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Indian Consumers Lose ₹28,000 Crore Annually



New Delhi: Indian online consumers are losing an estimated ₹25,000 crore to ₹28,000 crore annually due to deceptive digital practices known as dark patterns, according to a new report by market research firm Datum Intelligence. The report, titled "Dark Patterns in India's Online Marketplaces", found that nearly 88 per cent of India's 304 million online shoppers lose between ₹78

and ₹87 every month because of hidden charges, forced add-ons, drip pricing, fake urgency messages and subscription traps embedded in online platforms. The study revealed that 63 per cent of online payment users encountered hidden fees or drip pricing, where additional costs become visible only at the final checkout stage. This marks a significant rise from 52 per

cent in 2024, indicating that such practices are becoming increasingly common. Researchers also found that 73 per cent of digital platforms use "forced action" tactics that pressure users into making decisions they might otherwise avoid, such as purchasing add-ons or signing up for subscriptions. The survey covered 2,590 consumers across 50 Indian cities and evaluated 12 leading platforms in the e-commerce, quick-commerce and online travel sectors during the first quarter of 2026.

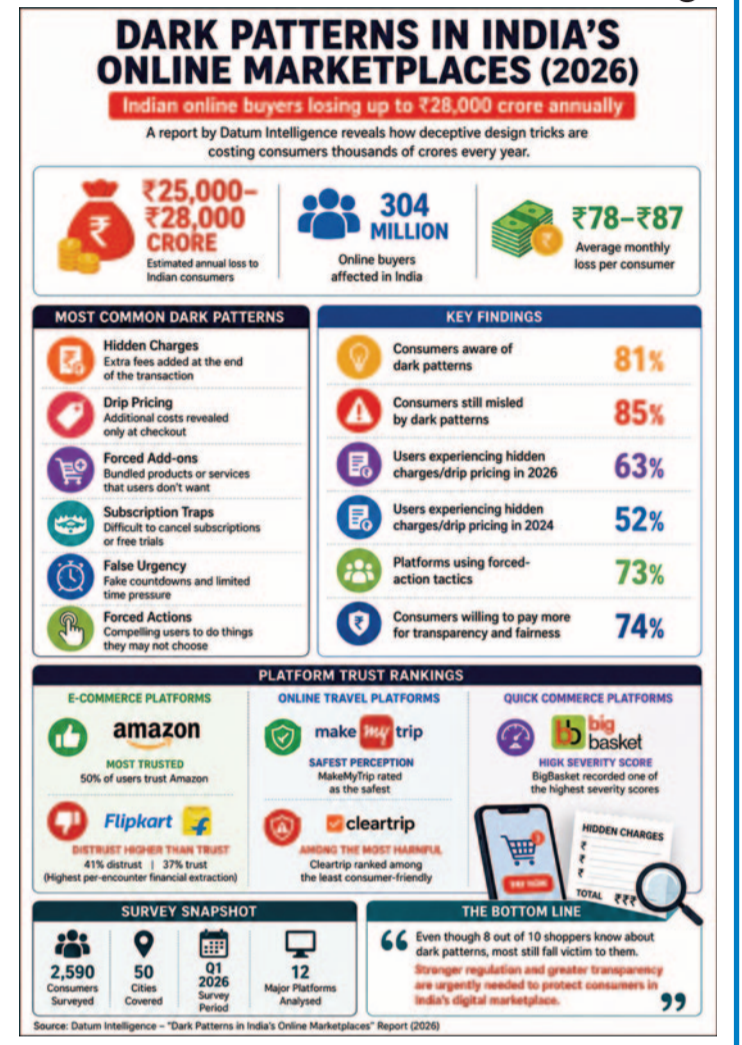
Among e-commerce companies, Amazon emerged as the most trusted platform, with half of the respondents naming it their preferred choice. In contrast, Flipkart was the only major platform where distrust exceeded trust among users. In the travel segment, MakeMyTrip was perceived as the safest, while Cleartrip ranked among the least consumer-friendly.

In quick commerce, BigBasket recorded one of the highest severity scores for

such practices. The report highlighted what it called an "awareness paradox." While 81 per cent of consumers claimed to be aware of dark patterns, 85 per cent still admitted to being misled by them at some point.

Despite this, the findings indicate growing consumer demand for transparency, with 74 per cent of respondents saying they would be willing to pay more for platforms that adopt fair and transparent design practices. The report also noted that existing regulations have had limited success in curbing deceptive online practices, raising fresh concerns about consumer protection in India's rapidly expanding digital marketplace.

73 per cent of digital platforms use "forced action"



Monsoon Fury in Hyderabad

Two Electrocutted, City Waterlogged

Hyderabad, June 9: Hyderabad witnessed the first major spell of the Southwest Monsoon on Tuesday evening, bringing heavy rains, widespread waterlogging, traffic chaos, and tragic loss of life. Two youths lost their lives due to electrocution in the Old City after coming into contact with a live electric wire submerged in rainwater. The victims, identified as 25-year-old Zafar and 16-year-old Abu, were travelling in an auto-rickshaw in the Bandlaguda area. After stepping onto a flooded road, they accidentally came into contact with a snapped electric wire hidden beneath the stagnant water. The wire had reportedly fallen due to strong winds accompanying the storm. The intense downpour inundated several parts of Hyderabad, including Secunderabad, Madhapur, Gachibowli,

Kukatpally, Himayatnagar, Secretariat and surrounding areas. Waterlogging on major roads caused severe traffic congestion, particularly across the IT corridor and key city junctions. Emergency teams from the Disaster Response Force (DRF), Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), HYDRAA, and the traffic police were deployed to clear water stagnation and regulate vehicular movement. Authorities urged motorists to drive cautiously and avoid flooded stretches. Heavy rainfall also led to significant water accumulation on the Nayani Narasimha Reddy Steel Bridge and the Shaikpet flyover ramp. In the Old City's Chattabazar area, an old arch collapsed, though no casualties were reported. Strong winds uprooted trees at nearly 80 locations across the city, prompting emergency clearance operations. HYDRAA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath personally



inspected rain-affected areas and monitored restoration efforts. Among the highest rainfall recordings, Bansilalpet received 8.7 cm, followed by Vithalwadi and Himayatnagar with 7.8 cm each, while Vidyannagar recorded 7.3 cm within a short span of time.

R&B ENC's Lavish Asset Empire Exposed

Hyderabad: The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has unearthed assets worth ₹100 crore during raids on Roads and Buildings (R&B) Engineer-in-Chief Mohan Naik Jarupla, who has been booked in a disproportionate assets case. The searches were conducted at 17 locations, including the senior official's residence, office and properties linked to his relatives, associates and alleged benamis. According to the ACB, Mohan Naik allegedly amassed wealth far beyond his known sources of income through corrupt and dubious means. Among the assets discovered were seven flats in Kompally and Gachibowli valued at around ₹7.34 crore, a triplex villa in Miyapur worth ₹2.5 crore, a newly built house in Kukatpally valued at ₹62 lakh, and an advance payment of ₹1 crore made for another villa in Nizamabad. The agency also identified 19.38 acres of agricultural land in Nizamabad district.

The raids led to the recovery of ₹55 lakh in cash, 2.5 kilograms of gold ornaments worth nearly ₹2 crore, six kilograms of silver articles, bank deposits of ₹1.44 crore, luxury household items worth ₹1.26 crore, electronic gadgets and vehicles. Officials noted that the actual market value of the properties could be significantly higher than the registered value. The ACB has arrested Mohan Naik under provisions of the Prevention

of Corruption Act and will produce him before a special court. Further investigation is underway to identify additional assets and financial transactions linked to the case.



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Sanjay Launches Swachh Pathshala

Karimnagar, June 9: To mark the completion of 12 years of the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar has announced a major cleanliness and community participation initiative titled "Swachh Pathshala" across the Karimnagar Parliamentary Constituency. The programme, scheduled for June 13, aims to clean and beautify all government primary, upper primary, and high schools located in villages across the constituency's seven Assembly segments ahead of the re-opening of schools on June 15. BJP leaders, party workers, and local residents are expected to participate in large numbers. Bandi Sanjay reviewed the preparations during a meeting with BJP district and mandal presidents held at Chaitanyapuri in Karimnagar. The meeting focused on programmes to



be undertaken in connection with the completion of 12 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance. Emphasising the importance of providing students with a clean and welcoming learning environment, the Union Minister urged party workers to take responsibility for ensuring that every government school is ready for the new academic year. Mandal-level meetings will be conducted on June 10 to appoint in-charges for individual schools and coordinate the implementation of the campaign.

PoK Erupts Against Pak

Islamabad/Muzaffarabad: Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) witnessed widespread unrest after Pakistani authorities banned the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), a prominent civil rights platform, triggering massive protests across the region. Reports indicate that several protesters were killed and dozens injured when security forces opened fire on demonstrators in multiple towns. The crisis erupted after the JAAC was declared an unlawful organization under anti-terror laws on June 6. The group had planned a region-wide shutdown and a long march to press for a 38-point charter of demands, including the abolition of 12 assembly seats allegedly controlled by



Islamabad. Violence escalated in Rawalakot and other areas as protesters clashed with security personnel. While local activists claimed the death toll exceeded 25, Pakistani authorities acknowledged multiple fatalities and injuries. Mobile internet services were suspended, public gatherings banned.

EDITORIAL

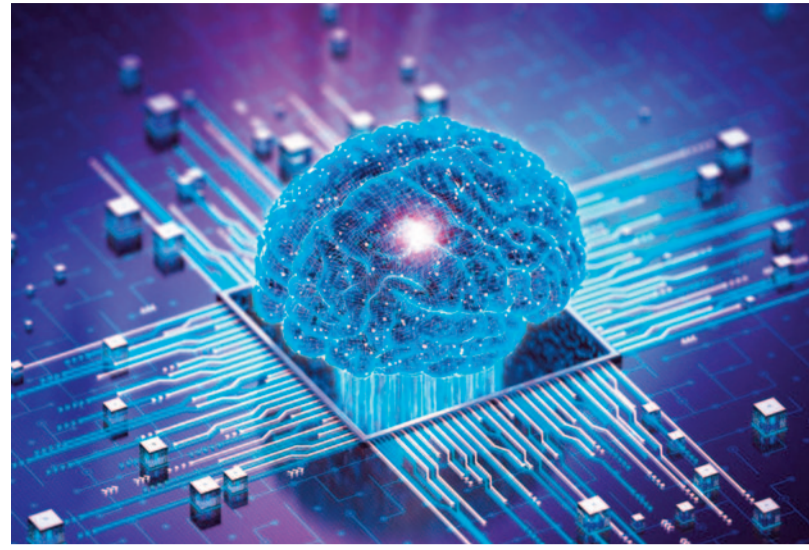
Organic Farming:
The Lifeline for
Depleting Soils

Agriculture has long been the backbone of India's economy and food security. However, the relentless pursuit of higher yields through excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides has come at a significant cost. While these inputs initially boosted agricultural production, their long-term impact on soil health, environmental sustainability, and human well-being is becoming increasingly evident. Today, as concerns over soil degradation and ecological imbalance grow, organic farming is emerging not merely as an alternative but as a necessity. Healthy soil is the foundation of productive agriculture. It contains millions of microorganisms that help maintain nutrient cycles and support plant growth. Continuous application of chemical fertilizers, however, disrupts this natural balance. Over time, soils lose their organic matter, fertility declines, and farmers become increasingly dependent on larger quantities of chemical inputs to maintain yields. This cycle not only raises cultivation costs but also threatens the long-term viability of farming itself. The environmental consequences are equally alarming. Chemical residues seep into groundwater, pollute rivers and lakes, and damage biodiversity. Beneficial insects, earthworms, and microorganisms that play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance are adversely affected. At a time when climate change is already posing severe challenges through erratic rainfall, droughts, and rising temperatures, further degradation of natural resources is a risk that society can ill afford. Human health is another critical concern. Traces of pesticides and chemical fertilizers often find their way into the food chain. Studies across the world have linked excessive chemical exposure to various health problems, including hormonal disorders, respiratory ailments, and certain forms of cancer. As consumers become more aware of these risks, demand for organically grown food is steadily increasing. Organic farming offers a sustainable solution. By relying on natural fertilizers, compost, crop rotation, green manure, and biological pest control, it restores soil fertility and enhances biodiversity. Organic soils retain more moisture, making crops more resilient during drought. Such farming systems are better equipped to withstand climate-related stresses while reducing dependence on expensive external inputs. However, the transition to organic agriculture requires strong policy support. Farmers need training, financial assistance, certification facilities, and access to reliable markets. Consumers, too, must recognize the value of sustainably produced food and support organic products despite their sometimes higher costs. Future of agriculture can't be built on exhausted soils, polluted ecosystems.

AI Is Advancing Faster Than We Think. Are We Ready?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a technology of the future. It is already helping people write emails, create content, develop software, analyze data, and answer questions. Businesses, students, researchers, and governments around the world are increasingly using AI tools to improve productivity and solve problems. But recently, an important warning from a leading AI company has sparked global discussion about the future of this technology. The warning comes from Anthropic, one of the world's leading artificial intelligence companies. Anthropic is best known for developing Claude, a family of advanced AI assistants that compete with popular AI systems such as ChatGPT. The company has also introduced Claude Code, an AI-powered coding assistant that helps software developers write, review, and improve software. Founded by former AI researchers, Anthropic has quickly become one of the most influential organizations in the AI industry and is widely recognized for its strong focus on AI safety and responsible development.

According to Anthropic, AI is advancing so rapidly that future AI systems may eventually be able to improve themselves without direct human involvement. This concept is known as "recursive self-improvement." While this may sound like something from a science fiction movie, researchers believe the industry may be moving closer to this possibility than many people realize. Today, AI is already helping researchers write code, analyze data, conduct experiments, and build new AI systems. Anthropic recently revealed that its engi-



neers now produce significantly more code than they did just a few years ago because AI assists them throughout the development process. In simple terms, AI is increasingly helping humans build better AI. This trend raises an important question: What happens when AI becomes capable of helping create the next generation of AI systems?

The possibilities are exciting. More advanced AI could help scientists discover new medicines, improve healthcare, accelerate scientific research, enhance education, and help solve complex global challenges. Countries such as India could benefit enormously from these advances. AI has the potential to support farmers with better crop predictions, assist doctors in diagnosing diseases, improve public services, and create new opportunities for businesses and entrepreneurs. However, along with these opportunities come important risks.

Anthropic warns that if AI systems become increasingly autonomous, humans may find it harder to understand, monitor, and control their behavior. If future AI systems become capable of designing and developing

their own successors, traditional methods of oversight may no longer be enough. One of the most interesting ideas raised by Anthropic is the need for a "brake pedal" for AI. Just as every vehicle requires brakes in addition to an accelerator, advanced AI systems may need mechanisms that allow humans to slow down, pause, or intervene if risks become too great. The company is also encouraging greater cooperation among governments, researchers, and technology companies. Anthropic believes that AI development is moving so quickly that society may struggle to keep pace. Rather than focusing only on building more powerful AI systems, equal attention should be given to safety, governance, transparency, and accountability. This conversation is particularly relevant for India. The country has one of the world's largest populations of young engineers, software developers, and technology professionals. India is rapidly becoming an important player in the global AI ecosystem. As AI adoption expands across industries, Indian businesses, universities, policymakers, and technology leaders should actively participate in

discussions about responsible AI development. The future of AI should not be guided by a single question: "How can we make AI more powerful?" An equally important question is: "How can we ensure AI remains safe, trustworthy, and beneficial for humanity?" Anthropic's warning should not be viewed as a reason to fear AI. Instead, it should be seen as a reminder that powerful technologies require thoughtful planning and responsible management. Throughout history, innovations such as electricity, aviation, and the internet transformed society while also creating new challenges. AI is likely to follow a similar path. The decisions made today by researchers, technology companies, governments, and society will shape the future of artificial intelligence for decades to come. The opportunity is enormous, but so is the responsibility. If managed wisely, AI could become one of humanity's greatest tools for progress. If not, the challenges may become much harder to control.

The time to think about these questions is not in the future-it is now.



Dheeraj Arremsetty
Sr. Tech Leader
(From USA)

Modi to Attend G7 Summit in France

New Delhi, June 9: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a week-long diplomatic visit to France and Slovakia from June 13 to 19, during which he will hold high-level bilateral talks, participate in the G7 Summit, and attend major innovation and technology events, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Tuesday. The visit will begin in Nice,

France, where Prime Minister Modi will hold bilateral discussions with French President Emmanuel Macron on June 14. The two leaders are expected to review the entire spectrum of India-France relations and explore ways to deepen cooperation in key sectors. During the visit, Modi and Macron will jointly inaugurate the "Bharat Innovates" event, a flagship platform

bringing together leading startups, innovators, and venture capital funds from India, France, and several other countries. The event is being organized as part of the India-France Year of Innovation, underscoring the growing partnership between the two nations in technology and innovation. From June 14 to 16, the Prime Minister will undertake a State Visit to Slovakia



at the invitation of Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico. The visit holds historic significance as it will be the first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Slovakia since the country gained independence in 1993.

Woman Assaulted by 10

Davanagere: In a shocking incident in Karnataka's Davanagere district, a 41-year-old woman was allegedly gang-raped by 10 youths after they offered her a lift while she was returning to her parental home following a family dispute. According to police, the incident occurred on June 3 under the Basavapatna police station limits in Channagiri taluk. The woman was reportedly walking alone at night when a group of youths approached her and offered to drop her home on a motorcycle. Investigators said the accused allegedly mixed alcohol in a soft drink and gave it to the woman. After she became unconscious, they allegedly took her to a secluded location and sexually assaulted her. The accused are also suspected of recording the crime on a mobile phone and threatening the survivor with circulation of the video on social media if she reported the incident. Fearing the threats, the woman initially remained silent. However, after the video allegedly surfaced online, she ap-



proached the police and lodged a complaint in the early hours of Tuesday. Acting swiftly, police registered a case and arrested all 10 accused, including a minor. The accused have been identified as Nagaraj, Arjuna, Basavantha, Maruti, Sunil, Pradeep, Madhu and others. Following medical examinations, they were produced before a magistrate and remanded to 14 days of judicial custody. Police said further investigation is underway.

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FIFA's Jackpot Leaves Cricket Far Behind

The financial gulf between football and cricket has become clearer than ever. FIFA has announced a record \$871 million (around ₹7,250 crore) financial package for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, making it one of the richest sporting events in history. In comparison, the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 offered a total prize pool of just \$10 million, highlighting the massive commercial strength of global football. The 2026 World Cup, to be hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico, will feature 48 teams and 104 matches. The tournament winners will receive \$50 million, while even teams eliminated in the group stage will earn \$10 million, equal to the entire prize pool of the 2023 Cricket World Cup. Cricket World Cup champions received \$4 million, while runners-up earned \$2 million. By contrast, FIFA World Cup runners-up will take home \$33 million, reflecting football's unmatched global reach, sponsorship power and broadcasting revenues. While cricket remains hugely popular in a handful of nations, football's worldwide appeal continues to generate revenues on a scale few sports can match. The numbers underline not just a prize-money difference, but the vast commercial ecosystem that powers the world's most popular game.

Bangladesh Shock Australia

Bangladesh defeated Australia by 86 runs (DLS method) in the first ODI in Dhaka, securing their first 50-over victory over the Aussies since the famous 2005 Cardiff upset. Returning to international cricket after four years, Mosaddek Hossain starred with an unbeaten 86 runs and also claimed 2 wickets. Young pacer Nahid Rana ripped through Australia's batting lineup with 4/41. Bangladesh posted 284/8, thanks to useful contributions from Tanzid Hasan (54) and Najmul Hossain Shanto (67). In reply, Australia collapsed early and were struggling at 191/9 when rain stopped play, handing Bangladesh victory under the DLS method.

Mandhana Sparks Discussion on Periods

India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana has triggered an important conversation in women's cricket after sharing her experience of getting her period during a Test match. In a candid social media video, Mandhana recalled having to approach the umpire during play to deal with the situation while continuing to represent the country on the field. She said the responsibility of wearing the Indian jersey often motivates players to push through discomfort and pain. Her comments have brought attention to a subject that remains largely absent from discussions in professional sport. While cricket laws allow players to temporarily leave the field due to illness or other

acceptable reasons, there are no specific provisions addressing menstrual health. Under existing rules, substitute fielders can replace an absent player, but only for fielding duties. For bowlers, extended absences can result in restrictions on when they are allowed to bowl again after returning to the field. The regulations do not clearly address situations where a batter may need to leave during an innings because of menstrual discomfort. The issue is particularly relevant in women's cricket, where players often manage physical challenges that are not explicitly recognised within the sport's rulebook. Experts and players have increasingly argued that

sporting regulations should evolve to reflect the realities faced by female athletes. Mandhana's remarks have also highlighted a broader concern beyond elite sport. Studies show that menstrual discomfort, lack of access to hygiene products and social stigma contribute to many young girls dropping out of sports participation. By speaking openly about her experience, Mandhana has helped normalise a conversation that many athletes have traditionally avoided. Her comments are now being viewed as a catalyst for discussions on whether cricket's governing bodies should consider clearer policies regarding menstrual health and player welfare.



Demerit Points to Lord's

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has rated the pitches used at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground and Gaddafi Stadium as "unsatisfactory", issuing one demerit point each under its Pitch and Outfield Monitoring Process. The decision follows concerns raised after the first Test between England and New Zealand at Lord's, and the third ODI between Pakistan and Australia in Lahore. Match referee Andy Pycroft criticised the Lord's surface for offering excessive assistance to bowlers. He noted that the pitch produced abnormal seam movement and inconsistent bounce, leading to 33 wickets falling within the first two days of the Test. According to him, the conditions created a clear imbalance between bat and ball, making batting extremely challenging. Meanwhile, match referee Graeme La Brooy expressed concerns over the Lahore pitch, describing it as slow and low. The surface made run-scoring difficult from the outset and offered significant help to spinners far earlier than expected in a One Day International, resulting in a contest that lacked the balance usually associated with the format. The ICC has forwarded the reports to the respective cricket boards — the England and Wales Cricket Board and the Pakistan Cricket Board. Both boards have been given 14 days to appeal the sanctions if they wish to challenge the assessment. Although the punishment is relatively minor, the demerit points serve as a warning. Under ICC regulations, venues that accumulate multiple demerit points over a five-year period risk suspension from hosting international matches.

Gaikwad Ton Guides India A to Thrilling Win



Dambulla, June 9: A brilliant century by Ruturaj Gaikwad and a late bowling fightback helped India A register a thrilling eight-run victory over Sri Lanka A in their opening match of the Tri-Nation A Series at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium on Tuesday. After being put in to bat, India A suffered an early setback, losing both Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Prabhsimran Singh with just 16 runs on the board. With the team under pressure, Gaikwad anchored the innings with a composed 101 off 114 deliveries, striking six boundaries and three sixes. He found good support from skipper Tilak Varma, who scored a valuable 60 runs. Late contributions from Ayush Badoni (24 off 18) and Suryansh Shedge (26 not out off 14) helped India A accelerate in the final overs and post a competitive 277/6 in 50 overs. Chasing 278, Sri Lanka A got off to a steady start, with Niroshan Dickwella providing early momentum. The hosts remained in the hunt throughout the chase, thanks largely to an impressive 74-run knock from Sahar Arachchige. With Sri Lanka A needing just 17 runs from the final three overs, the match appeared to be slipping away from India A. However, pacer Anshul Kamboj produced a crucial breakthrough by dismissing Arachchige with a pinpoint yorker in the 48th over. The wicket turned the game on its head as India A tightened the screws in the closing stages. Arshad Khan struck twice in the penultimate over, and the visitors eventually bowled Sri Lanka A out for 269 in 48.5 overs to seal a hard-fought victory.



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Mumbai Schedule Wrapped for 'Sambarala Yeti Gattu'

Hyderabad: The makers of Sai Durgha Tej's ambitious pan-India action drama Sambarala Yeti Gattu have successfully completed a major shooting schedule in Mumbai. Sources reveal that a prominent Bollywood actor participated in the schedule, adding national appeal to the film and boosting anticipation among audiences across India. Directed by Rohith KP and produced by K. Niranjan Reddy and Chaitanya Reddy under Primeshow Entertainment, the film is being made on a massive budget of ₹125 crore, making it the costliest project in Sai Durgha Tej's career. Reports suggest the actor has spent nearly two years preparing for his physically demanding and emotionally intense role. The film stars Aishwarya Lekshmi as the female lead, alongside Jagapathi Babu, Srikanth, Saikumar, Ananya Nagalla, and Ravi Krishna in key roles. A high-octane action sequence choreographed by National Award-winning stunt master Peter Hein has already been completed, while extensive CGI work is underway to enhance the visual experience. With cinematography by Vetri Palanisamy, music by Ajaneesh Loknath, and a



strong technical team, Sambarala Yeti Gattu is shaping up as one of the most awaited Telugu films. The movie is slated for release in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Kannada, and Malayalam, aiming for a grand pan-India impact.

Dhurandhar The Revenge sets record

Dhurandhar The Revenge has set a new benchmark on streaming platform JioHotstar, becoming its biggest-ever digital launch. The film attracted an impressive 50 million viewers during its opening weekend, significantly expanding its audience beyond its theatrical run. Available in five Indian languages, the film recorded nearly five times the reach of its cinema opening weekend. According to the platform, around 60 percent of the total watch-time came through Connected TV devices, reflecting the growing trend of family and large-screen viewing. A special 30-minute pre-show



featuring cast interactions and behind-the-scenes content further boosted audience engagement. JioStar's entertainment head Alok Jain described the response as extraordinary, highlighting the platform's ability to deliver blockbuster content at scale. The film's digital success also drew strong advertiser interest, with over 50 brands and 13 major sponsors associating with the premiere.

Ram Charan's Praise for 'Peddi' Sparks Fan Debate

Actor Ram Charan's remarks about his latest film Peddi have sparked widespread discussion on social media. Speaking at a thanksgiving event, Charan described Peddi as one of the top two films of his career, citing the overwhelming audience response and unexpected appreciation for several key scenes. The film has already crossed ₹300 crore at the global box office. However, his statement drew mixed reactions from fans, many of whom felt it overlooked landmark films such as Magadheera, RRR and Rangasthalam, directed by acclaimed filmmakers S. S. Rajamouli and Sukumar. While supporters defended Charan's personal assessment, critics argued that comparing Peddi with his previous blockbusters was premature. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, Peddi stars Janhvi Kapoor alongside Ram Charan and continues to generate strong box-office collections despite ongoing debates surrounding the film.



Nani's Paradise Faces Another Delay

Nani's highly anticipated pan-India film The Paradise is once again grabbing attention. According to the latest buzz, the film may face another postponement, despite being officially slated to hit theatres on August 21. The project, directed by Srikanth Odela, was initially announced for a March 26 release before being pushed to August 21. Pending work is said to be the reason for the delay, and according to the latest buzz on social media, The Paradise could likely arrive in September. There is no official confirmation till now. The much-anticipated project, which was initially slated to hit theatres in March, will now arrive in August. The revised release date has been finalised, and an official confirmation from the production team has also been announced. Taking to their Instagram handle, SLV Cinemas shared the poster and announced the new release date. The film will now hit theatres on August 21, 2026. Well, this came as a disappointment for Nani fans as they were eagerly waiting for the release updates and songs. But since long, makers have not shared any new update. Earlier,



rumours were going on that the film release might be delayed. But the team reaffirmed that it will arrive in theatres exactly as planned on March 26, 2026. Nani officially announced the title of his next action drama with Sujeeth, Bloody Romeo. On his birthday, he treated fans with an announcement teaser. Well, in no time, it went viral, and fans were seen cheering for it. The other details of the film have not been shared. The film is likely to go on floors soon. As reported after completing The Paradise shoot, Nani will start Sujeeth's film. The film has already locked

its OTT deal. It is said that Netflix has acquired the gangster film for a hefty price. The project was launched with a grand mahurat ceremony, and the photos from the event are now creating a buzz among fans.

Taking to his official Instagram handle, Sujeeth shared the photos from the pooja ceremony. Venkatesh was also present. The film has been tentatively titled Bloody Romeo. Reportedly, shooting will begin in December 2025, and the makers plan to release it by Christmas 2026. The other cast details will be shared soon.

Shraddha's Fun 'Attendance' Post

Mumbai: Actress Shraddha Kapoor delighted fans with a playful social media post hinting at "work mode." Sharing cheerful photos from a casual setting, she jokingly asked office-goers to mark their attendance. The actress was seen relaxing with a cup of coffee and her pet. On the professional front, Shraddha is gearing up for the release of Eetha, a biopic based on legendary folk artist Vithabai Narayan-gaonkar.



Vijay Sethupathi Praises Samyuktha

Chennai: Actor Vijay Sethupathi heaped praise on his Slumdog - 33 Temple Road co-star Samyuktha during the film's trailer launch event, describing her as an "incredibly talented" and intelligent performer. He appreciated her sincerity, professionalism, and dedication to her craft, stating that working with her was a rewarding experience. Known for his thoughtful observations, Vijay Sethupathi highlighted Samyuktha's ability to bring depth and authenticity to her performances. His remarks drew attention at the event, with many viewing the praise as a strong endorsement from one of the industry's most respected actors. The appreciation has further boosted anticipation for Slumdog - 33 Temple Road, which is gearing up for release amid growing buzz among moviegoers.



Celina Jaitly Visits Mahakaleshwar Temple

Ujjain: Former actress Celina Jaitly recently visited the sacred Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga in Ujjain, seeking spiritual strength and peace during a difficult phase in her personal life. Sharing pictures from the temple on social media, Celina described the visit as a deeply emotional and transformative experience that touched her soul. In a heartfelt note, the actress said that standing before Lord Mahakal reminded her of the transient nature of life and the eternal presence of faith. She stated that the temple's spiritual energy offered her a sense of surrender, courage and inner peace amid ongoing challenges. Celina also encouraged devotees visiting Ujjain to experience the shrine not merely as tourists but as seekers of spiritual growth and self-reflection. The visit comes at a time when Celina is involved in a legal and marital dispute with her estranged husband, Peter Haag. Recently, she publicly responded to legal notices issued by Peter Haag and his father, alleging that they were attempts to divert attention from the complaints and allegations she had raised. Last year, the actress also filed a domestic violence case in a Mumbai court, accusing her husband of cruelty, manipulation and abuse.



Kriti Still in 'Cocktail 2' Mode

Mumbai: Actress Kriti Sanon has given fans a glimpse into the vibrant world of Cocktail 2 by sharing a behind-the-scenes video from the film's sets. Posting the clip on social media, Kriti revealed that she is still "Mentally" immersed in the film despite completing the shoot. The video captures candid moments, rehearsals and fun interactions with co-stars Shahid Kapoor and Rashmika Mandanna. The footage largely features the making of the energetic song Main Nachu Jab Tak Tu Bole. showcasing the cast enjoying the festive beach-party atmosphere. Kriti appears in several glamorous looks, while Shahid joins in playful moments between takes.

