaters "The flood flow in the Godavari river is receding at Bhadrachalam and the second warning level has been withdrawn."



However, heavy flood discharge continues at the Dowleswaram Barrage," Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) Managing Director Prakhar Jain

said in an official release. He urged people not to attempt crossing overflowing streams and causeways and advised them to cooperate with officials engaged in relief operations. He

also cautioned people against travelling, bathing, swimming or fishing in the Godavari river, saying the prevailing flood conditions made such activities dangerous.

Secunderabad Celebrates Bonalu in Grand Style

Hyderabad: The environs of Secunderabad and its surroundings came alive with the two-day Bonalu festivities commencing at the historic Sri Ujjaini Mahankali temple in Secunderabad on Sunday. The lanes and bylanes in Secunderabad and its surroundings were a festive atmosphere as residents' welfare and youth welfare associations decorated them with colorful flowers and LED lights. Long serpentine queues were seen near the temple with the devotees waiting since early morning to take blessings of the Goddess Sri Mahankali. The Endowments departments provided separate queues for the devotees and for the women offering 'bonam' to the Goddess. Also Read - Leaders Remember



Pingali Venkayya's Legacy and Service
Women clad in pattu sarees came to the temple and offered 'bonam' prepared with cooked rice laced with jaggery in a pot decorated with turmeric and vermilion as a thanksgiving for fulfilling their wishes. Speaking to media persons after participating

in prayers, Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar said more than 2,500 police personnel were deployed for the smooth conduct of the festival. Also Read - CV Anand Extends Friendship Day Greetings “We are using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to keep a tab of those moving suspi-

ciously and on pick pockets,” he said, adding that an adequate number of SHE Teams was also deployed to maintain constant vigil on eve teasers. The police also imposed traffic restrictions in Secunderabad and adjoining areas. Barricades were placed in the lanes to ensure a proper queue system.

Rs 18 Crore Donations 'Stolen' Annually From Mumbai's Siddhivinayak Temple, Alleges Raj Thackeray

Mumbai: Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) president Raj Thackeray has claimed that donations of Rs 18 crore were being siphoned off every year at the famous Siddhivinayak Temple in Mumbai.

He also alleged that Rs 1,400 crore had been stolen at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. Even temples are not safe these days, Thackeray said and demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi speak on this issue. The MNS chief was speaking at a programme organised by his party's student wing on Saturday. Frustrated youths visit temples, but even temples are not safe



from corruption, he said. Some employees who stole money from the

donation box at the Siddhivinayak Temple were caught due to the

alleged. Sada Sarvankar, chairman of the

alertness of the trustees, Thackeray said, reading out a letter written by eight trustees to Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

The temple's weekly earnings from donations were less than Rs 50 lakh before this theft was caught, and afterwards the collection rose to Rs 1.5 crore, he said. "Every year, Rs 18 crore was being stolen," Thackeray

Siddhivinayak Temple Trust and a leader of the Shiv Sena led by Eknath Shinde, said that nine employees were arrested in this connection.

"We have filed cases wherever required," he told reporters. The rise in donations was due to the efforts taken by the trust, Sarvankar said, adding that the temple's income has increased from Rs 114 crore two years ago to Rs 182 crore. Notably, police have arrested multiple accused in the case of alleged theft of donations at the Ram Temple, and the investigation is underway.

My Return To Kolkata After 19 Years Proves Injustice Cannot Be Permanent, Says Taslima Nasreen

Kolkata: After a long wait of nineteen years, exiled Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasrin has returned to Kolkata. Speaking from the stage at Rabindra Sadan on Saturday, she said, "This day bears witness that fear is not permanent. Bans are not permanent. Closed doors are not permanent." Her emotional voice conveyed years of hurt and anguish, mingled with the relief of returning to Kolkata. She clearly stated that this return was not merely a homecoming to a city, but a return to a lost chapter of her life.

Nasrin invited poet Joy Goswami to the stage. At the beginning of her speech, she said, "Today, I have returned to Kolkata. It took me nearly 19 years to utter this single sentence. For an exile, a year on the calendar is not just a measure of time. Each year represents a closed door; each month is a period of waiting; each day holds the sorrow of losing one's home." She added, "I am deeply grateful for the love and respect you have shown me today. It was Osman Gani Mallick who invited me to Kolkata. He was the first to boldly knock on the closed door of my return—a return that once seemed impossible. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to him." Tathagata Roy, Shashwati Ghosh, and



Mohit Roy were also present at the reception. The writer expressed her sincere gratitude to them. She also reiterated her thanks to West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari for this generous gesture. Taslima quipped, "This was truly unexpected for me. I am astonished, overwhelmed, and deeply moved." During her speech, she remembered two eminent Bengali thinkers, Sibnarayan Ray and Amlan Datta. She said, "They held me in great affection. They were deeply pained when I was forced to leave West Bengal. Had they witnessed this return today, they would certainly have been overjoyed." Touching upon the issue of a writer's safety, Taslima said, "The fact that a writer requires police protection to return to a city

where their own language is spoken is a painful truth of our times. Protecting a writer's life is not merely about safeguarding an individual; it is about protecting their right to speak, their right to express dissenting views, and the freedom of their pen." Speaking of her dreams, the author said, "I dream of a day when no writer has to move about under police protection because of their writing, and no freethinker is forced to leave their country for the 'crime' of speaking the truth." The month of August holds great significance in her life. Taslima said, "Today is August 1st. August is the month of my birth, the month of my exile, and—starting today—the month of my return. On August 8, 1994, the government of that time forced me to

leave Bangladesh. Under the cover of darkness, the doors to my homeland were shut against me. Since then, successive governments have come and gone, yet those doors have never reopened. In just seven days, my exile will complete 32 years. The time I have spent away from my homeland has already surpassed the time I spent living in it." Despite being exiled from Bangladesh, her love for her country remains undiminished. She says, "The state removed me from the country, but it could not remove the country from within me. The Bengali language is my portable homeland—a homeland I have carried with me from one end of the world to the other. I was born in one Bengal; I found my lost home in the other. Yet, in

the end, there was not even a small room left for a Bengali writer in either Bengal." After being expelled from Bangladesh and Kolkata, she found refuge in Europe. Reflecting on this, Taslima says, "Europe has given me citizenship, security, and shelter. I am grateful for that. But citizenship and a sense of belonging are not the same thing. One can find a safe house, but a 'home' is built through language, memories, culture, and the love of people." Recalling her connection with West Bengal, the author said, "Back in the seventies, while living in Mymensingh, I used to read Kolkata's literature, listen to its plays, and hear its songs on the radio. I discovered Kolkata through books, melodies, and voices long before I ever saw it in reality. In 1978, while still a teenager, I began editing a poetry magazine called 'Sejuti'." "Poems would arrive by mail from West Bengal; words would fly across the barbed-wire border inside envelopes. I used to publish those poems. I also wrote for 'little magazines' in West Bengal. While politics had divided Bengal, poetry built a bridge between the two Bengals. I started visiting Kolkata in the late eighties. My books have been published here since the

Karnataka Health Dept Refutes Reports Of 7,000 College Students Testing HIV-Positive, Calls Information 'False And Misleading'



Bengaluru: The Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society (KSAPS), under the Department of Health and Family Welfare, has dismissed media and social media reports claiming that 7,000 college students in the state had tested HIV positive, calling the information "completely false and misleading". The department has appealed to media organisations to publish the official clarification to prevent unnecessary panic and misinformation. The clarification comes as the state rolls out the Mobilisation for AIDS Suraksha (MAS) programme, an eight-month Red Ribbon Awareness Campaign aimed at preventing the spread of HIV and creating awareness among college students through monthly educational activities. According to KSAPS, the campaign is part of a

broad effort to identify an estimated 56,000 people living with HIV in Karnataka who remain undiagnosed, based on estimates by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO). As part of the initiative, the public has been encouraged to use the HIV Self-Risk Assessment QR Code available on breakfreeindia.org to assess their risk and seek testing at the nearest Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre (ICTC), if required. The awareness programme is being implemented in coordination with District AIDS Prevention and Control Officers (DAPCOs) and multiple government departments, including Home, Collegiate Education, Technical Education, Panchayat Raj, Transport, Social Welfare, Food and Civil Supplies, Industries and Commerce, Geology and Mines, Backward

Classes Welfare, and the Karnataka State Unorganised Workers Board. Addressing the media, UT Khader, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, rejected reports suggesting a rise in HIV cases among Gen Z and college students. "Karnataka is implementing an extensive awareness programme with the goal of achieving zero AIDS cases. Reports claiming that thousands of college students have tested HIV positive are completely false. We have comprehensive records of people tested in both government and private hospitals, and we are introducing a digital system to monitor treatment and ensure free medicines reach every eligible patient," he said. Khader also questioned NACO's estimation methodology and said the State Government would seek clarification. "Sensitive issues such as HIV cannot be discussed based on assumptions. We have written to NACO seeking the parameters and specific data behind its estimates. Generalised statements without evidence only create unnecessary fear among the

Candidates To Get Centres Closer To Home, Test City Info 3 Weeks In Advance



New Delhi: In a series of changes for the NEET-PG to be held later this year, the Centre will expand the choice of test locations, give candidates more time to plan travel to their examination cities, and give them more time per question in the test. The reforms are aimed at making the process more convenient for National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for Postgraduate (NEET-PG) candidates, according to the Union health ministry. "The end-to-end question paper preparation and delivery process has been further reinforced through multiple layers of encryption, secure offline preparation, time-bound finalisation of the question paper shortly before the examination, and controlled digital decryption only at the scheduled commencement of the test," the ministry said in a statement. The National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) has also operationalised a

dedicated email address for reporting impersonation, touting and other unfair practices while issuing regular advisories to candidates to promote awareness and vigilance. Under the revised system, candidates will indicate three state preferences for their examination centre, with their correspondence state being the mandatory first preference, enabling allotment of centres closer to their place of residence, the ministry said. In another key change, candidates will be informed of their allotted test city nearly three weeks before the August 30 examination, giving them more time to plan travel and accommodation, it said. The NBEMS has also rationalised the examination pattern to 180 questions to be answered in 210 minutes, allowing candidates more time per question while retaining the overall duration of the test, it said. The ministry added that to strengthen the

integrity of the examination process, Aadhaar-based authentication has been introduced during both the application process and on the examination day. Iris-based biometric verification will be used wherever fingerprint authentication is unsuccessful, it said. Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda on Saturday reviewed the preparedness for NEET-PG 2026 and directed all agencies to ensure the examination is conducted in a smooth, secure, transparent and technology-enabled manner. He assessed the readiness of NBEMS, technology partners and other stakeholders and stressed that every effort must be made to ensure a fair and candidate-friendly examination. A total of 2,73,183 candidates have registered for NEET-PG 2026, an increase of over 12.5 per cent compared to last year. The examination will be conducted in a single shift across around 340 cities and more than 1,300

Centre To Release Over Rs 2,117 Crore Worth Of SDRF In Advance To Seven Flood-Hit States

New Delhi: The Central government has approved the advance release of its share of the State Disaster Response Fund, worth Rs 2,117.85 crore, to support seven flood-affected states during the ongoing monsoon season, an official statement said on Saturday. Of the affected states, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha and Nagaland have already received the first instalment of the Central share for the financial year 2026-27. "To ensure timely availability of funds for relief operations, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has approved the advance release of the second instalment of the Central share of SDRF to Himachal Pradesh and Odisha," the statement said. Himachal Pradesh has been sanctioned 193.95 crore, and Odisha is to get 500 crore as their

second instalments.

the urgent need for Rs 500 crore.



The advance release of first instalments has been approved for Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat and Maharashtra by relaxing documentary requirements under applicable guidelines, considering

resources for relief measures, the statement said. The assistance approved for Arunachal Pradesh amounts to Rs 44.55 crore, for Assam Rs 379.35 crore, for Gujarat Rs 500 crore, and for Maharashtra

"With this approval, a total of Rs 2,117.85 crore has been made available to the flood-affected states to strengthen their ongoing relief and response measures," the statement said. Inter-Ministerial Central

Teams (IMCT) have already been deputed to Arunachal Pradesh and Assam to assess damages. Two IMCT visits have been undertaken in Assam in view of the severity of the flood situation there, it said, adding, "On request of the Government of Nagaland, an IMCT is being constituted for the state." The statement further said the Centre has been continuously monitoring the flood situation in close coordination with the state governments since the onset of the monsoon. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government remains committed to extending all necessary assistance to states for effective relief, rescue and rehabilitation measures and will continue to monitor the situation closely," it added

NEET-UG 2026 Counselling To Begin On Aug 4, Academic Session From Sept 8

New Delhi: The first round of counselling for admission to MBBS and other undergraduate medical courses under the All India Quota (AIQ) will begin on August 4, and the academic session for the 2026-27 batch will commence on September 8, according to the Medical Counselling Committee. According to the counselling schedule released by the committee on Saturday night (Aug 1), the academic session for undergraduate medical courses will begin on September 8, even as counselling for the subsequent rounds continues for vacant seats. The first round of AIQ counselling for deemed and central universities will be held from August 4 to August 17. The last date for joining will be August 22, according to the schedule shared by the MCC. The second round of AIQ counselling will take place from August 24 to



September 2, followed by the third round from September 10 to September 18. The stray vacancy round is scheduled from September 28 to October 3. The last date for joining after the stray vacancy round is October 10. For state quota seats, the first round of counselling will be conducted from August 13 to August 22, with candidates required to join by August 28. The second round will be held from August 31 to September 8 and the third round from September 16 to

September 26. The stray vacancy round for state quota seats will be conducted from October 3 to October 5. The schedule also provides timelines for verification of joined candidates by the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) and state counselling authorities after each round to facilitate seat processing and subsequent allotments. The MCC has directed all participating institutions, state counselling authorities and designated agencies to strictly adhere to the schedule. It

has also asked institutions to treat all Saturdays, Sundays and gazetted holidays as working days to ensure timely completion of the counselling process.

The MCC, which comes under the Union health ministry, has introduced a series of improvements in the NEET-UG 2026 counselling process, including doing away with mandatory physical reporting for candidates opting for seat upgrade and allowing online resignation from allotted seats, in an effort to make the admission process "more transparent and student-friendly". Among the major changes, candidates who have been allotted a seat and have opted for upgrade in subsequent rounds will no longer have to physically report to the allotted college merely to complete admission formalities.

Govt Should Reduce Petrol Prices To Rs 82 Per Litre: Arvind Kejriwal

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party national convenor Arvind Kejriwal alleged on Thursday that the Centre is allowing oil companies to make "illegitimate profit" and that fuel prices should be reduced. Kejriwal said the government should reduce petrol prices from Rs 102 per litre to Rs 82 per litre. "In international markets, the per-barrel cost of crude oil has reduced, but in India, the cost of petrol has remained at Rs 102 per litre since May this year. I demand that the price should be brought down to Rs 82 per litre for petrol and the cost of diesel should also be reduced," Kejriwal said at a press conference. He said if petrol and diesel prices are brought down, inflation will also reduce. "Between 2014 and now, international crude oil prices have reduced at least six times, despite the government not reducing the petrol prices in the country. What are they doing with the 'bumper profit' they made during those



years? Companies should not make illegitimate profit, which is currently happening with high prices," Kejriwal said. Earlier on Wednesday, Kejriwal announced that he will write to 29 automobile companies seeking clarification on the use of E20 petrol in vehicles manufactured before 2023, amid ongoing concerns about its safety, mileage impact, and potential engine damage. He said detailed letters were sent to Maruti Suzuki, Toyota Kirloskar Motor and

Hero MotoCorp, while a standard letter was sent to 26 other companies. "The representatives of the three companies had stated at a government press conference on July 4 that E20 petrol is safe for pre-2023 vehicles and would reduce mileage by only 3% to 5%. However, the owners' manualate profit, which is currently happening with high prices," Kejriwal said. Earlier on Wednesday, Kejriwal announced that he will write to 29 automobile companies seeking clarifi-

cation on the use of E20 petrol in vehicles manufactured before 2023, amid ongoing concerns about its safety, mileage impact, and potential engine damage. He said detailed letters were sent to Maruti Suzuki, Toyota Kirloskar Motor and als for these vehicles explicitly state that petrol blended with more than 10 per cent ethanol should not be used in older vehicles. These two positions are contradictory, and the companies need to clarify their official stance," he said.

Brief Spell Of Rain Slams The Brakes On Gurugram Speed

Gurugram: Heavy rainfall in Gurugram, Haryana, has once again exposed the flaws in the city's drainage system. Waterlogging occurred in several areas after just a brief spell of rain, causing inconvenience to the public. Traffic was particularly disrupted in the Sector 10 area, where flooded roads made commuting difficult for both pedestrians and motorists. Water accumulated on several major roads following the rain, slowing down vehicular movement. Commuters faced delays in reaching their destinations, and traffic jams were observed in various locations. According to the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA), waterlogging was reported in Narsinghpur, Rajiv Chughtsion, regarding the preparedness of the Municipal Corporation

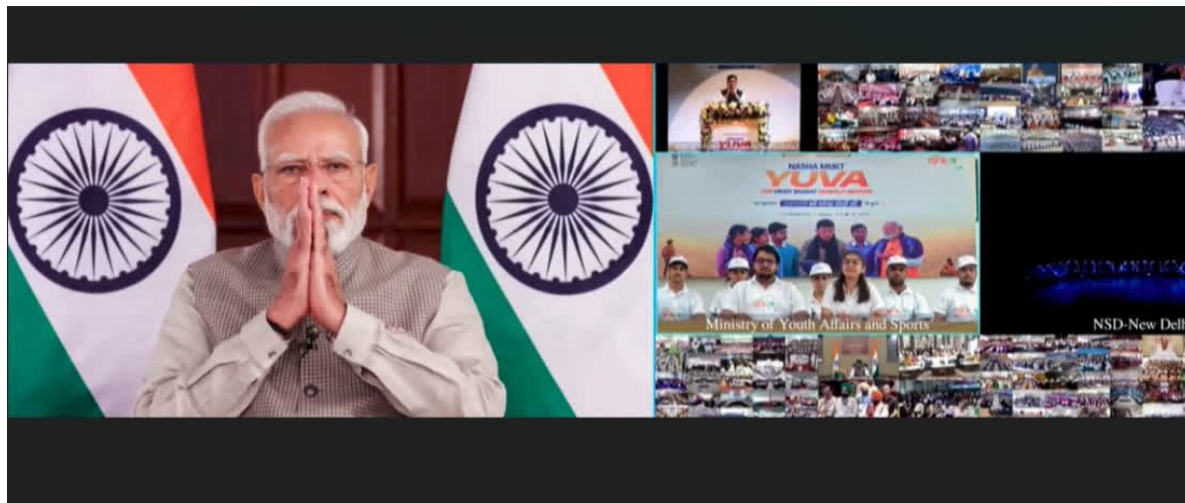


owk, AIT Chowk, Khandas Road and some areas of old Gurugram. "No waterlogging concerns were reported in any of the city's underpasses today, and they were open to traffic all day," said an official. The recurring issue of waterlogging after every spell of rain has raised

questions regarding the preparedness of the Municipal Corporation and other departments concerned. Locals attribute the persistent problem to a lack of proper drain cleaning and inadequate water drainage arrangements regarding the preparedness of the

Municipal Corporation gements prior to the rains. Local residents have urged the administration to find a permanent solution to the waterlogging problem. They point out that this situation arises every year during the monsoon, disrupting both life and traffic.

'Drug-Free Youth Crucial For Viksit Bharat': PM Modi Launches 'Nasha Mukh Yuva Abhiyan'



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that to achieve the target of a developed India, the country's youth must remain mentally and physically fit, for which they must stay away from all kinds of substance abuse. Launching the 'Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan' aimed at eradicating substance abuse among the youth, Modi said the campaign is not just for the youth, but also for their families, society and the entire country. The prime minister launched the campaign virtually in the presence of a large number of youth, who described

themselves as representatives of Gen-Z, days after large-scale protests by students demanding reforms in the public examination system rocked Delhi and other parts of the country. MY Bharat Volunteers, MY Bharat National Service Scheme volunteers, youth clubs, schools, colleges, universities, NGOs, youth wings of industry associations and more than 125 partner spiritual organisations participated in the programme virtually. The initiative aims to inspire youth to stay away from substance abuse and encourages them to become ambassadors of positive social change in their commu-

nities. The launch marked the beginning of a 100-week nationwide 'Jan Bhagidari' campaign against substance abuse, an official statement said on Saturday. Under the campaign, weekly activities will be organised every Sunday across the country to promote awareness and encourage public participation in building a drug-free society. During the launch of the campaign via video conferencing, Modi urged all citizens, especially the youth, to participate in this movement. The activities will include sports events, walkathons, meditation sessions, cultural programmes, awareness

campaigns, nukkad natak, discussion forums, art competitions and community engagement programmes. The initiative seeks to further strengthen community participation by bringing together educational institutions, youth organisations, civil society groups, industry bodies and spiritual organisations on a common platform to create a collective movement against substance abuse. The 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan' was launched in 2020 in line with Modi's vision of creating a 'Nasha Mukh Bharat', Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Mansukh Mandaviya, at the event.

Over 3,800 Amarnath Pilgrims Depart Jammu As Jammu-Srinagar Highway Partly Restored



Jammu: A fresh batch of 3,886 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here early Sunday for the Amarnath yatra after the partial restoration of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, which had remained closed for two days following incessant rains. After a one-day break, the 25th batch departed Jammu base camp at 2:52 am for Baltal in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal in a convoy of 177 vehicles under tight security arrangements, the officials said. Over 4.50 lakh pilgrims have visited the 3,880 metre high holy cave shrine of Amarnath in the Kashmir Himalayas since the commencement of the yatra on July 3. The 57-day yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 28. The yatra had remained suspended for a day from Jammu on Saturday after the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway suffered extensive damage due to incessant rains at several locations between Jhakani in Udhampur and Banihal in Ramban, necessitating major restoration work. The officials said the 250-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, has

now been restored for single-carriage traffic in the most affected area, particularly near Dewal Bridge in the Samroli area of Udhampur, allowing the yatra convoy to resume. Although restoration work is still in progress, light motor vehicles were allowed from Jammu on Sunday morning after a two-day suspension, officials said, adding traffic from Qazigund towards Jammu will be resumed after the Amarnath Yatra convoy passes the area in the next few hours. Heavy motor vehicles will be allowed to ply on the highway on alternate days, a traffic police spokesperson said. Averse weather forecast for the next few days, the traffic police has advised commuters to undertake travel on the Highway only after verifying the latest road and traffic status. In another development, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Udhampur-Reasi Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma visited Samroli near Dewal Bridge on Saturday to inspect the ongoing debris clearance and restoration work on the Highway. During the visit, the DIG reviewed the restoration efforts being undertaken by the National Highways Authority of

India (NHAI) with the help of heavy earth-moving machinery, a police spokesman said. The DIG emphasised the need for expeditious clearance of the debris to facilitate the early restoration of traffic while ensuring the safety of personnel engaged in the operation. He also interacted with local residents and heard their grievances regarding all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, has now been restored for single-carriage traffic in the most affected area, particularly near Dewal Bridge in the Samroli area of Udhampur, allowing the yatra convoy to resume. Although restoration work is still in progress, light motor vehicles were allowed from Jammu on Sunday morning after a two-day suspension, officials said, adding traffic from Qazigund towards Jammu will be resumed after the Amarnath Yatra convoy passes the area in the next few hours. Heavy motor vehicles will be allowed to ply on the highway on alternate days, a traffic police spokesperson said. Averse weather forecast for the next few days, the traffic police has advised commuters to undertake travel on the Highway only after veri-

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Indian Diaspora In China Flags Visa, Social Media Concerns At Embassy's First Open House In Years



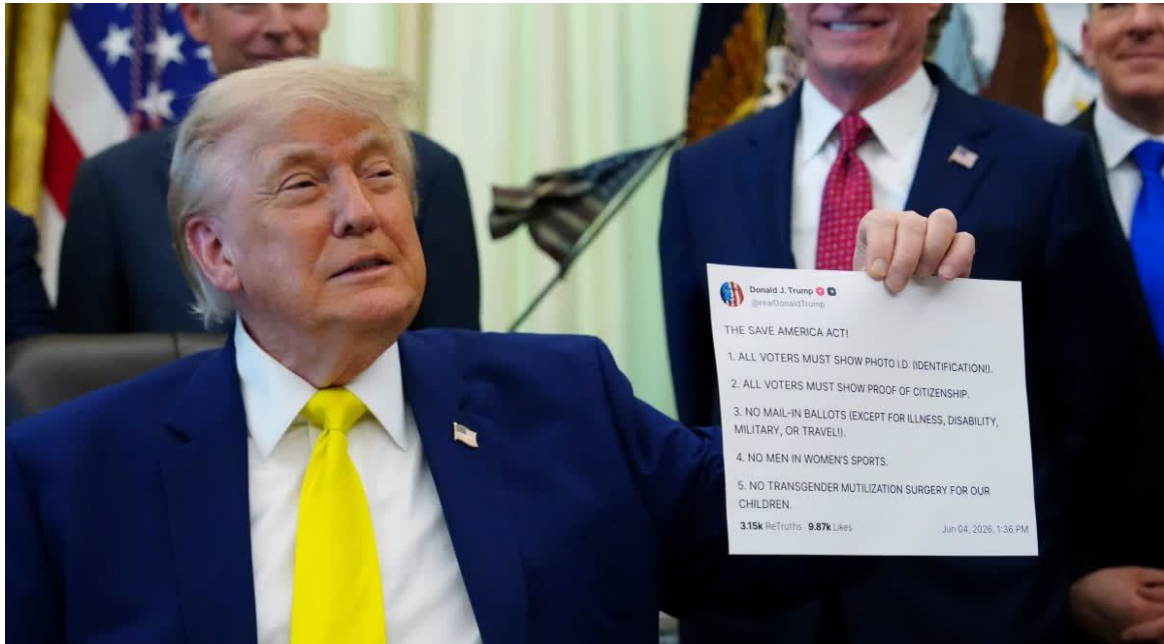
Beijing: Members of the Indian diaspora in China raised concerns over abusive anti-India content on Chinese social media, declining work visas for professionals, and restrictions on employment for spouses at the Indian Embassy's first Open House in recent years. The mission hosted the outreach initiative on Friday, bringing together a large number of Indian professionals working in various sectors in Beijing to discuss issues affecting the community. Indian Ambassador Vikram Doraiswami, accompanied by Counsellor (Consular, Education and

Community Affairs) Nitinjeet Singh and Counsellor (Visa) Ramesh Singh, interacted with members of the diaspora on a range of issues. Among the concerns raised were the increase in abusive content against Indians, including their food habits and culture, on Chinese social media platforms, a decline in the number of job visas issued by China to Indian professionals, restrictions on employment for spouses, and difficulties relating to counsellor services. Doraiswami, who assumed charge in May and has stepped up engagements with

Chinese officials as part of efforts to improve bilateral ties, said the embassy would further simplify the documentation required for Chinese nationals applying for Indian visas from next week to facilitate greater travel to India. Responding to concerns over negative and abusive content on Chinese social media, he said the Chinese government is also concerned about the rise in such content and is taking steps to address the issue. On its part, the embassy is countering misinformation by disseminating fact-based information through its social media handles,

Doraiswami said. The ambassador also said the embassy planned to organise more cultural events, building on the huge response to annual programmes such as the Vasant Mela, to showcase India's diverse culture and cuisine. The mission is also working to establish a mechanism with legal professionals to assist Indians facing work-related issues, he said. To improve consular services for the Indian diaspora, the embassy plans to hold Open House interactions periodically to address their concerns, Doraiswami said.

Trump Stands To Profit Off US Policy Announcements By Selling Fast Access To His Social Media Posts



New York: President Donald Trump knows the world hangs on his every word. Now he wants you to pay for it. The social media posts of the world's most powerful man are going on sale Saturday when his Truth Social business begins offering sneak peeks of them to Wall Street traders willing to pay up. The move raises the prospect of big profits for Trump's company and big questions about insider trading and using public office for private gain. Similar fast speed feeds are sold by other social media firms and media providers, but Truth Social doesn't just distribute the news, it makes it, regularly rattling markets as Trump posts policy changes on everything from war to central bank leadership to tariffs. "If this was the CEO of a public company, this would be jail time," said Irene Aldridge, head of Able Alpha Trading, which doesn't plan to buy the service. "We have a President of the United States who has the front seat to all the action, who makes all the decisions, and he's disclosing this ahead of time to a select group." Trump's company says critics just aren't capitalist enough. Asked about the propriety of the new service and whether White

House lawyers had vetted it, Trump's press office declined to comment, referring questions to Truth Social's publicly traded parent. That company, Trump Media & Technology, issued a statement blasting Democratic critics for mischaracterizing the service "out of ideological opposition to free markets or a failure to grasp the distinction between public and nonpublic information — or, quite possibly, both." A prolific poster, Trump has sent stocks, bonds and currencies soaring and plunging with his online musings and threats. That presents opportunities for so-called high frequency traders that specialize in buying and selling within milliseconds, exploiting tiny, fleeting difference in prices. Profits aplenty betting on oil, stocks and currencies. Just this month, Trump has threatened on Truth Social to slap higher tariffs on Canada, kill a nuclear deal with Saudi Arabia and widen the Iran war. With advanced knowledge, traders betting on a plunge in the Canadian dollar, a drop in nuclear energy stocks and a jump in oil futures could have raked in big profits. "For the big guys, it's going to be something they need," said Joe Saluzzi, co-founder of Themis

Trading, who estimates about 100 of high frequency firms might be willing to pay for the service. "It's market-moving information." Dubbed Truth API, the service comes as these firms are spending more on feeds and servers that bypass slower internet connections with direct lines to news and data sources. The chance for profits is greater than ever thanks artificial intelligence's ability to read posts and articles more accurately for market-making changes and Trump's penchant for making news online. When Trump makes surprise announcements, traders pounce and profit when prices jump up and down, and with his taste for cliffhangers, threats and policy reversals America's first reality-TV president provides plenty of potentially market-moving content. The reversals are especially profitable, allowing traders to win both ways — jumping ahead of stocks moving up or down to a post threatening something, then cashing out within thousands of a second, then betting the other way. In addition to Trump, the service will include posts from other "high ranking" Truth Social contributors, including possibly his two oldest sons, Donald Jr. and

13 Killed After Plane Carrying European Tourists Crashes In Peru



Bogota: A plane carrying European tourists to view the famed Nazca Lines crashed into a field Saturday outside the Peruvian city of Nazca, killing 13 people, local authorities said. Nazca's municipal government said the plane departed from the nearby city of Ica and was operated by Peruvian company Aerodiana. On its website, the airline

said that it has offered scenic flights over the Nazca lines for the past 14 years using Cessna Grand Caravan planes. The Nazca Lines are a group of extensive geoglyphs scraped into the desert around Nazca hundreds of years ago by Peru's Indigenous inhabitants. The lines form images of animals that can only be fully appreciated from planes or

viewing towers. Among the dead were seven Italian citizens between the ages of 18 and 54, two 52-year-old Spaniards and two Germans of 77 and 78 years, Peru's Transportation Ministry said. The other two fatalities were the pilot Américo Salazar and copilot Irenka Guanilo del Carpio, it said in an official report. President

Keiko Fujimori expressed regret over the accident and said a "temporary suspension" of the airport was being considered, though the decision will be made once she receives reports from the relevant ministries. Peruvian authorities said the accident is under investigation. Aerodiana was not immediately available for comment.

Pakistan Made Every Effort To Dismantle Goodwill Under Indus Water Treaty

Washington: The Indus Water Treaty was signed in the spirit of goodwill and friendship, and Pakistan spent half a century dismantling it, India's envoy to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra said. In an article published in Newsweek magazine, Kwatra said India's decision to keep the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) in abeyance merely acknowledged what Pakistan's conduct had already destroyed. Kwatra's article came days after Pakistan hosted a conference recently to protest India's decision to hold the IWT in abeyance on April 23 last year, a day after Pakistan-trained terrorists killed 26 people, most of them tourists, at Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir. "It is worth remembering that the treaty's preamble declares it was concluded 'in a spirit of goodwill and friendship'. Pakistan spent half a century dismantling that goodwill and friendship. The abeyance merely acknowledges what Pakistan's conduct had already destroyed," the envoy said.

The IWT, signed by India and Pakistan in

1960, gave New Delhi control over three of the six Indus basin rivers that carry roughly 20 per cent of the basin's water, while Islamabad got rights to rivers that carry roughly 80 per cent. "That asymmetry stifled development for decades in Indian regions that could have benefited from better water rights. India honoured the treaty anyway," Kwatra said. He said Pakistan responded by launching wars against India in 1965, 1971 and in 1999; and through decades of persistent hostility and cross-border terrorism, including an attack on India's Parliament in 2001, Mumbai terror carnage in 2008, Uri and Pathankot attacks in 2016, the Pulwama attack in 2019 and the Pahalgam attack in 2025. Kwatra said if Pakistan sincerely wants India's cooperation on bilateral issues, it must first dismantle the terror infrastructure it has built over the years. Obstruction and bureaucratic delays have been Pakistan's principal



responses to any India-initiated projects under the treaty, he said. "Pakistan also consistently blocked India's initiatives to renegotiate the treaty in light of six decades of technological change, which would have let India develop its hydropower potential," he said. "Bit by bit, Pakistan eroded India's faith that it could exercise its rights under the treaty, or hope for a better one suited to today's realities," Kwatra said. The envoy said those advocating talks between India and Pakistan have not taken note of the history of these initiatives taken in the past or they must believe that doing the same thing over and over again and expecting

different results is not insanity. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has clearly voiced India's stand today: 'Terror and talks cannot go together... Terror and trade cannot go together... Water and blood cannot flow together,'" Kwatra said. He said the water scarcity Pakistan faces is a result of mismanagement by the government in Islamabad. "...the Government of Pakistan would do better to fix its dismal water productivity, than to stage conferences blaming India and issuing threats," Kwatra said, adding that the habit of pinning every domestic failure on India has grown old. "The world should say so, unequivocally," he said.

Vance Says Trump Administration 'Screwed Up' Communications Around Epstein Files

Washington: Vice President JD Vance says the Trump administration "absolutely" mishandled the communications surrounding the Jeffrey Epstein files. During a lengthy podcast interview with Joe Rogan released, Vance pointed largely to former Attorney General Pam Bondi, who infamously stated that an alleged "client list" of Epstein's was "sitting on my desk right now." Epstein was a convicted sex offender who was known for his

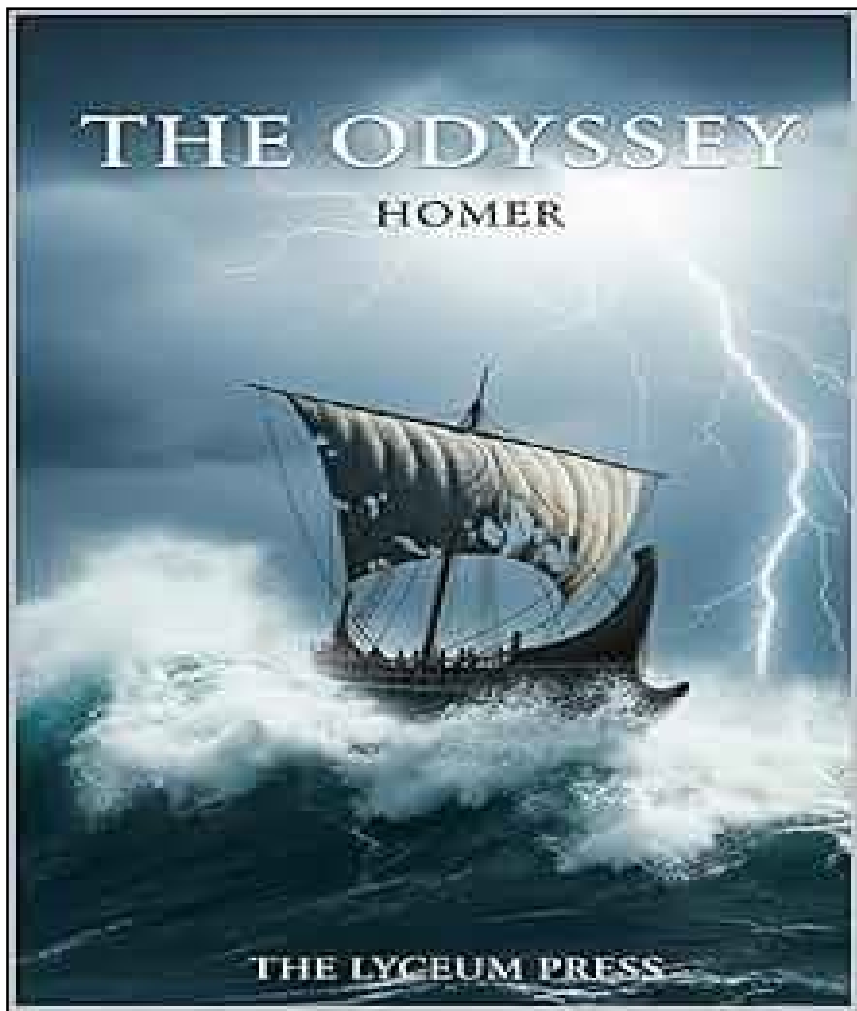


wide web of connections to the world's elite. In addition to those comments, the Justice Department under Bondi had also offered conservative commentators and influencers binders

that were called "The Epstein files: Phase 1" and "Declassified." "I know Pam. I like Pam. I don't think there was anything malicious going on," Vance told Rogan. "I think Pam was

trying to respond to the political moment. I think she overstated what we had and what we didn't have." As a result, Vance said, Bondi was "roasted" publicly for it and led people to "mistrust" the administration's transparency efforts on the Epstein files. "We absolutely screwed up the comms of the Epstein files. Like, we just did," Vance said. "But do I think the reason we screwed up the comms is because we were trying to hide

Telangana's future lies in the hands of its youth



The tale comes to us from about the 8th century BC, and the spectacle unfolding across 12,000 lines of poetry, and now the screen, includes a wooden horse in a war, pillage and plunder, wives and nymphs, monsters and heroes, and a traumatised veteran and a series of unfortunate climatic incidents at sea.

his deceptions, his hubris ('Defy the Gods' as the film's tagline has it), and a yearning for belonging, he tries to humanise a war hero with PTSD. The haunted hero originates in a very old, and grand, poem. Homer's epic, 12,000-plus lines of poetry set in 24 books, is about a man who tries to find his way back home. The Odyssey has uncertain origins (it was a piece intended to be sung, before it took the form of a written text around the Byzantine period) and in our time, the EV Rieu (prose), Robert Fitzgerald (poetry), the Daniel Mendelsohn (poetry) and the more popular Emily Wilson (poetry) translations have delivered some outstanding versions for both, the specialist reader as well as the interested but non-specialised reader. The Odyssey's massive canvas is distinct from genres like comedy, novels or plays. The epic was marked by form, function and content, where the form was verse cast in metrical lines, the function was singing, and the content made of larger-than-life events, the merger of the human and the divine, the fantastic and the nearly-impossible-human. Finally, The Odyssey is about storytelling. The principal adventures of the voyage are narrated by Odysseus to King Alcinous and the people of Phaeacia (Books 9-12). It is in this narration that Odysseus invents his self, it is the sharing of this narrative before an audience that creates the 'figure' of the man for whom one is supposed to feel sorry and admire at the same time. The Fantastic Voyage Homer's is a world of marvels: of monsters, gods, magic and, caught in the midst of all this, a man and his team of

war-weary soldiers. As in contemporary sci-fi or fantasy (and The Odyssey has been seen by critics as the originator of these genres) we have monsters like Scylla:

howling and barking horribly; her voice is puppylike, but she is dangerous;

She has twelve dangling legs and six long necks with a gruesome head on each, and in each face three rows of crowded teeth...

There are terrifying whirlpools, like Charybdis: Beneath, divine Charybdis sucks black water down. There are one-eyed monsters like Cyclops: he reached his hands towards my men, seized two, and knocked them hard against the ground like puppies, and the floor was wet with brains. He ripped them limb by limb to make his meal, then ate them like a lion on the mountains...

The Laestrygonians are 'not humanlike, but giants'. There are the 'otherworldly Sirens' who lure men in with their strange music (in the film, for some reason, they are shown from a distance), Circe who turns Odysseus' men into pigs, and Calypso whose potent lotus flowers mesmerize men (the subject of Lord Tennyson's poem), among others.

The fantastic is, of course, a world in which existing laws do not apply, whether these are moral codes or the laws of physics. And yet, even in the space of the fantastic and the marvelous, Homer's text puts in interesting observations. In the Wilson translation, for example, the men are rendered into pigs by Circe: She added potent drugs to make them totally forget their home. They took and drank the mixture. Then she struck them, using her magic wand, and penned them in the pigsty. They were turned to pigs in body and voice and hair; their minds remained the same. Whether this inau-

gurates the trope of men as pigs is anyone's guess, but in Homer's vision, the personality of the pig is the same as that of the human male. Then there is the temptation of cohabitation with a goddess, Calypso. Odysseus refuses eternity with Calypso, opting for mortality with Penelope.

Part of the charm of the fantastic is the intersection of the human and the nonhuman and the unresolvable geography of the tale's many settings (the geography of The Odyssey is a field of study in itself). The eponymous hero himself appears only in Book V, although the scene is remarkably well set for us in the first four. Gods fit in and out of the narrative and Athena the goddess is present in almost every book of The Odyssey, planting ideas into humans' heads, transforming their personalities and appearance and, in short, interfering with human 'free will'.

A History of the Human Even with the gods and monsters, The Odyssey is a firmly human-centred world. In his Introduction to The Oxford Critical Guide to Homer's 'Odyssey', Joel Christensen notes: "Odysseus's Ithaca is one step closer to the world of its audiences, and completes a story that helps to explain not just where the worlds of gods and mortals came from but why they are separate and why the mortal realm might just be better off this way..." This mortal realm is strictly hierarchic. Labour in the kingdoms is undertaken by faceless slaves: The slaves brought out a piece of meat for him, and a submissive house girl brought him bread. Homer shows multiple types of slaves: those by birth (the children of Dolius, Melanthius and Melantho), by purchase (Eumaeus and Eurycleia), or as gifts (Dolius). We also 'know' slaves by their assigned tasks: Eumaeus the swineherd, Philoetius the cowherd, Melanthius the goatherd, Eurycleia the nurse, and others. When Odysseus massacres the suitors, he

also asks Telemachus to kill the slave women who he believes had entertained Penelope's suitors (but who were probably really victims of sexual assault by the men haunting the house). Telemachus also believes this:

I refuse to grant these girls a clean death, since they poured down shame on me and Mother, when they lay beside the suitors

The result is:

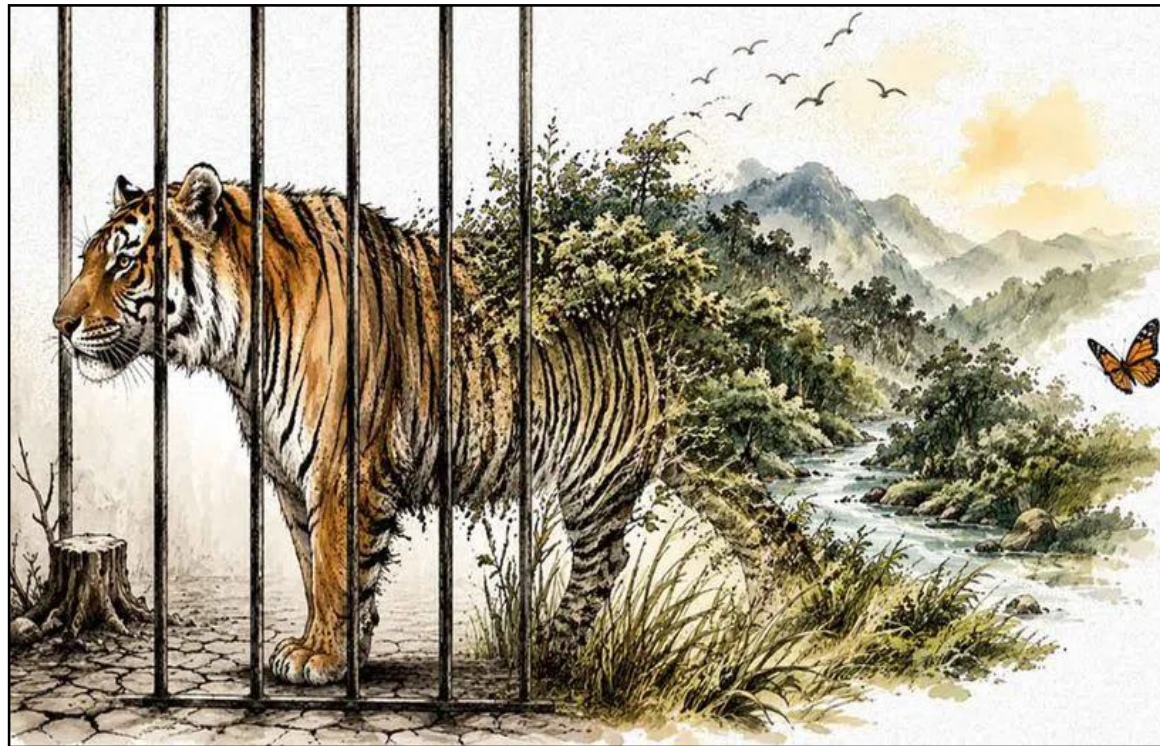
[the] girls, their heads all in a row, were strung up with the noose around their necks to make their death an agony. They gasped, feet twitching for a while, but not for long.

The text constructs a civilisational scale where the non-Greeks occupy the lower end, and are termed 'barbaric'. Under siege from a group of unscrupulous suitors, Penelope devises a method to keep them at bay: weaving by day, unravelling by night, until the persistent suitors discover her secret. Penelope serves, as Emily Wilson notes in her Introduction, as a double to Helen of Troy: "Much courted Penelope resembles Helen ... and whom Paris, Prince of Troy, later stole away. Like Paris, Penelope's suitors threaten to steal away a married woman as if she were a bride. Penelope's house also echoes the besieged town of Troy..." Conquest, colonisation, governance, and politics are central to the tale. Odysseus records how certain lands would be so much better under colonisation: Countless goats live there but people never visit it. No hunters labor through its woods to scale its hilly peaks. There are no flocks of sheep, no fields of plowland—it is all untilled, unsown and uninhabited by humans. With boats they could have turned this island into a fertile colony, with proper harvests. This is pristine nature, untouched by the human hand or device, and Odysseus mourns that this is not a 'colony'!

In the case of Odysseus, Ithaca politics has to do with the laws of hospitality. The book's theoxeny (hospitality to a god) conflates with the more mundane hospitality towards humans. Homer's text layers the theme in the form of the Trojan Horse incident: taken into the city as a surprise gift, the enemy soldiers inside it enable the seizure of the city. The Horse is hosted, so to speak, by Troy, and then the gift destroys the city from the inside.

Then, of course, the suitors living off Odysseus' wealth are guests who insult the host. The Odyssey hinges on the laws of hospitality, of welcoming the stranger-guest and of course of not overstaying the welcome. The guest is also an enemy (the root of the word host and guest is the same, hostis), as we know from the other epic, The Iliad: the

Did the Animal 'ask' for freedom?



Demands for autonomy, including cognitive autonomy in the age of AI and neurotechnologies, and freedom are common enough for us to have reached a stage of 'compassion fatigue' (Susan Moeller's apt term) for those lacking freedoms. But what of those who do not ask for freedom?

which the bulk of human freedoms revolve. The 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights enshrined the right to freedom from discrimination, inhuman treatment, slavery, unfair detainment, the right to freedom of movement, to assemble, social security, and so on. Some of these freedoms apply across species as well, as the 1965 Brambell Report stated. While this is not to equate human and animal freedom, or identity, it is worth examining some Freedom

The right to life, and the right to freedom from torture or slavery hinge on the assumption that corporeal autonomy and freedom are crucial to sentient beings. The Brambell report lists as the first three freedoms of animals as follows: Freedom from Hunger and Thirst: by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.

Freedom from Discomfort: by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease: by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment. Conditions that cause pain, discomfort or hunger, such as cages or holding cells, cause the loss of bodily freedoms. In the case of humans, these freedoms enshrined in legislation around the world may be thought of as legal freedoms, but in the case of the nonhuman, become more of a directive and difficult-to-implement set of rules.

Freedom of Spirit Philosophers and ethicists from Immanuel Kant onwards speak of ontological freedoms. They argue that what is fundamental to human ontology — being — is freedom and spirit. While the law treats freedoms in terms of rights, and mostly as injunctions to the state against restraining

humans, philosophers propose that ontological freedom is not about legal measures.

Freedom is an ontological given because it defines the very core of being, existence and awareness. Ontological freedom is defined as fullness and fulfilment. In other words, and perhaps reductively, such a freedom is directed at fulfilment of individual senses, requirements, etc. The Brambell Report implies something on these lines when it also lists two further freedoms for animals: Freedom to Express Normal Behavior: by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.

Freedom from Fear and Distress: by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

These appear closely aligned with the idea of ontological freedom because distress and fear, when induced by contexts, prevent a sense of fulfilment or even the possibility of fulfilment.

The freedom to express normal behaviour — normal for that species — is impossible to separate, as in the case of humans, from a sense of fulfilment. It could be argued that all sentient creatures are not the same, and, therefore, not deserving of the same ontological freedoms. But, as early as 2012, the 'Cambridge Declaration on Consciousness' stated: The absence of a neo-cortex does not appear to from experiencing affective states. Convergent evidence indicates that non-human animals have the neuroanatomical, neurochemical, and neurophysiological substrates of conscious states along with the capacity to exhibit intentional behaviors.

Consequently, the weight of evidence indicates that humans are not unique in possessing the neurological substrates that generate consciousness. Non-human animals, including all mammals and birds, and many other creatures, including octopuses, also possess these neurological substrates. If we were to take even a minimum of scientific evidence embodied in the above, we understand that we are speaking of the preliminaries to ontological freedom

even for the nonhuman life form. Imagining Animal Freedom In his The Lives of Animals, Nobel Laureate JM Coetzee, through the protagonist Elizabeth Costello, voices ideas of animal freedoms. Costello proposes that a poetic imagining of animal freedoms is perhaps more effective.

Through Rainer Maria Rilke's 'The Panther' and Ted Hughes' 'The Jaguar' and 'Second Glance at a Jaguar', she argues that, first, humans can visualise through poetic thought the state of the animal and, second, it enables us to understand that humans cannot place themselves higher than other creatures simply on the basis of sentience. Rilke's poem about a caged panther calls upon us to imagine what the loss of corporeal freedom can mean for ontological freedom. It opens with: His gaze is from the passing bars so weary. That now, within it, nothing more is held. For him there are a thousand bars to see

But then behind a thousand bars, no world. Rilke speaks of the panther's 'pacing strides' that circle 'ever smaller'. He then shifts to the state of the animal's spirit: the 'once-so-mighty will stands numbed'. There is memory of freedom though: Now and again, the pupil's curtains part. Without a sound. An image enters in. Flows through the hush of tensely coiled limbs, And vanishes within the beating heart.

Rilke draws us into the animal's consciousness, and thus into its suffering. In nearly similar fashion, Hughes' 'The Jaguar' says: 'fatigued with indolence, tiger and lion/lie still as the sun'. But the jaguar is seen enraged/through prison darkness'. There is the 'bang of blood in the brain'. He is behind bars, but 'there's no cage to him/more than to the visionary his cell'. Hughes concludes: His stride is wildernesses of freedom: The world rolls under the long thrust of his heel.

Over the cage floor the horizons come. The jaguar's mind still experiences internal states of freedom. But does this really count, asks Hughes. Hughes in 'Second

Glance at a Jaguar' makes it clear that the animal has no freedom in the cage. From the 'wildernesses of freedom' in the previous poem, Hughes comments now of the very limited space to stride: At every stride he has to turn a corner

In himself and correct it. The 'corner' is within the animal's mind and an index of curtailed spirit. What of the rest of the body? His head is like the worn down stump of another whole jaguar... club-tail lumped along behind gracelessly.

Hughes concludes with: The head dragging forward, the body keeping up. The hind legs lagging. He coils, he flourishes. The blackjack tail as if looking for a target. Hurrying through the underworld, soundless. Although Hughes suggests that the caged jaguar is plotting escape, the overall sense we get is the jaguar is doomed to spend the rest of his life in misery. The references to the jaguar's body is only matched by the attempupil's curtains part

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The world rolls under the long thrust of his heel. Over the cage floor the horizons come. The jaguar's mind still states of freedom. But does this really tion to the mental processes which Hughes asks us to understand through the imagination. The question of freedoms that the animal does not ask is perhaps best asked by poetry, where the law or science fails, literary knowledge comes in handy. Behind and outside 'a thousand bars', there is 'no world' for the animal.

Gulveer Wins Historic Bronze in Men's 5000m, First In Athletics To Win 2 Medals In Single CWG

Glasgow: Gulveer Singh, on Saturday, scripted history as he became the first Indian to win a 5000m medal in the Commonwealth Games with a bronze as well as the first track and field athlete from the country to win two medals in a single edition of the Games.

Reigning Asian champion Gulveer, who had won a silver in the 10,000m on July 28, finished third in the 5000m with a time of 13 minutes 24.95 seconds to complete a historic double on the concluding day of the athletics competition.

Mathew Kipchumba Kipsang of Kenya took the gold with a time of 13:23.61, while Australia's Ky Robinson, who had earlier won the gold in the 10,000m, clinched the silver, clocking 13:24.70.

Gulveer, who also won a 10,000m bronze in the Hangzhou Asian Games in 2023, kept himself among the leading pack throughout the race



before surging ahead in the final lap. He beat Kenya's Cornelius Kemboi for the bronze by a mere 0.04 seconds. Kemboi is a sub-13 runner, having clocked 12:56.02 in June, but on Saturday, Gulveer beat him, though by a whisker. However, the 28-year-old Indian, who holds

national records in both the 5000m and 10,000m, ran well below his season-best time of 13:03.93. His Saturday time was also well outside his national record effort of 12:59.77.

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India Ends CWG Boxing Campaign With Record-Breaking Seven Gold Medals, Narender Settles For

Glasgow: Narender clinched silver in the men's 90+kg as India ended their Commonwealth Games boxing campaign with a record-breaking seven gold medals here on Saturday. Narender was clearly the second-best boxer in the men's 90+kg final as he lost to Damar Thomas of England in a unanimous 0-5 decision. India topped the boxing medal tally with seven gold and three silver. It was the country's best-ever show in the Games. Earlier, Ankush Panghal beat Dimeji Shittu of England in the men's 80 kg final in a split 4-1 verdict to win India's seventh gold medal. The other Indian gold winners were Sachin



Siwach, Jaismine Lamboria, Preeti Pawar, Sakshi Chaudhary, Arundhati Choudhary and Priya Ghanghas, while Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain and Jadumani Singh also settled for a silver each. In the men's 60kg final, Sachin beat Tryagain Morning Ndevelo of Namibia in a dramatic bout. He made a remarkable comeback after he was behind his opponent

in the first two rounds. In the third and final round, Sachin forced a standing count against Ndevelo, resulting in a 3-2 split verdict win in favour of the Indian. for a silver after losing to Emma-Sue Greentree of Australia in the women's 70kg final in a split 1-4 verdict. Arundhati beat Chantelle Reid of England in the women's 70kg final in a unani-

mous 5-0 verdict. Preeti claimed the gold with a dominant 5-0 victory over Canada's Scarlett Delgado in the women's 54kg before reigning world champion Jaismine clinched the yellow metal with the same scoreline against Northern Ireland's Michaela Walsh, who was the defending champion in the women's 57kg. Sakshi then beat Ruby White of England in the women's 51kg final 5-0 to win India's third boxing gold of the day. It was a harder final bout for Priya who beat Marie-Bathoul Al-Ahmadih of Canada 4-1 in a split verdict in the women's 60kg. Jadumani a hard-fought contest 0-5 against Australia's Jye Dixon.

2027 ODI World Cup In New Format! ICC Introduces ‘Super Series’ And ‘Super 7’ In Revamped Structure



The International Cricket Council (ICC) has made some major changes to the marquee tournaments - the 2027 Men's ODI World Cup and 2028 Men's T20 World Cup. ICC has introduced some changes to both the competitions and has added more rounds to the tournament to add to the excitement. The decision was taken in the annual meeting of the ICC held in Edinburgh, Scotland. According to ICC, the

changes are made to make matches more competitive from the initial stages and deliver a better experience for the players and the spectators. The ICC Board in the meeting included three representatives from the associate nations, and they also determined the pathway qualification for the 2028 Men's T20 World Cup. New format for the ODI World Cup. Contrary to the reports, which mentioned that the num-

ber of teams will be reduced, it will remain the same, and the 14 teams will take part in the competition. However, the round. 12 teams will be tournament will now follow a three-round format before the start of the knockout matches. In the revised structure, the three lowest-ranked qualified teams (Teams 12, 13 and 14) will compete in a round-robin 'Super Series'. The winner of the Super Series

will join the rest of the 11 teams in the next round. 12 teams will be divided into two groups of six in Round 2 with a round-robin system in each group. The top three teams from each group plus the best-placed team round. 12 teams will be across the two groups will advance into the Super 7 stage. The Super 7 teams will feature in a single round-robin system. The top four teams will enter the semifinals with first playing fourth and second taking on third. Super 10 and eliminators in the T20 World Cup. In place of four groups of five teams, the tournament will now witness five groups of four teams. Top two teams from each group will cruise into Super 10 where ten teams will be divided into two groups of five. The team finishing first

NSE Partners With Augmont To Strengthen India's Electronic Gold Receipt Ecosystem



: The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has entered into a strategic partnership with Augmont Enterprises Limited to strengthen the Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR) ecosystem in India, as per a statement by NSE. The partnership seeks to bolster the exchange-regulated spot gold market by enhancing EGR creation, redemption, liquidity, delivery and price discovery. "Through this partnership, the two organisations will work towards increasing market participation, improving liq-

uidity and facilitating the adoption of EGRs among investors, jewellers and other market participants," the release added. Speaking at the bell-ringing ceremony on Wednesday, NSE Managing Director and CEO Ashish Kumar Chauhan said the exchange's Electronic Gold Receipt (EGR) platform offers a SEBI-regulated marketplace where physical gold can be converted into a dematerialised security and held in the same demat account. "This framework is open to all eligible partici-

pants, and we welcome every refiner, vault manager, jeweller, and intermediary who meets the standards to come forward," he noted. India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA) National President Prithviraj Kothari said India holds an estimated 30,000-35,000 tonnes of gold, making it one of the largest private gold reserves globally, but much of this wealth remains economically inactive. He further said that India is setting up the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX) for the offshore

market, while SEBI has already notified the framework for Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs) for the domestic market. "EGR (Electronic Gold Receipt) has the potential to unlock enormous value for India. If even a small fraction of the gold lying idle in our homes enters a transparent and regulated ecosystem, it can improve liquidity, strengthen formalisation, support financing, and reduce our dependence on fresh gold imports," it said. Ketan Kothari, Director and Founder of Augmont Goldtech Private Limited, said Electronic Gold Receipts could transform India's gold financing ecosystem by enabling consumers to convert idle gold, bars and coins into EGRs and lend them to manufacturers through the Securities Lending and Borrowing (SLB) platform. By doing this, "Customer will earn an interest, manufacturer will pay an interest," he said. Further noting that the largest tokenised gold platform has an AUM of USD 3 billion, Kothari estimates EGRs will have a 100x AUM

CBI Books Reliance Capital Ltd., Ex-Chairman Anil Ambani for Causing EPFO Loss of Over Rs 1,800 Cr



New Delhi: The CBI has registered an FIR against Reliance Capital Limited (RCL) and its former chairman Anil D Ambani for allegedly causing a loss of Rs 1,816.22 crore to the EPFO, officials said on Saturday. Ambani, however, denied any wrongdoing, according to a statement issued by his spokesperson. The action follows a July 21 complaint from the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment alleging commission of offences of cheating, criminal conspiracy and causing wrongful loss to the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), the officials said. "The present complaint is being lodged on behalf of EPFO through its authorised officer pursuant to the approval of the competent authority in relation to the substantial loss suffered by the EPFO arising out of its investment in the secured Non-Convertible Debentures

issued by Reliance Capital Limited and the subsequently discovered material indicating fraudulent conduct connected with such investment," the complaint alleged. Responding to the complaint, Ambani's spokesperson said, "The FIR registered by the CBI pertains to Reliance Capital Limited. Mr. Ambani served as a Non-Executive Director/Chairman of the Board of Reliance Capital Limited from 2005 until November 2021, when the "In addition, during an earlier period as well, Reserve Bank of India superseded the Board of Directors of the company and appointed an administrator." "Anil Ambani denies any wrongdoing, whatsoever, and reserves all rights available to him in law," the spokesperson said. According to the complaint, which is now part of the CBI FIR, during 2013 and 2014, RCL issued secured Non-

Convertible Debentures (NCDs). Pursuant thereto, investments aggregating to Rs 2,500 crore were made by the portfolio managers on behalf of the EPFO in the aforesaid NCDs, with maturity in 2023 and 2024, the complaint alleged. Ministry of Labour and Employment sent the complaint after it was intimated a period from December 7, 2019, to December 6, 2021. "In addition, during an earlier period as well, various fraudulent transactions have been found which also led to ultimate failure of RCL as a consequence of siphoning off of money of RCL," the complaint alleged. "In addition, during an earlier period as well, It claimed that the ED probe prima facie indicated a series of transactions involving irregular lending, diversion of funds, impairment of security and other acts by RCL that require investigation. "If established upon investigation, such conduct may have materially contributed to the financial deterioration of RCL, its inability to honour its obligation towards Debenture Holders, and the consequent loss of Rs 1,816.22 crore suffered by EPFO," the complaint alleged.

in charge of its management during the period from December 7, 2019, to December 6, 2021. "In addition, during an earlier period as well, various fraudulent transactions have been found which also led to ultimate failure of RCL as a consequence of siphoning off of money of RCL," the complaint alleged. "In addition, during an earlier period as well, It claimed that the ED probe prima facie indicated a series of transactions involving irregular lending, diversion of funds, impairment of security and other acts by RCL that require investigation. "If established upon investigation, such conduct may have materially contributed to the financial deterioration of RCL, its inability to honour its obligation towards Debenture Holders, and the consequent loss of Rs 1,816.22 crore suffered by EPFO," the complaint alleged.

AA24: Did Basil Joseph Just Confirm Film With Allu Arjun All You Need To Know About The Upcoming Movie



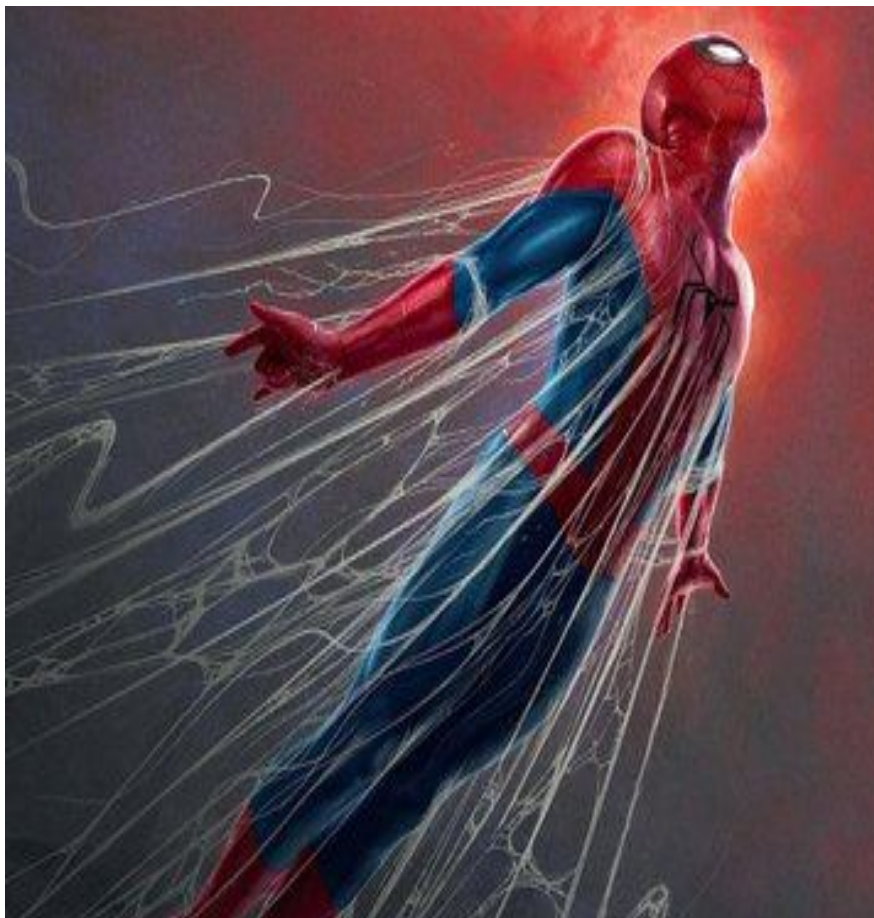
Director Basil Joseph has grabbed the attention of Allu Arjun fans with his latest social media post. A simple picture has now sparked fresh discussions about the filmmaker's possible collaboration with the Pushpa actor. While there is still no official announcement, many fans believe the director may have dropped a subtle hint about the much-talked-about project. Basil Joseph shared a picture of a cap carrying the word "ICON" on Instagram. He also

added "Ringa Ringa" from Allu Arjun's Arya 2 as the background music. The combination immediately caught the attention of fans, who linked it to Allu Arjun, popularly known as the "Icon Star." Soon after the post, many fans claimed it was a teaser for Basil Joseph's next film with Allu Arjun. Several users even started referring to the project as AA24, although the makers have not confirmed the title or the collaboration. As of now, neither Basil Joseph nor

Allu Arjun has made any official statement about the film. So, the Instagram post should be seen only as a possible hint, and fans will have to wait for an official confirmation. If the collaboration happens, it will bring together one of Telugu cinema's big gest stars and one of Malayalam cinema's most admired directors. Basil Joseph won praise for Minnal Murali, a superhero film that became a major success and earned appreciation for its storytelling. Many

fans are excited to see what he could create with Allu Arjun. Speaking of Allu Arjun, he has a busy schedule ahead. He is currently working on a big-budget film with director Atlee, which fans call AA22. He is also expected to team up with Lokesh Kanagaraj for another project. Allu Arjun was last seen in Pushpa 2, directed by Sukumar. The film became a massive blockbuster and further expanded his fan base India and overseas.

Spider-Man Brand New Day Box Office Collection Day 3:



Marvel Studios and Sony Pictures' Spider-Man: Brand New Day continues its dream run at the Indian box office. After recording a historic opening and a solid second day, the Tom Holland-starrer has maintained its strong momentum on its first Saturday. With impressive collections across three days, the superhero film has comfortably crossed Rs 150 crore net in India and continues to dominate the global box office. Spider-Man: Brand New Day Box Office Collection Day 3 According to live data from trade tracker Sacnilk, Spider-Man:

Brand New Day has collected Rs 45.03 crore net in India by Saturday evening. Since late-night shows are still left to report, the final Day 3 collection is expected to be higher. The film opened with a record-breaking Rs 60.60 crore on Day 1 and followed it up with Rs 49.35 crore on Day 2. With the latest figures, its total India net collection has reached Rs 154.98 crore. The film's India gross collection now stands at Rs 184.60 crore, while its worldwide gross collection has already crossed Rs 1,000 crore. Box ODay Collection (India Net)

Day 1 (1st Thursday) Rs 60.60 Cr
 Day 2 (1st Friday) Rs 49.35 Cr
 Day 3 (1st Saturday) Rs 45.03 Cr (early estimates)
 Total Rs 154.98 Cr
 Data Source: Sacnilk
 Strong Opening Weekend Continues
 After creating history with one of the biggest openings for a Hollywood film in India, Spider-Man: Brand New Day has continued to attract audiences over the weekend. The film has remained steady despite the usual drop after the opening day.
 With Sunday still to come, the film is expect-

ed to add another big number to its total and further strengthen its opening weekend performance. Positive word of mouth and strong advance bookings continue to support its box office run. Spider-Man: Brand New Day Cast Directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, Spider-Man: Brand New Day stars Tom Holland in the lead role alongside Zendaya, Sadie Sink, Jacob Batalon, Jon Bernthal, Mark Ruffalo, Marisa Tomei, Sadie Sink, Jon Bernthal, and Florence Pugh. The film is written by Chris McKenna and Erik Sommers, and is produced by Columbia Pictures, Marvel Studios, and Pascal Pictures.

Released as part of Phase Six of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), the film reportedly carries a production budget of \$225 million. About Spider-Man: Brand New Day The film follows Peter Parker as he lives alone in New York after the world forgets his identity. While protecting the city from dangerous threats, he discovers that his own DNA is changing, making him more aggressive and spider-like. To stop a corrupt government official carrying out genetic experiments, Spider-Man teams up with the Punisher and Bruce Banner while battling powerful new enemies. The story ends with a major post-credit scene that hints at Peter's possible reunion with MJ and Ned.

'Gaurav Khanna Bullied Me A Lot': Shagun Sharma Shares Her Experience



Khatron Ke Khiladi is returning with its 15th season after a two-year break. Hosted by Rohit Shetty, the stunt-based reality show has already completed filming in Cape Town, South Africa. This season will feature a mix of returning contestants and new faces, with tougher stunts and unexpected twists. Ahead of the show's premiere, actor Shagun Sharma spoke about her experience on the reality show. During an interview with a newswire, she claimed that fellow contestant Gaurav Khanna bullied her during the shoot. When asked if there was anyone from the show she would not like to

meet again, Shagun said, "I think Gaurav Khanna is one person I would not want to meet." She went on to explain why she felt that way. According to Shagun, Gaurav often targeted her whenever contestants failed to complete a stunt. Sharing her experience, she said, "He was someone jinhone mujhe bahut bully kiya hai (He was someone who bullied me a lot). If five people performed a task and four of them aborted it, he would pick on me the most. He would say, 'Yeh to chod deti hai,' 'She is weak,' and 'Don't do this'."

View this post on Instagram
 A post shared by

ColorsTV (@colorstv)

However, Shagun also clarified that she does not want to judge Gaurav based only on his behaviour during the reality show. She said that people often behave differently in such situations and said she was not sure if he is the same person in real life. The confirmed contestants of Khatron Ke Khiladi 15 include Gaurav Khanna, Avinash Mishra, Farrhana Bhatt, Shagun Sharma, Avika Gor, Orhan Awatramani (Orry), Harsh Gujral, Jasmin Bhasin, Rubina Dilaik, Karan Wahi, Rithvik Dhanjani, Vishal Aditya Singh and Ruhani Dhawan. The upcoming season

carries the theme "Darr Ka Naya Daur" and promises more challenging stunts than previous editions. Like every season, Rohit Shetty will return as the host and guide contestants through dangerous tasks set against the backdrop of Cape Town. The contestants have already returned to India after completing the shoot in South Africa, where they frequently shared photos and videos of their time together on social media. Khatron Ke Khiladi 15 premieres on August 1. The show will air every Saturday and Sunday at 9 pm on Colors TV and will also be available for streaming on JioHotstar.

The Vvaan Release Date: Sidharth Malhotra, Tamannaah Bhatia Starrer Postponed To Avoid Clash; Deets Inside



Sidharth Malhotra and Tamannaah Bhatia's much-awaited collaboration between Sidharth Malhotra and Tamannaah Bhatia. Apart from the lead pair, the ensemble cast includes Sunil Grover, Maniesh Paul, Shweta Tiwari, and Anup Soni in important roles. One of the biggest talking points of the project is the collaboration between Balaji Motion Pictures and The Viral Fever as it gears up for its theatrical debut. The announcement has generated excitement among fans, especially after the release of the powerful motion poster. The artwork features a fierce warrior standing tall with a trishul in his hand while taking on a tiger and a bull. The dramatic visuals, backed by intense music and to release on August 28. However, earthy tones, hint at a grand cinematic experience. Sharing the poster on social media, Sidharth Malhotra wrote, "Baagh uski dahaad hai... Nandi uski shakti. Aur Vvaan... uski kahaani."

larger-than-life storytelling on the big screen. The film marks the first on-screen collaboration between Sidharth Malhotra and Tamannaah Bhatia. Apart from the lead pair, the ensemble cast includes Sunil Grover, Maniesh Paul, Shweta Tiwari, and Anup Soni in important roles. One of the biggest talking points of the project is the collaboration between Balaji Motion Pictures and The Viral Fever as it gears up for its theatrical debut. The announcement has generated excitement among fans, especially after the release of the powerful motion poster. The artwork features a fierce warrior standing tall with a trishul in his hand while taking on a tiger and a bull. The dramatic visuals, backed by intense music and to release on August 28. However, earthy tones, hint at a grand cinematic experience. Sharing the poster on social media, Sidharth Malhotra wrote, "Baagh uski dahaad hai... Nandi uski shakti. Aur Vvaan... uski kahaani."

Directed by Deepak Kumar Mishra, The Vvaan: Force of the Forrest is described as a fantasy action spectacle inspired by Indian mythology and ancient folklore. Set in a dense forest filled with hidden secrets, supernatural forces, and mythical legends, the film promises to blend action, mystery, and larger-than-life storytelling on the big screen. The film marks the first on-screen collaboration between Sidharth Malhotra and Tamannaah Bhatia. Apart from the lead pair, the ensemble cast includes Sunil Grover, Maniesh Paul, Shweta Tiwari, and Anup Soni in important roles. One of the biggest talking points of the project is the collaboration between Balaji Motion Pictures and The Viral Fever (TVF). Prto release on August 28. However, oduced by Shobha Kapoor, Ektaa R Kapoor, Arunabh Kumar, and Niraj Kothari, the film brings together two successful production houses known for creating popular content across different platforms.