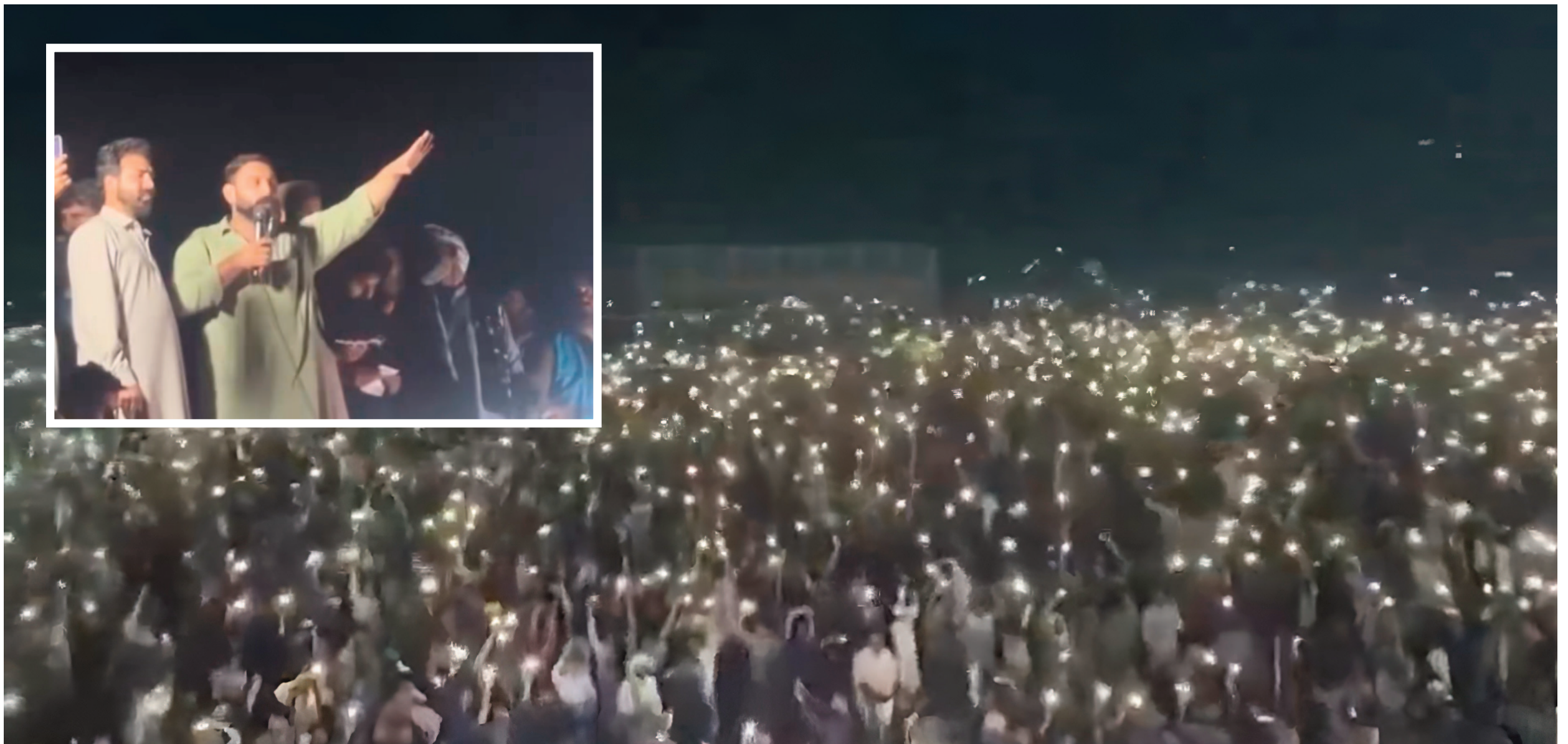


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privileges and an independent audit of government expenditure over the past decade. The charter also focuses on improving healthcare and education. Protesters have sought MRI and CT scan facilities in district hospitals, implementation of a health card scheme, appointment of doctors in rural areas, establishment of new education boards and expansion of technical institutions to improve employment opportunities for youth. JAAC has further demanded the withdrawal of terrorism-related cases against protesters, release of detained activists, a judicial inquiry into police action during demonstrations, better roads.

veloping nations. A key outcome of the summit was the adoption of the BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Declaration, reaffirming the member countries' commitment to promoting decent work, strengthening social protection, enhancing employability, supporting inclusive economic growth and expanding cooperation in labour and employment. The declaration also underscored the importance of practical collaboration and mutual learning among BRICS nations in addressing common labour market challenges.

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EDITORIAL

AI Powering India

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming the way nations function, and India stands at the forefront of this technological revolution. Combined with the success of the Digital India initiative, AI has the potential to redefine governance, education, healthcare, agriculture, manufacturing, and public services. The challenge is no longer whether India should adopt AI, but how it can harness this technology responsibly while ensuring that its benefits reach every citizen. Over the past decade, Digital India has laid a strong foundation for technological advancement. Initiatives such as Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, CoWIN, and digital public infrastructure have revolutionized public service delivery and financial inclusion. Today, India has one of the world's largest internet user bases and a thriving digital economy. AI now represents the next phase of this transformation, enabling faster decision-making, improved efficiency, and personalized public services. In healthcare, AI can assist doctors in diagnosing diseases, analyzing medical images, predicting outbreaks, and expanding telemedicine services to rural areas. In agriculture, AI-powered tools can help farmers forecast weather, monitor crop health, optimize irrigation, and improve productivity. Manufacturing industries are using AI-driven automation to increase efficiency, while the education sector is embracing intelligent learning platforms that adapt to individual students' needs.

The growth of AI also presents significant economic opportunities. India has a vibrant startup ecosystem and a large pool of software professionals capable of developing world-class AI solutions. Investments in research, semiconductor manufacturing, cloud computing, and data infrastructure can position India as a global hub for AI innovation. The technology is expected to create new opportunities in fields such as data science, robotics, cybersecurity, and intelligent automation. However, AI also raises important concerns. Automation may replace certain routine jobs, making skill development and reskilling essential. Protecting personal data, preventing algorithmic bias, combating misinformation, and ensuring cybersecurity require robust regulatory frameworks. Responsible AI must always complement human intelligence rather than replace it. Bridging the digital divide is equally important. While urban India has embraced digital technologies, many rural communities still lack reliable internet connectivity and digital literacy. Expanding broadband access, improving digital education, and making AI-powered services available in Indian languages will ensure that technological progress remains inclusive.

The future of Digital India depends not only on advanced technology but also on responsible governance, innovation, and human capital. AI should be viewed as a tool to empower citizens, improve productivity, and strengthen public institutions rather than merely as an instrument of automation. India has the talent, technological capability, and digital infrastructure to emerge as a global leader.

EC Extends SIR Deadline in TG

Hyderabad, July 15: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has revised the schedule for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Telangana, extending key deadlines to facilitate the ongoing voter verification exercise. According to the revised schedule issued on Wednesday, the house-to-house verification by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and the rationalisation of polling stations will now continue till August 3, instead of ending on July 24. The draft electoral rolls will be published on August 10, while the period for filing claims and objections has been extended from Au-



gust 10 to September 9. The verification and disposal of claims will continue till October 10, and the final electoral

rolls will be published on October 12. Under the earlier schedule announced in May, the draft rolls were to be published on July 31 and the final rolls on October 1. The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) said Booth Level Officers have completed 100 per cent distribution of enumeration forms to all 3.38 crore registered voters across the State. So far, 54.84 per cent of the submitted enumeration forms have been digitised. Meanwhile, AIMIM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi welcomed the extension, saying the additional time would benefit voters. He also urged the

Telangana government to issue Family Register Certificates or Permanent Residence Certificates (PRCs) to eligible electors, stating that such documents would help poor families complete the verification process without difficulty. Owaisi appealed to voters who have already received the enumeration forms to submit them to BLOs at the earliest instead of waiting until the final deadline. The Special Intensive Revision is aimed at updating and verifying the electoral rolls ahead of future elections by ensuring that only eligible voters remain on the rolls while new eligible voters are added.



KTR Urges Centre to Revive CCI Plant

New Delhi, July 15: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Wednesday met Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy, urging the Centre to immediately revive the Cement Corporation of India (CCI) plant at Adilabad. Leading a delegation of farmers and representatives of the CCI Sadhana Samithi, KTR reminded the Union Minister of the assurance given by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in 2019 regarding the revival of the public sector unit. KTR said the CCI plant, spread over nearly 2,300 acres with an installed capacity of 4 lakh tonnes, could be revived with an investment of around Rs 2,000 crore. He suggested that both the Centre and the Telangana government contribute Rs 250 crore each as viability support, which, he said, would help restart operations and generate employment for nearly 6,000 people. Drawing a comparison with the financial package extended to the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, KTR said the Adilabad CCI unit also deserved similar support. He asserted that the BRS would continue its struggle until the factory was reopened. Later, speaking to the media in New Delhi, KTR said his political fight was directed at Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy over issues affecting Telangana and not due to any personal differences. He accused the Chief Minister of diverting public attention from governance failures and questioned why the Congress leadership continued to remain silent over what he termed as "irresponsible statements" made by Revanth Reddy. KTR also alleged that the state government was troubling farmers over the Kaleshwaram project, criticised the Chief Minister's repeated visits to Delhi, and questioned the benefits secured for Telangana. He challenged the government to provide evidence for allegations related to phone tapping and claimed recent survey findings indicated growing public support for the BRS.

Amazon Data Center to Power Future City: Revanth



Hyderabad, July 15: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday said the proposed Amazon Data Centre would become a key driver of investments and industrial growth in the state's ambitious Future City project. He was speaking after laying the foundation stone for the facility at Bharat Future City. The Chief Minister said the hyperscale data centre would strengthen Telangana's position as a global technology hub while accelerating the state's vision of becoming one of India's most developed economies. "We are introducing progressive policies in industry, tourism, sports, skill development and healthcare. The Amazon Data Centre will play a prominent role in the development of Future City. Projects like Musi River rejuvenation, Metro Rail expansion and shifting pharma industries outside the Outer Ring Road are aimed at building a world-class city," he said. According to official sources, the facility will be Amazon's largest hyperscale data centre, spread across 202 acres in Future City. It will also become the company's second cloud region in India after Mumbai. The Telangana government has additionally allotted 98 acres at Chandanavelli for Amazon's expansion. The company is expected to invest ₹60,000 crore over the next 12 years. Revanth Reddy reiterated the state's economic vision, saying Telangana aims to become a \$1-trillion economy by 2034 and a \$3-trillion economy by 2047, with a target of contributing 10 per cent of India's GDP. He said the government is working closely with institutions such as ISB and NALSAR, while offering industry-friendly policies through a single-window clearance system and reviewing investment proposals every month. Highlighting sustainable urban development, the Chief Minister said 3,000 RTC buses in Hyderabad are being converted into electric vehicles, while efforts are underway to transform 2 lakh autorickshaws into EVs. He added that the government has also introduced zero registration tax for electric vehicles to promote clean mobility. Revanth Reddy said the government is focusing on reducing pollution, easing traffic congestion and developing modern infrastructure to make Hyderabad a globally competitive city.



Trump to Feature on New US \$1 Coin

Washington, July 15: The United States Mint will issue a new \$1 commemorative coin featuring President Donald Trump as part of celebrations marking 250 years of American independence, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent announced on Wednesday. The coin features Trump's portrait on the obverse, with the word "Liberty" above it and the years 1776-2026 engraved below. The national motto "In God We Trust" appears alongside the portrait, flanked by two stars. The reverse side depicts a bald eagle with outstretched wings holding an olive branch and arrows, symbolising peace and strength. A shield bearing the number 250 is placed at the centre, while the inscriptions "United States of America", "One Dollar", and the Latin motto "E Pluribus Unum" surround the design. Announcing the coin, Bessent said it celebrates America's enduring commitment to liberty and patriotism as the nation marks its 250th anniversary. However, the Treasury did not disclose the coin's release date, production numbers, composition, circulation plans or collector availability. The commemorative coin is part of a broader series of US Mint products celebrating the country's 250th Independence anniversary. Earlier this month, the Mint also released the Freedom Ringing - Liberty Bell Gold Coins and Silver Medal, the first non-round commemorative coin series in recent US history.

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Spain Storm Into World Cup Final

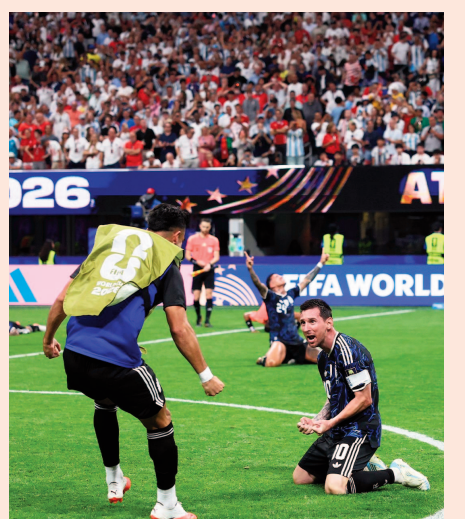
Dallas, July 15: Spain produced another commanding display to defeat France 2-0 in the FIFA World Cup 2026 semi-final, booking a place in Sunday's title clash and extending their remarkable unbeaten run in competitive football. Spain controlled the contest from start to finish, with Mikel Oyarzabal opening the scoring from the penalty spot in the 22nd minute before Pedro Porro sealed the victory with a stunning strike in the 58th minute. The win sends Spain into only their second FIFA World Cup final, where they will face either Argentina or England. France struggled to create meaningful chances as Spain dominated possession and dictated the tempo. Coach Luis de la Fuente's side once again showcased the tactical discipline and technical quality that have made them one of the world's most consistent teams. After the match, De la Fuente praised his players for remaining committed to their philosophy. "These players deserve everything. Day after day they have shown commitment, solidarity and talent. Today we faced one of the best teams in the world, but our players were outstanding," he said. Outgoing France coach Didier Deschamps admitted his side was second best. "We lacked technical precision and energy. Spain controlled the game and forced us to defend. They deserved the victory," he said. Defender Pedro Porro, who was named Player of the Match, described reaching the final as a dream come true. "This is a team effort. We played a great game from start to finish. Now we recover and prepare to give everything in the final," he said. The victory also extended Spain's impressive record to 38 consecutive competitive matches without defeat, underlining their status as favourites to lift the World Cup trophy.

FLASH NEWS..! Messi Inspires Argentina Into Final

New Jersey, July 16: Lionel Messi produced another unforgettable performance as Argentina came from behind to beat England 2-1 and book their place in the FIFA World Cup 2026 final, where they will face Spain. England looked set for a famous victory after Anthony Gordon gave the Three Lions the lead in the 55th minute, finishing off a swift counterattack. Argentina struggled to break down England's disciplined defence for much of the match, but Messi's brilliance turned the game

around in the closing stages. With five minutes remaining, the Argentine captain delivered a perfectly timed pass to Enzo Fernández, who smashed home the equaliser to revive Argentina's hopes. Messi then produced another moment of magic in stoppage time, floating an inch-perfect cross into the penalty area for Lautaro Martínez, whose powerful header in the 92nd minute completed a dramatic comeback. Although Messi did not score, he created both goals and once again proved decisive

for the reigning champions with his vision and creativity. For England, it was a painful end after an impressive defensive display that had them within touching distance of their first World Cup final since 1966. The victory sends Argentina into back-to-back World Cup finals, setting up a blockbuster title clash against Spain, with Lionel Scaloni's side aiming to successfully defend their World Cup crown.



Gill Nears No.1 in ICC ODI Rankings

India captain Shubman Gill has moved within 11 rating points of the No.1 spot in the latest ICC ODI batting rankings after his unbeaten 80 against England in the first ODI at Edgbaston. New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell continues to lead the rankings. India all-rounder Axar Patel was the biggest gainer, climbing to ninth in the ODI all-rounders' rankings for the first time after his match-winning all-round performance. He also rose to 73rd among batters and 42nd among bowlers. Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah climbed to 24th in the ODI bowling rankings, while Washington Sundar also made significant gains after his unbeaten half-century. In the T20I rankings, England captain Harry Brook advanced to seventh among batters after a stellar series against India, with Jos Buttler moving up to sixth and Jofra Archer climbing to joint 18th in the bowling rankings.



Dhoni Ideal to Replace Fleming: Ashwin

New Delhi, July 15: Former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin believes MS Dhoni would be the ideal choice to succeed Stephen Fleming as Chennai Super Kings (CSK) head coach following the end of Fleming's 17-year tenure with the franchise. Speaking after CSK and Fleming mutually decided to part ways, Ashwin said the franchise has reached a stage where it should begin planning for a new era. "Fleming understood what made Dhoni tick, and Dhoni understood Fleming's strengths. That partnership lasted for a long time. It is now time for CSK to look beyond," Ashwin said. He added that if Dhoni is willing to take up the coaching role, there could be no better successor. "If Dhoni is ready to become coach,

there is no better person for CSK. Otherwise, they need someone who can work independently and take full responsibility for the team's decisions," he said. Ashwin, however, noted that any incoming coach would face challenges because Dhoni remains a towering figure within the franchise and continues to have significant influence over team discussions and selection. Fleming joined CSK as a player in the inaugural IPL season in 2008 before becoming head coach in 2009. During his tenure, the franchise won five IPL titles, two Champions League T20 trophies, reached the playoffs 12 times, and appeared in a record 10 IPL finals, making it one of the most successful coach-franchise partnerships in T20 cricket.

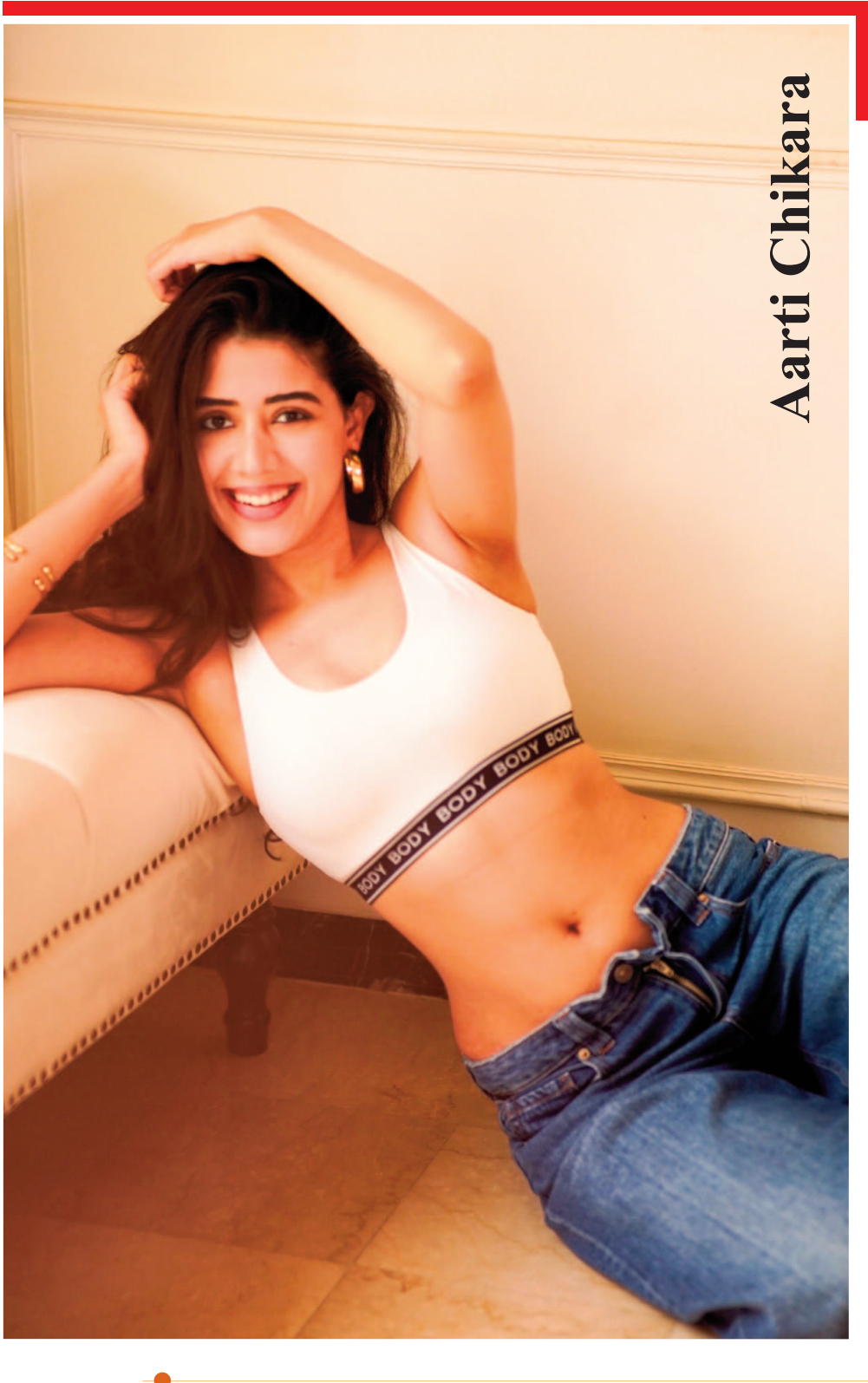


India Bags Five Golds at Asian Boxing



India delivered an impressive performance at the Asian Under-19 and Under-23 Boxing Championships in Jakarta, finishing the women's competition with five gold, 10 silver and four bronze medals. In the Under-19 category, Chandrika Bhores Pujari (51kg) and Prachi won gold medals, while the Under-23 contingent added three more golds, led by Nisha (54kg) with a dominant 5-0 victory over Japan's Koiin Kokufu. Nikita Chand (60kg), Kajal (65kg) and Muskan (75kg) claimed silver medals after losing closely contested finals, as India showcased its growing strength in women's boxing across age groups.





Aarti Chikara

'Jana Nayagan' Set for July 23 Release

Mumbai, July 15: The makers of Thalapathy Vijay's much-awaited film "Jana Nayagan" have announced that the film will hit theatres worldwide on July 23, 2026. The film is being billed as Vijay's final outing on the big screen before fully focusing on his political career as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Directed by H. Vinoth and produced by KVN Productions, Jana Nayagan is expected to be one of the biggest releases of the year. Producer Venkat K. Narayana described the film as a historic milestone in Vijay's career. "It is an honour to be part of Thalapathy Vijay's final cinematic journey. His journey from cinema to becoming the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu reflects the extraordinary bond he shares with the people," he said. He added that the team is confident the film will offer audiences a memorable theatrical experience and serve as a fitting tribute to Vijay's remarkable career.

'Immortal' Postponed to September 4

Chennai, July 15: The release of G V Prakash Kumar-starrer horror thriller "Immortal" has been postponed to September 4, with the makers deciding to avoid a box-office clash with Thalapathy Vijay's much-awaited film "Jana Nayagan." Immortal was originally scheduled to release on July 23, but the date was changed after the makers of Jana Nayagan confirmed their worldwide release on the same day. Announcing the decision on X, G V Prakash wrote, "When the Thalapathy arrives, we need to make way. That too, one last time. Best wishes to the Jana Nayagan team. Immortal will now release in theatres on September 4." Directed by Mariyappan Chinna, the horror thriller stars G V Prakash.



RGV Calls for Ban on Film Censorship



Chennai, July 15: Filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma has called for the abolition of film censorship in India, arguing that censoring movies is outdated and undermines the intelligence of audiences. In a series of posts on X, Varma said adults are mature enough to choose what they want to watch and do not require a government-appointed committee to decide on their behalf. "If an adult can vote, run a business and raise a family, why can't they decide what to watch?" he questioned. The director argued that in the era of smartphones, streaming platforms and social media, censoring films has become meaningless because uncut versions quickly become available online. Referring to his film "Obsession," Varma claimed that a scene removed by the censor board was viewed far more widely on social media than in theatres. He further said censorship often increases curiosity rather than restricting access to content. According to Varma, films represent a filmmaker's perspective and should encourage debate rather than be altered by regulatory bodies. He urged filmmakers and producers to collectively challenge the existing censorship system through legal and public platforms. "What we need are clear content classifications, not cuts. Respect the audience and let them decide whether to watch a film or not," he said, ending his remarks with the hashtag #BanTheCensor.

Nyra Takes Sameera to Court!

Actress Sameera Reddy left fans curious after revealing that her daughter Nyra is "taking her to court" in a playful social media post. Sharing a video on Instagram, Sameera joked about the unexpected outing, saying parents are usually taken to PTA meetings, annual day functions or birthday parties—but her daughter had something different in mind. "Guess where my Nyra is taking me? To the court! This was the only thing left to see. Stay tuned!" she said in the video. She captioned the post, "Still can't believe what's happening!", leaving followers eager to know the story behind the surprise visit. Sameera and her husband Akshai Varde are parents to two children—Hans, born in 2015, and Nyra, born in 2019. The actress frequently shares moments from her family life and has been widely appreciated for speaking openly about motherhood, postpartum depression, body image, and self-acceptance. On the professional front, Sameera is set to make her acting comeback after 13 years with the horror thriller "Chimni", in which she plays Kali. Directed by Gagan Puri, the film revolves around a grieving mother whose daughter becomes possessed by a sinister spirit inside a haunted palace. The film is inspired by the rare medical condition fetus in fetu.



Alia Gets Emotional

Mumbai, July 15: Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt delivered an emotional speech at the wedding celebrations of her longtime best friend Akanksha Ranjan, describing the bride as the person who keeps their close-knit circle united. A video shared by Akanksha from the wedding festivities captured Alia expressing her affection and admiration for her friend. "She's the glue that holds us all together. She has a special relationship with every girl in the group and she always shows up," Alia said. The actress revealed that the most emotional moment for her came when Akanksha walked down the aisle. "She looked like a dream. But before looking at her, I looked at Sharan. Seeing the tears in his eyes, I knew it was a beautiful moment," she added. Akanksha's sister, actress Anushka Ranjan, also paid an emotional tribute, saying the bride's greatest quality is her unconditional love. "She loves with all her heart, and there is no greater gift than being loved by her," Anushka said. Akanksha Ranjan married filmmaker Sharan Sharma on July 11 in an intimate ceremony attended by family and close friends from the film industry. Celebrities including Alia Bhatt and Athiya Shetty were among those present at the celebrations.



Malavika Reveals 'Idhayam Murali' Look

Mumbai, July 15: Actress Malavika Mohanan has unveiled her first look from her special cameo in the upcoming Tamil film "Idhayam Murali", while sharing behind-the-scenes moments with actor Fahadh Faasil. Posting a series of pictures on social media, Malavika appeared as a traditional Tamil bride in an elegant silk saree, temple jewellery, jasmine flowers and classic bridal accessories. The actress also shared cheerful moments with Fahadh, marking their first on-screen collaboration. "We've been friends for years and have always spoken about finding the right film to work on together. For now, this cameo will have to suffice," Malavika wrote. She added that working with Fahadh and the young team of Idhayam Murali reminded her of college days. "Working with the young, fun crew fully felt like being back in college," she said. Malavika made her acting debut with the Malayalam film "Pattam Pole" in 2013 before gaining recognition in Tamil cinema with films including "Petta," "Master," "Maaran," and "Thangalaan." She was recently seen in the Hindi film "Yudhra" and will next appear alongside Vijay Sethupathi in "Pocket Novel" and opposite Karthi in "Sardar 2."

