

TRICOLOUR ESTATE

THE NEWS THAT MATTERS

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Iran insists Strait of Hormuz closed

Tehran: Tensions are escalating between Iran and the United States over the strategic Strait of Hormuz, with Iran's Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) declaring the vital waterway closed and demanding transit permits, while the US Central Command (CENTCOM) asserts its right to 'freedom of navigation' and dismisses Iran's claims. Iran doubled down on the United States while insisting that the passage through the Strait of Hormuz remains closed after the US Central Command (CENTCOM) claimed that the 'traffic is flowing', dismissing Tehran's authority over the critical chokehold. The Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA), an official Iranian maritime body established to regulate and control transit through the Strait of Hormuz, stated in a post on X that the passage has been closed due to 'recent illegal movements' of the US military and will be permitted only through a 'transit permit' issued by PGSA. It added that the requests regarding the transit will be reviewed 'as soon as stability and calm are restored' in the region.

US insists Strait of Hormuz is open

Washington: The US insists the Strait of Hormuz is open, despite Iran saying it has closed the waterway amid renewed strikes. Hostilities, which flared up again this week, continued on Saturday after the US said it had struck more than 140 targets across Iran. The attacks were a response to Iranian forces hitting a ship passing through the strait, which it said was using an unapproved route. Iran has been trying to assert control over the waterway, and early on Sunday said it was closed until further notice. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) also launched wide-ranging attacks on US bases and allies across the region on Sunday, marking an escalation in the scale of hostilities. It said it had hit a US base in Jordan, while the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain all said they had responded to missiles and drones from Iran.

Qatar temporarily suspends maritime activities

Doha: Qatar's ministry of transport on Sunday announced the temporary suspension of sailing and all maritime activities for most vessels until further notice, citing public safety. In a statement, the ministry advised owners and users of maritime vessels — including leisure boats, fishing boats, jet skis and all other maritime vessels — to temporarily suspend sailing and all maritime activities. For all the latest headlines, follow our Google News channel online or via the app. It said vessels that are subject to international maritime conventions and operate in accordance with applicable regulations and procedures are exempt. In addition, the statement said that the precautionary measure was taken in coordination with the relevant security authorities and urged the public to comply with the directive. The move comes after Qatar had earlier resumed maritime activities following a previous temporary suspension imposed amid regional security developments.

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27 Killed in Bangkok Pub Fire

Bangkok, July 13: At least 27 people were killed and several others injured after a massive fire engulfed a pub in northern Bangkok shortly after midnight on Monday. Authorities said many patrons were trapped inside as flames spread rapidly, sending thick black smoke into the night sky. The blaze broke out around 12 a.m., prompting an immediate response from firefighters and rescue teams. Videos shared by first responders showed flames shooting out of the pub's entrance while panicked customers attempted to escape. Firefighters managed to bring the fire under control after nearly 30 minutes of intense firefighting. Thailand's Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul visited the scene and

confirmed that 27 people had lost their lives, while several injured victims were admitted to nearby hospitals for treatment. He said the exact cause of the fire is yet to be determined and an investigation has been launched. Photographs taken after the fire was extinguished revealed a charred interior, with burnt furniture and extensive structural damage inside the establishment. Authorities are examining whether any safety violations or emergency exit failures contributed to the high death toll. Thailand has witnessed similar nightclub fire disasters in the past. In 2022, a fire at a music pub in eastern Thailand claimed 14 lives. One of the country's deadliest incidents occurred during the New



Year's Eve celebrations in 2009, when a blaze at Bangkok's Santika nightclub killed 66 people and injured more than 200, reportedly after indoor fireworks ignited the building. The latest tragedy has once again raised serious concerns

about fire safety standards and emergency preparedness at entertainment venues across Thailand. Investigators are expected to determine the cause of the blaze and assess whether negligence played a role in the disaster.



EDITORIAL

Leading the New World

The global order is undergoing a profound transformation. Shifting economic power, geopolitical tensions, technological advancements, climate change, and evolving security challenges are redefining international relations. In this changing landscape, India is emerging as a key global player with the potential to shape the future of the international system. Its growing economic strength, strategic autonomy, democratic values, and technological capabilities have positioned the country as an influential voice in the new world order. India's rise is driven by more than just economic growth. As one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, it has become an attractive destination for investment, innovation, and manufacturing. Initiatives such as Make in India, Digital India, and expanding digital public infrastructure have strengthened India's global competitiveness. The country's achievements in information technology, pharmaceuticals, space exploration, and renewable energy have further enhanced its international reputation.

Diplomatically, India has adopted a balanced approach by maintaining strong partnerships with major global powers while safeguarding its strategic independence. Rather than aligning exclusively with any single bloc, India has pursued issue-based cooperation, allowing it to engage constructively with countries across different regions. This pragmatic foreign policy has enhanced India's credibility as a responsible and reliable partner. India has also emerged as the leading voice of the Global South. It consistently advocates for reforms in international institutions to ensure that developing nations receive fair representation in global decision-making. By promoting cooperation in healthcare, digital technology, disaster management, education, and capacity building, India has demonstrated that development partnerships can be based on mutual respect rather than dependency.

Climate leadership has become another important pillar of India's global role. While emphasizing climate justice and equitable responsibilities, India has significantly expanded renewable energy capacity and promoted sustainable development initiatives. Its efforts underline the belief that economic progress and environmental protection can advance together. However, global leadership begins with domestic strength. Sustained economic growth, quality education, employment generation, infrastructure development, technological innovation, and social inclusion are essential for enhancing India's influence abroad. Addressing these priorities will strengthen both national resilience and international credibility. The new world order demands cooperation instead of confrontation and dialogue instead of division. India possesses the demographic advantage, economic potential, technological expertise, and diplomatic maturity to contribute meaningfully to global peace, stability, and prosperity. By championing multilateralism, inclusive development, and rules-based international cooperation.



From Counting People to Shaping Policy

A census is not just about counting people. It is one of the most important government exercises because it helps in deciding how the country develops. The information collected through the census is used to determine where schools, hospitals, roads, and other public facilities should be built. It also helps the government decide how much money should be spent on welfare schemes and which communities need greater support. Therefore, the 2026 Census is not only important for India's future but also for the future of the Backward Classes (BCs). India last conducted a full Census in 2011. The Census scheduled for 2021 was postponed for various reasons. As a result, the upcoming Census has become even more important. Accurate population data is essential for ensuring social justice, equal opportunities, and better implementation of welfare schemes.

Since Independence, there has been no comprehensive official data on the BC population. Experts have often pointed out that this is a major gap in policy-making. Without reliable information about the

actual BC population, their education levels, employment, and socio-economic conditions, it becomes difficult for governments to design effective welfare programmes and allocate resources fairly. This is why every BC family should take the 2026 Census seriously. Even a small mistake during the Census can have long-term consequences. Errors such as incorrect recording of surnames, caste or sub-caste names, family details, education, or occupation can affect the accuracy of the data. Similarly, duplicate entries or recording the same caste under different names may create an incorrect picture of the community. Every family should carefully check the information given to the Census officials and verify that it has been recorded correctly.

Experts have also suggested introducing systems such as a Unique Identification Number (UIN) for every individual. A unique number can reduce duplicate entries and ensure that each person is counted only once. This would make the Census more accurate, transparent, and reliable. The Census is not only the responsibility of the government;

it is also the responsibility of every citizen. Families should provide correct information, carefully verify the details of every family member, and ensure that their caste and sub-caste are recorded using the official names. A small mistake today may affect government policies for many years.

Across the country, there is increasing discussion about social justice, equal opportunities, reservations in education and employment, and better implementation of welfare programmes. Accurate Census data can answer important questions such as: What is the actual BC population? What are their socio-economic conditions? What are their regional needs? These answers are essential for making informed public policies. Therefore, BC organisations, intellectuals, teachers, researchers, social activists, and public representatives should conduct awareness programmes in villages and towns. They should educate people about the importance of the Census. Young people, in particular, should help their families understand why it is important to provide correct information. Greater public

participation will lead to a more accurate and meaningful Census.

As the saying goes, "A community that is not counted in the Census is often not counted in government policies." Every BC family should remember this. Giving accurate information is not just about participating in a government exercise—it is about protecting their rights and securing better opportunities for future generations. Therefore, every family should remain alert, provide correct information, and verify all details after they are recorded. An accurate Census is the foundation of a stronger BC community and a more equal India.



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CAPFs Plant 7 Crore Trees

Ahmedabad, July 12: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) have planted seven crore trees over the last seven years, highlighting the Centre's commitment to environmental conservation and urging citizens to actively participate in expanding India's green cover. Speaking during a plantation drive in Ahmedabad, Shah said the massive afforestation initiative reflected the government's focus on balancing development with environmental protection. "The Central Paramilitary Forces completed the task of planting seven crore trees over seven years only yesterday," he said. Shah also noted that 43 lakh trees were planted in the Delhi Ridge just two days ago, describing both campaigns as significant milestones in the country's environmental efforts. The Home Minister said the plantation drive focused on native tree species capable of surviving for over 100 years, ensuring long-term ecological benefits. "If you plant them today, even your grandchildren will sit in their shade. We have deliberately selected trees that live for more than a century," he said.

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E-Champions Lift Inaugural TG20 Title

Hyderabad E-Champions emerged as the champions of the inaugural Sreenidhi University TG20 League, defeating Anvita Khammam Aces by six wickets in a one-sided final at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on Sunday night. Chasing a competitive target of 158, Hyderabad E-Champions reached 159/4 in 17.3 overs, sealing the title with 15 balls to spare. Captain Abhirath Reddy led the chase with a fluent 48 off 30 balls, while Shanmukha Ashwin provided a brisk start with 36 off 21 deliveries. After a brief middle-order wobble, Vaishnav Reddy remained unbeaten on 41 off 28 balls, sharing an unbroken 51-run partnership with Pranav Varma (19 not out) to guide his side home. Vaishnav fittingly finished the match with a towering six. Earlier, Khammam Aces posted 157/8 in 20 overs after being asked to bat. The innings got off to a poor start as they slumped to 26/3 inside five overs. Veteran batter K. Himateja scored 31, while Mickil Jaiswal anchored the innings with a well-made 65 off 39 balls, featuring four fours and four sixes. However, regular wickets in the latter stages prevented the Aces from posting a bigger total. Pacer Dev Mehta impressed with 2/25, while tournament's leading wicket-taker Ajay Dev Goud claimed 2/36. Left-arm spinner Yashveer Goud delivered the decisive spell, picking up 3/17 to derail Khammam's middle order. Khammam Aces were also let down by poor fielding, dropping captain Abhirath Reddy twice during the chase, a lapse that proved costly. The tournament also witnessed individual brilliance from Hyderabad E-Champions. Captain Abhirath Reddy finished as the leading run-scorer with 549 runs, while all-rounder Ajay Dev Goud ended as the highest wicket-taker with 21 wickets. Both players were the franchise's first picks during the players' auction, justifying the team's faith in them with match-winning performances throughout the competition. With a dominant all-round display in the final, Hyderabad E-Champions etched their name into history as the first-ever champions of the TG20 League.



England and Argentina enter semifinals

In the FIFA World Cup, England booked their semifinal berth with a 2-1 extra-time win over Norway, while Argentina entered the semifinal, defeating Switzerland 3-1 this morning. In the first semi-final, France and Spain will face off on Wednesday. The match will kick off at 12:30 a.m. Indian Standard Time. France reached the semi-finals after defeating Morocco 2-0 in the quarter-finals, while Spain advanced with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Belgium. The second semi-final will be played on Thursday between England and Argentina at 12:30 a.m. Indian Time. The winners of the two semi-finals will meet in the FIFA World Cup final on July 20 at New York-New Jersey Stadium. The losing teams will play the third-place play-off on July 19 in Miami.

McCullum Quits England Test Role



England's men's cricket team will enter a new era after Brendon McCullum stepped down as Test head coach following a prolonged slump in results, bringing an end to the much-talked-about 'Bazball' era. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) confirmed on Sunday that McCullum will continue as head coach of the senior men's white-ball teams but will no longer oversee the Test side. His departure comes just two weeks after former captain Ben Stokes retired from international cricket, leaving England without both a Test coach and captain ahead of their home series against Pakistan starting on August 19. McCullum said he was disappointed to leave the red-ball setup but respected the ECB's decision. "I've absolutely loved coaching the Test side and I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved together. I'm gutted not to be continuing, but I respect the decision," McCullum said.



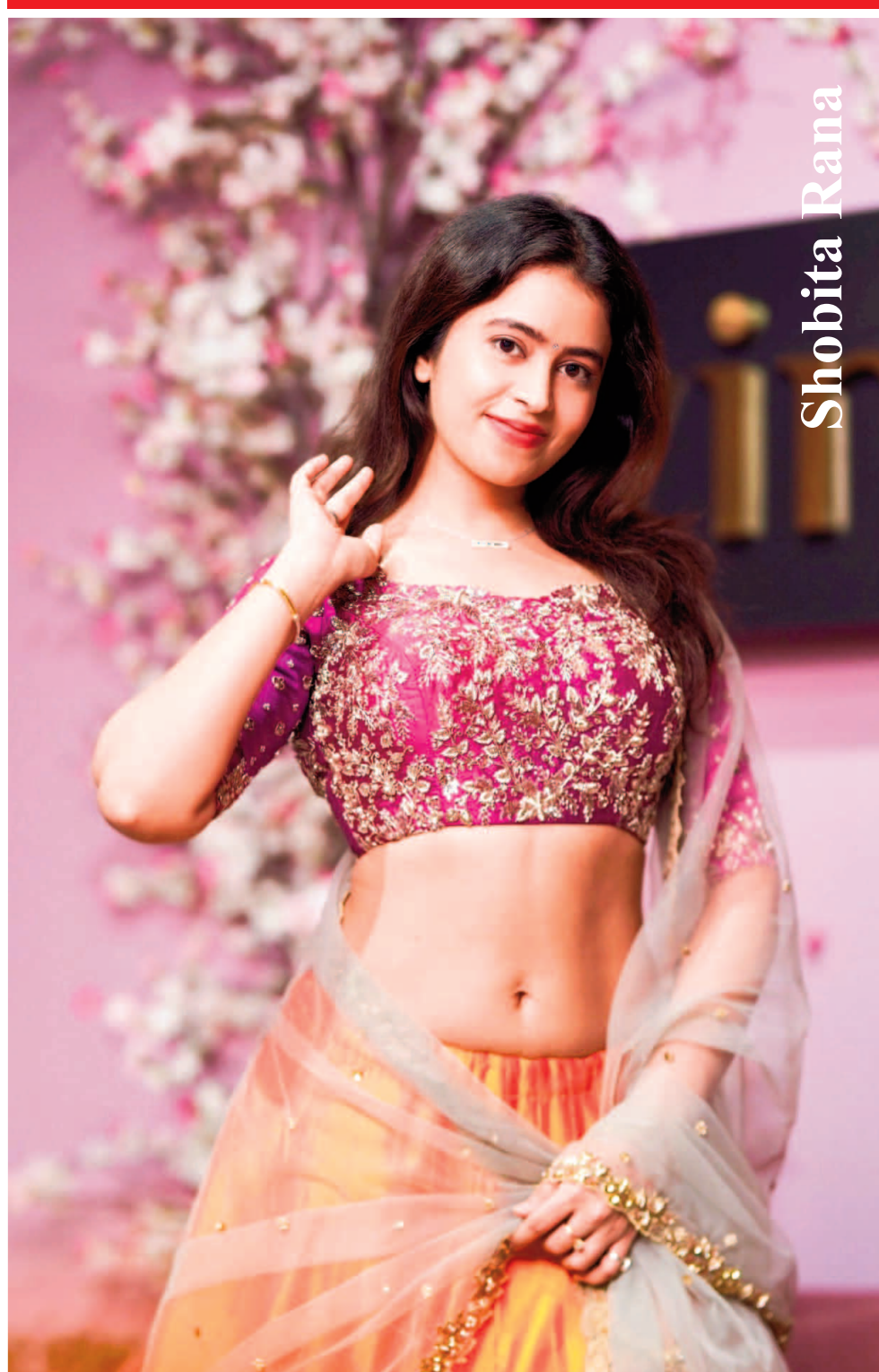
Sinner Retains Wimbledon Crown

World No. 1 Jannik Sinner successfully defended his Wimbledon title with a hard-fought 6-7 (7), 7-6 (2), 6-3, 6-4 victory over Germany's Alexander Zverev in a power-packed men's singles final on Sunday. The four-hour contest featured relentless serving and baseline hitting, with 107 winners, 32 aces, and the first break of serve coming only after nearly three hours of play. Sinner held his nerve in the crucial moments to claim his fifth Grand Slam title. The victory made the 24-year-old Italian only the 10th man in the Open Era to successfully defend the Wimbledon men's singles title, joining an elite list that includes Rod Laver, Björn Borg, John McEnroe, Boris Becker, Pete Sampras, Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz. "Standing here, you can feel the nerves when you wake up on Sunday morning. This is a very special day. You never know how many times you'll get this opportunity, so I never take it for granted," Sinner said after lifting the trophy. Zverev, who entered the final after winning the French Open and carrying strong momentum, matched Sinner shot for shot during the opening two sets. The German claimed the first-set tie-break before Sinner responded by dominating the second-set breaker to level the match. The momentum shifted thereafter as Sinner secured the only service break in each of the final two sets to complete another memorable triumph.



India Close In On Historic Lord's Win

India Women moved within touching distance of a historic victory in the one-off Test against England at Lord's after a dominant third day's performance, finishing just four wickets away from a memorable triumph. Resuming the day in a commanding position, India built on their advantage through a magnificent innings from Yastika Bhatia, who became the first woman in history to score a Test century at Lord's. The left-hander registered her maiden Test hundred, anchoring India's second innings before the visitors declared at 341/7, setting England a daunting target of 457 runs. Earlier in the day, England struck back with the new ball as Lauren Bell dismissed Smriti Mandhana for a fluent 70, while the hosts picked up a couple of quick wickets to slow India's progress. However, Yastika and captain Harmanpreet Kaur steadied the innings with a crucial partnership before Richa Ghosh accelerated the scoring with an aggressive half-century. Harmanpreet declared soon after, giving England an imposing chase. England's premier spinner Sophie Ecclestone claimed a brilliant five-wicket haul, further extending her record as England's highest wicket-taker across all formats. Chasing 457, England's batting lineup crumbled under relentless pressure from the Indian pace attack. The hosts were reduced to 59/5, with Kranti Goud and Sayali Satghare claiming two wickets each, while Sneha Rana chipped in with another breakthrough. A spirited 67-run partnership between Mady Villiers and Amy Jones briefly revived England's hopes. Villiers fell after a stunning close-in catch by wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh, while Jones completed a gritty half-century to keep England in the contest. At stumps on Day 3, England still required 327 more runs with only four wickets remaining, leaving India on the verge of securing one of their greatest victories in women's Test cricket. The match also carried emotional significance as England stalwarts Tammy Beaumont and Heather Knight played their final international Test innings at Lord's. With history within reach, India will look to claim the remaining four wickets on the final day and register a landmark victory at the iconic venue.



Shobita Rana



Samantha Ruth Prabhu's action entertainer 'Maa Inti Bangaram' has scripted history by becoming the first female-led Telugu film to gross ₹100 crore worldwide, according to the makers. Announcing the milestone on social media, production house Tralala Moving Pictures described the film as a blockbuster and celebrated its record-breaking achievement. Released on June 19, the film is directed by Nandini Reddy and features Samantha in the lead role. The actress not only headlined the project but also produced it. Ahead of the release, Samantha had revealed that she performed all her action sequences without a body double, sustaining injuries and bleeding during the shoot to keep the stunts realistic. 'Maa Inti Bangaram' is a family action-comedy created by Raj Nidimoru and stars Diganth, Gulshan Devaiah, Sree Mukhi, Gautami, Anand, Lakshmi, Srinivas Gavireddy, and Manjusha in important roles. The film's box-office success marks a significant milestone for women-led Telugu cinema, setting a new benchmark for female-centric commercial films.

Jana Nayagan to Arrive on July 24

Vijay's much-awaited final film 'Jana Nayagan' will be released uncut in UK cinemas on July 24, distributor Ahimsa Entertainment has announced. The film will carry a 15-rating in the UK, allowing audiences to watch the complete version without any edits. Calling it Vijay's final outing on the big screen, the distributor promised fans the film "exactly as it was meant to be seen." In India, however, 'Jana Nayagan' has been certified 'A' by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) after recommending several modifications. The board asked for changes to dialogues, visuals, and references involving political symbols, religious terms, national symbols, and historical figures. Around 20 seconds of deletions and 10 seconds of replacements were made, while the film's runtime remains 183 minutes and 11 seconds. Directed by H. Vinodh and produced by KVN Productions, the film stars Vijay, Pooja Hegde, Bobby Deol, and Mamitha Baiju in key roles. The action entertainer is widely expected to be Vijay's farewell film before his full-time political career.

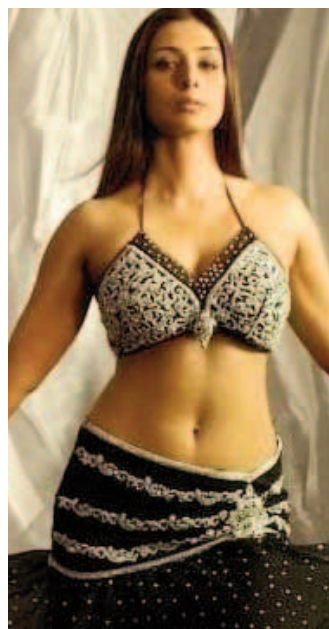


'Lenin' Crosses ₹37 Crore Worldwide

Akhil Akkineni's latest action drama 'Lenin' has continued its impressive box-office run, grossing over ₹37.2 crore worldwide within just two days of its theatrical release, according to the film's makers. Presented by Annapurna Studios, the production house announced that the film has earned ₹37.2 crore-plus globally, attributing the strong performance to positive word-of-mouth among audiences. Sharing the achievement on social media, the makers said, "The word of mouth is doing wonders. The audience is doing the rest. ₹37.2 CR+ Worldwide Gross in just 2 days. #LENIN is marching from strength to strength." Trade portal Sacnilk, however, estimated the film's worldwide gross at around ₹23.4 crore, including overseas collections of approximately ₹5.8 crore. If the producers' figures are considered, Lenin has already surpassed the lifetime worldwide earnings of Nagarjuna's 2024 hit 'Naa Saami Ranga', which collected around ₹37.32 crore. The film is also on the verge of overtaking Akhil Akkineni's highest-grossing film, 'Most Eligible Bachelor', which earned approximately ₹38 crore worldwide during its theatrical run. Lenin has already comfortably exceeded the lifetime collections of Akhil's earlier films 'Agent' and 'Mr. Majnu', making it the strongest commercial performer of his career so far. Directed by Murali Kishor Abburi, the film is jointly produced by Nagarjuna Akkineni and Suryadevara Naga Vamsi under the banners of Manam Enterprises LLP and Sithara Entertainments, and presented by Annapurna Studios.



'We live to please others': Tabu



Veteran actress Tabu has opened up about the constant human tendency to seek validation from others, saying that people often spend their lives trying to please everyone around them while forgetting their own identity. Speaking during an earlier interaction with actress Simi Garewal on the chat show Rendezvous with Simi Garewal, Tabu reflected on her personal journey of self-discovery and the pressures of living according to others' expectations. "You are doing things for people. You are waking up on somebody else's time, going to sleep on someone else's time and wearing what people want you to wear. You are living life like a robot and forget that you are a person yourself," she said. The actress noted that people constantly try to impress others through punctuality, professionalism and kindness, largely because they fear disappointing people or harming their career prospects. "We are always trying to please people... You want people to say good things about you because human nature constantly looks for approval," Tabu added. On the work front, Tabu was recently seen in Akshay Kumar's horror-comedy 'Bhooth Bangla', directed by Priyadarshan. The film, produced by Balaji Telefilms in association with Cape of Good Films, also stars Paresh Rawal, Wamiqa Gabbi, Rajpal Yadav, and Govardhan Asrani in key roles.

S. Janaki Cremated with Karnataka State Honours

Legendary playback singer S. Janaki, affectionately known as "Gana Kogile" (Nightingale of Song), was cremated with full state honours at her farmhouse in Kaniyanahundi near Mysuru on Sunday evening, a day after she passed away at the age of 88 due to respiratory complications. In a poignant and symbolic moment, Janaki's granddaughter Apsara Vidyula performed the last rites by lighting the funeral pyre, breaking a long-standing tradition that reserved the ritual for male family members. Carrying the ceremonial earthen pot, she completed the rituals amid Vedic chants. The Karnataka government accorded full state honours to the legendary singer. A police contingent offered a gun salute while the national anthem was played before the cremation. Earlier in the day, Janaki's mortal remains were kept at Maharaja College Grounds in Mysuru, where thousands of admirers, artists, musicians, actors and political leaders gathered to pay their final respects. Mysuru district in-charge minister Yathindra Siddaramaiah represented the state government during the homage ceremony.

