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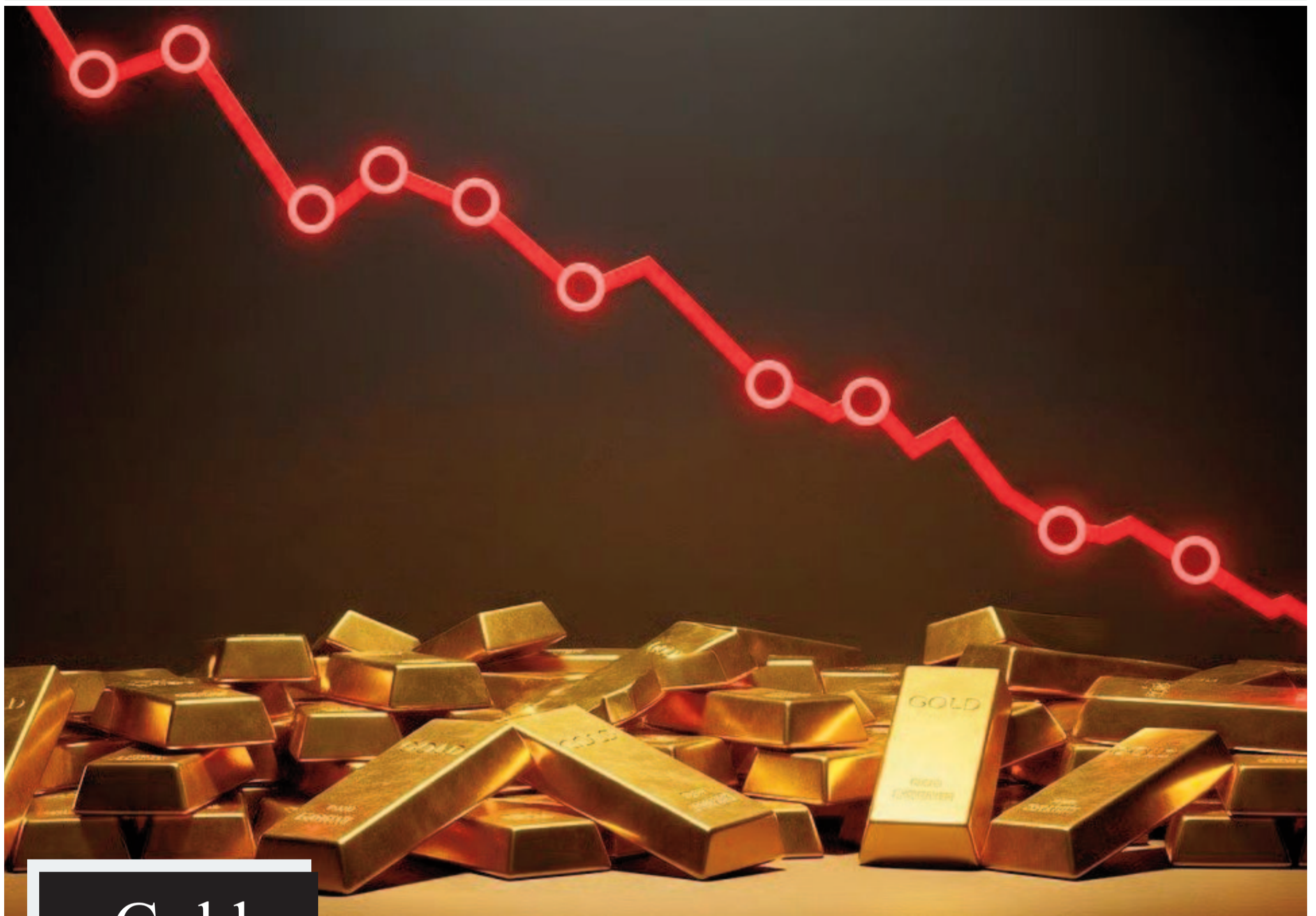
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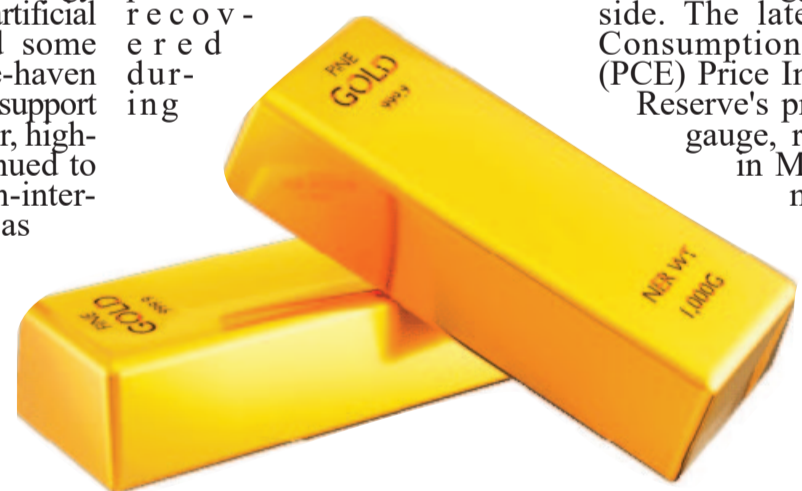
Gold Extends Weekly Fall

New Delhi: Gold prices declined 4.63 per cent this week, registering their fourth consecutive weekly loss, as a stronger US dollar and elevated US Treasury yields continued to weigh on bullion prices. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), however, gold futures for August delivery recovered 0.75 per cent on Friday, while July silver futures gained more than 1 per cent after US inflation data eased immediate concerns over another interest rate hike by the US Federal Reserve. According to the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA), the price of 24-carat gold fell to ₹1,39,878 per 10 grams on Thursday from ₹1,46,664 at the beginning of

the week. The rebound came after gold touched its lowest level since November 2025 earlier this week. Analysts said volatility in global technology stocks and concerns over artificial intelligence encouraged some investors to return to safe-haven assets, offering temporary support to bullion prices. However, higher Treasury yields continued to reduce the appeal of non-interest-bearing assets such as gold and silver. Internationally, COMEX gold is trading with a corrective bias above the \$4,000 support level. Analysts see immediate resistance between \$4,200 and \$4,240,

while MCX gold faces resistance in the ₹1.46 lakh-₹1.47 lakh range. Key support is seen around ₹1.40 lakh-₹1.39 lakh. Silver prices also recovered during

Friday's session, with analysts placing immediate resistance between ₹2.30 lakh and ₹2.32 lakh per kg, while a fall below ₹2.10 lakh could trigger further downside. The latest US Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) Price Index, the Federal Reserve's preferred inflation gauge, rose 0.4 per cent in May, reducing immediate fears of a rate hike. However, markets still assign a 64 per cent probability of further monetary tightening in September.



ISRO Clears Engine Milestone

Chennai: Indian Space Research Organisation has successfully conducted a crucial hot test of its 175-tonne semi-cryogenic engine power head test article (PHTA), marking a major milestone in the development of propulsion technology for India's next-generation launch vehicles. The test was carried out recently at the ISRO Propulsion Complex and was the eighth hot test in the ongoing development programme. The power head test article incorporates all major engine systems except the thrust chamber. The objective of the latest trial was to evaluate engine performance during the build-up phase after pre-burner ignition and demonstrate stable operation at a significantly higher thrust level. For the first time,



the engine powerhead operated at 175 tonnes of thrust, equivalent to 88 per cent of its full-rated capacity. Earlier successful tests had been conducted at 94 tonnes and 120 tonnes of thrust. ISRO said the test proceeded exactly as predicted, with all engine parameters remaining

within expected limits. The engine's main turbopumps also performed successfully, delivering outlet pressures of 400 bar and 500 bar. The successful trial paves the way for testing the engine at its full rated thrust of 200 tonnes, bringing the indigenous semi-cryogenic engine

programme closer to completion. The SC120 Semi-Cryogenic Propulsion Stage, powered by the SE2000 engine, is being developed to replace the existing L110 liquid core stage of the Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3). The upgrade is expected to significantly enhance the rocket's payload capacity, efficiency and reliability. The new engine uses Liquid Oxygen (LOX) and Isrosene, a purified kerosene developed by ISRO, making it cleaner and more efficient than conventional propulsion systems. The enhanced propulsion stage is expected to strengthen India's capabilities in heavy satellite launches, deep-space exploration missions and future human spaceflight programmes.

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EDITORIAL

Building Champions
Begins Here

Every time an Indian athlete stands on the podium at the Olympics, World Championships, or other international competitions, the nation celebrates with pride. Behind every medal, however, lies years of relentless training, discipline, and sacrifice. While individual determination is indispensable, talent alone is rarely enough to produce world-class athletes. The foundation of sporting excellence is strong, accessible, and modern sports infrastructure. India is home to immense sporting talent. From the villages of Haryana producing wrestlers to the tribal regions nurturing archers, from badminton champions emerging from Hyderabad to hockey players rising from Odisha, examples abound of natural ability waiting to be discovered. Yet, countless young athletes never realize their potential because they lack access to quality playgrounds, stadiums, coaching facilities, and scientific training. In many parts of the country, aspiring sportspersons still practice on uneven grounds with inadequate equipment and little professional guidance. World-class infrastructure goes far beyond building stadiums. It includes high-performance training centers, modern gyms, sports science laboratories, physiotherapy units, nutrition support, recovery facilities, and access to qualified coaches. Countries that consistently dominate international sporting events invest heavily in these areas, ensuring that athletes receive comprehensive support throughout their careers. India must adopt the same long-term approach if it aims to become a global sporting powerhouse. Grassroots development deserves equal attention. Every district should have well-maintained sports complexes where children can train in multiple disciplines. Schools and colleges must encourage participation in sports alongside academics, identifying talent at an early age and providing structured pathways for growth. Partnerships between governments, private organizations, and sports federations can help bridge the gap between grassroots participation and elite performance. Sports infrastructure also contributes to broader social and economic development. It promotes healthier lifestyles, creates employment for coaches and sports professionals, encourages tourism through tournaments, and inspires community engagement. Most importantly, it provides young people with positive opportunities that build discipline, teamwork, and resilience. However, infrastructure alone cannot produce champions. Facilities must be managed efficiently, maintained regularly, and made affordable for athletes from all backgrounds. Equal opportunities should be extended to women, para-athletes, and those from rural and economically disadvantaged communities. Talent should never be limited by geography or financial constraints.

Retaining Talent: India's Next Development Challenge

India is often celebrated as one of the world's youngest nations, blessed with a demographic advantage that few countries possess. Every year, millions of students graduate from universities and technical institutions, entering the workforce with aspirations to build successful careers. Indian professionals have earned global recognition in fields ranging from information technology and medicine to engineering, finance, research, and entrepreneurship. Yet, alongside this remarkable success lies a persistent challenge—the migration of highly skilled talent to foreign countries. While global mobility is a natural feature of today's interconnected world, retaining enough talent within India is becoming increasingly important for sustaining long-term economic growth and innovation. For decades, the phenomenon popularly known as "brain drain" was viewed as an inevitable consequence of globalization. Better salaries, advanced research facilities, superior quality of life, and greater professional opportunities attracted talented Indians to countries such as the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, and Singapore. Indian-origin professionals have gone on to lead multinational corporations, prestigious universities, healthcare institutions, and research laboratories across the world. Their achievements have enhanced India's global reputation, but they also raise an important question: could a larger share of this talent have contributed more directly to India's own development? The reasons behind talent migration are complex and cannot be reduced to financial considerations alone. Competitive salaries certainly play an important role, but professionals also seek environments that encourage innovation, reward merit, provide world-class infrastructure, and offer clear career progression. Researchers often migrate because they have access to better laboratories, greater funding, and stronger collaboration opportunities. Doctors may seek modern healthcare facilities and advanced medical technologies, while engineers and scientists are drawn toward organizations investing heavily in research and development. India has made considerable progress in creating oppor-

tunities over the past two decades. The rapid expansion of the information technology sector, the growth of startups, improvements in digital infrastructure, and increasing foreign investment have created millions of high-skilled jobs. Indian cities have emerged as global technology hubs, attracting multinational corporations and encouraging entrepreneurship. Government initiatives supporting innovation, digital transformation, semiconductor manufacturing, and startup incubation have further strengthened the ecosystem. However, significant challenges remain. Research and development expenditure as a percentage of GDP continues to lag behind many advanced economies. Universities often struggle with limited funding, outdated laboratories, and bureaucratic hurdles. Industry-academia collaboration remains weaker than it could be, preventing many research ideas from becoming commercially viable innovations. Young researchers frequently face uncertainty regarding grants, career stability, and long-term institutional support. The private sector also faces challenges in talent retention. Many highly skilled professionals leave not only because of higher salaries abroad but also because they perceive greater opportunities for professional growth, exposure to cutting-edge technologies, flexible work cultures, and international collaboration. Creating workplaces that encourage creativity, continuous learning, diversity, and merit-based advancement is essential if organizations wish to retain top performers. Equally important is the quality of life offered to skilled professionals. Urban congestion, inadequate public transportation, environmental pollution, housing affordability, healthcare accessibility, and educational opportunities for children all influence career decisions. Professionals often evaluate not only their salary but also the overall ecosystem in which they and their families will live. Building world-class cities therefore becomes part of the broader talent retention strategy. Entrepreneurship presents another promising avenue. Increasing numbers of young Indians are choosing to launch startups rather than pursue conventional employment. This shift has generated innovation across sectors

such as financial technology, healthcare, education, agriculture, renewable energy, and artificial intelligence. However, entrepreneurs continue to face challenges related to regulatory compliance, access to capital, intellectual property protection, and scaling businesses. Simplifying regulations and expanding access to funding can encourage innovators to build globally competitive companies within India rather than relocating overseas. The issue should also be viewed from a broader perspective. Migration is not inherently negative. Millions of Indians working abroad contribute significantly through remittances, investments, international networks, technology transfer, and knowledge exchange. Members of the Indian diaspora have helped strengthen bilateral trade, attract foreign investment, establish research collaborations, and mentor emerging entrepreneurs in India. Instead of viewing migration solely as a loss, policymakers should focus on transforming "brain drain" into "brain circulation," where talent moves globally while maintaining strong professional and economic connections with the home country. Several countries have successfully adopted this approach. They encourage expatriate professionals to participate in research partnerships, startup investments, academic collaborations, and advisory roles without necessarily requiring permanent return. India can further strengthen similar initiatives by creating structured platforms that connect global Indian talent with domestic institutions. Education reforms are equally important. Universities should emphasize interdisciplinary learning, practical research, industry internships, and entrepreneurial thinking. Students should graduate not only with technical knowledge but also with problem-solving abilities, leadership skills, and global competitiveness. Strengthening vocational education alongside higher education will ensure that talent development meets the changing needs of industry. The government has an important role in creating an enabling environment, but retaining talent cannot depend solely on public policy. Industry leaders must invest in employee development, competitive compensation, workplace flexibility, and re-

search opportunities. Universities must become centers of excellence capable of attracting international faculty and producing globally recognized research. Financial institutions should support innovation through venture capital, research funding, and long-term investment in emerging technologies. At the same time, society must redefine success. For many years, international migration was often regarded as the ultimate indicator of professional achievement. While global careers deserve admiration, equal recognition should be given to individuals who choose to build businesses, conduct research, teach students, practice medicine, or develop technologies within India. Celebrating domestic excellence can gradually reshape aspirations among younger generations. Artificial intelligence, biotechnology, quantum computing, renewable energy, space technology, advanced manufacturing, and semiconductor design represent the industries that will shape the global economy over the coming decades. India possesses the human capital to become a leader in each of these fields. Whether that potential is fully realized will depend on its ability to retain, attract, and continuously nurture highly skilled professionals. Ultimately, the challenge of retaining talent is not about preventing people from seeking opportunities abroad. In an interconnected world, mobility is both inevitable and beneficial. The real objective should be to create conditions where talented individuals choose India because it offers meaningful careers, world-class infrastructure, intellectual freedom, professional recognition, and opportunities to make a lasting impact. India's greatest competitive advantage is not merely its population—it is the quality, ambition, and creativity of its people. Retaining that talent requires more than competitive salaries; it demands an ecosystem that rewards excellence, encourages innovation, and inspires confidence in the nation's future. If India succeeds in building such an environment, it will not simply reduce brain drain. It will transform itself into a global destination where talent chooses to learn, innovate, and thrive.

- Rajendhar Katkam

Bharat Taxi
Expansion Planned: Shah

Gandhinagar: Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah announced that the cooperative mobility platform Bharat Taxi aims to expand its services to more than 500 cities and towns across India within the next two years, marking the next phase of its nationwide rollout. Launching the service in Gujarat, Shah said Bharat Taxi has officially started operations across the state's major cities with two-wheelers, auto-rickshaws and four-wheelers. He noted that the platform has already enrolled nearly seven lakh driver-members (Sarathis), who are shareholders in the cooperative. The Home Minister said Bharat Taxi would soon begin operations in cities including Nagpur, Pune, Mumbai, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Jaipur and Kolkata, with services expected to start in all seven cities before July 31. Highlighting the cooperative model, Shah said drivers would become members and stakeholders instead of functioning as independent contractors, ensuring greater financial security and participation. He said the initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Prosperity through Cooperation", adding that Bharat Taxi is expected to emerge as a major cooperative transport platform while improving the livelihood, dignity and security of its driver-members.

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Mouni Roy

Sharvari Reveals She Sent an 'Essay' to A.R. Rahman



Mumbai: Actress Sharvari has revealed that she was overwhelmed after receiving a personal message from Oscar and Grammy-winning composer A. R. Rahman appreciating her performance in *Main Vapas Aaunga*, saying she ended up replying with "an essay" because she was such a huge admirer of the music maestro. Speaking during the film's promotions alongside co-star Vedang Raina and director Imtiaz Ali, Sharvari said working on a project featuring legends like Rahman, Imtiaz Ali, Diljit Dosanjh and Irshad Kamil has been an inspiring experience early in her career. Reflecting on the collaboration, the actress said she and the team had sincerely tried to do justice to both the audience and the vision of the celebrated artists associated with the film. Sharvari recalled that Rahman recently sent her a message saying he had enjoyed composing music for the scenes featuring her. She admitted she was stunned to receive the message and immediately responded with a lengthy text expressing how big a fan she has always been of the legendary composer. She added that it only truly dawned on her at that moment that Rahman had composed the music for their film, making the experience even more special. Expressing excitement about the film, Sharvari said she is eager to watch it as an audience member because it explores universal emotions of love and longing. She hoped those emotions would resonate with viewers of all age groups and create a lasting emotional connection.

Tamil Cinema Legend K. Bhagyaraj Passes Away at 73

Chennai: Veteran Tamil filmmaker, actor and screenwriter K. Bhagyaraj passed away in Chennai on Saturday after suffering a cardiac arrest. He was 73. According to sources close to the family, Bhagyaraj complained of severe chest pain early in the morning and was rushed to a private hospital, where doctors declared him dead. He is survived by his wife Poornima Bhagyaraj, son Shanthnu Bhagyaraj and daughter Saranya Bhagyaraj. Bhagyaraj's demise has sent shockwaves across the Indian film industry, coming just 17 days after the passing of his mentor, legendary filmmaker K. Bharathiraja. Among the first to pay tribute was Telugu actor Venkatesh Daggubati, who said Bhagyaraj's storytelling transcended languages and touched millions of hearts. Recalling their collaborations in *Sundarakanda* and *Abbaigaru*, Venkatesh described him as one of Indian cinema's finest filmmakers and expressed condolences to his family and admirers. Tamil director M. Rajesh also mourned the veteran's demise, saying Bhagyaraj's unique storytelling, humour and timeless screenplays inspired generations of writers and filmmakers, and that his cinematic legacy would continue to influence future storytellers. Born on January 7, 1953, Bhagyaraj built an illustrious career spanning more than 75 films as a director, actor, writer and screenwriter. Widely regarded as one of Tamil cinema's finest storytellers, he was known for blending humour with socially relevant themes while delivering commercially successful family entertainers. Some of his most celebrated films include *Andha 7 Naatkal*, *Mundhanai Mudichu*, *Thooral Ninnu Pochu*, *Darling Darling Darling*, *Idhu Namma Aalu*, *Indru Poi Naalai Vaa*, *Mouna Geethangal* and *Rudra*. Many of these films were remade or dubbed into Hindi, Telugu, Kannada and Odia. Apart from directing and acting, Bhagyaraj earned acclaim as a screenwriter. He wrote the story for *Oru Kaidhiyin Diary*, directed by Bharathiraja and starring Kamal Haasan. The film was later remade in Hindi as *Aakhree Raasta*, directed by Bhagyaraj himself and starring Amitabh Bachchan. With his distinctive style of storytelling and enduring contributions to Indian cinema, K. Bhagyaraj leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire generations of filmmakers and audiences alike.



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Ameesha Enjoys in New York

Mumbai: Actress Ameesha Patel is making the most of the summer season with a vacation in New York, sharing glimpses of her holiday as she soaked in the sunshine and explored the city. Taking to social media, Ameesha posted a video montage featuring moments from her trip. Dressed in blue denim shorts, a white T-shirt, a baseball cap and a jacket, the actress was seen spending time with friends and visiting some of New York City's scenic locations. Sharing the clip, she captioned it: "New York — soaking in the New York sun n vibes!!! Summer summer summer time!" Ameesha made her acting debut in 2000 with the blockbuster *Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai*. She followed it up with the Telugu hit *Badri* and achieved nationwide fame with *Gadar: Ek Prem Katha*. Over the years, she has appeared in several films, including *Humraaz*, *Kya Yehi Pyaar Hai*, *Honeymoon Travels Pvt. Ltd.*, *Bhool Bhulaiyaa* and *Race 2*. Her most recent major success came with *Gadar 2*, in which she reunited with Sunny Deol and Utkarsh Sharma. The film continued the story of Tara Singh as he returns to Pakistan to rescue his imprisoned son during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan War. Ameesha was last seen in the romantic comedy *Tauba Tera Jalwa*, directed by Akashaditya Lama, alongside Jatin Khurana and Angela Krislinzki. Earlier this week, the actress also remembered her late grandmother on her birth anniversary. Sharing a fan-made tribute video, Ameesha wrote an emotional note saying she misses her grandmother every day and "envies heaven" because it has her "angel grandma." She described her grandmother as the embodiment of grace and royalty and thanked a fan for creating the heartfelt tribute.



Madhuri Dixit Remembers Mother



Mumbai: Actress Madhuri Dixit paid an emotional tribute to her late mother, Snehlata Dixit, on her birth anniversary, saying that not a single day passes without remembering her and feeling her presence in everyday moments. Taking to her Instagram Stories, Madhuri shared a collage of photographs featuring herself with her mother and penned a heartfelt message. "Happy Birthday, Aai. Not a day goes by without thinking of you and feeling your presence in the little moments of life. Your love, strength and warmth continue to guide us every day. Missing you always and celebrating you with love today," she wrote.