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THE NEWS THAT MATTERS

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101 Crore
Under
Social Security

New Delhi, July 31: India's social protection network now covers about 101 crore people, accounting for over 68 per cent of the country's population, the Central government said on Friday, citing recognition from the International Labour Organization (ILO). Addressing the 4th Global Industrial Relations Summit organised by the All India Organisation of Employers (AIOE) in association with FICCI, Union Labour and Employment Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya said balanced economic development must ensure both workers' welfare and ease of doing business for employers. He said harmonious industrial relations require close coordination among governments, employers, industries, workers and trade unions to promote economic growth and employment generation simultaneously. Highlighting India's improving employment scenario, the minister said every one per cent increase in GDP is now generating 1.11 per cent employment growth, compared to just 0.008 per cent twelve years ago.

Dr. Mandaviya also announced that the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) is likely to undergo reforms, under which quality private hospitals could be empanelled to provide healthcare services to beneficiaries. He further said the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has fully digitised claim settlements and enabled automatic account transfers through a single Universal Account Number (UAN), while UPI-based PF withdrawals are also under consideration. The minister stressed that industrialisation remains vital for national development and also underscored the growing role of women-led self-help groups and cooperative models in creating livelihoods and strengthening the economy. Speaking at the event, Michiko Miyamoto, Director of the ILO Decent Work Team for South Asia and Country Office for India, said India's achievement of crossing one billion people under at least one form of social protection would significantly contribute to the country's future economic growth.

India's Social Security Milestone (2026)

Social Security Coverage:
101 crore people
(68% of India's population)

Employment Growth:
1% GDP growth
= 1.11% employment growth

ESIC Reforms:

▶▶ Private hospitals may be empanelled as ESIC health-care providers

Government's Focus:

- ▶▶ Worker welfare
- ▶▶ Ease of doing business
- ▶▶ Industrial growth
- ▶▶ Employment generation

45 Lakh Voters Deleted in AP

Amaravati, July 31: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Friday published Andhra Pradesh's draft electoral roll after completing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), with nearly 45 lakh names removed from the voter list. According to Chief Electoral Officer Vivek Yadav, 44.89 lakh electors were excluded from the draft roll. Of these, 22.30 lakh were found to have permanently shifted or were absent, 15.22 lakh were identified as deceased, and 7.37 lakh were found to have duplicate registrations. The enumeration exercise was conducted from June 15 to July 24. Out of 4.16 crore registered voters, 3.71 crore electors (89.22 per cent) submitted their enumeration forms during the revision. Officials said Booth Level Officers (BLOs) could not locate the remaining voters, or the voters had shifted to other States or Union Territories, failed to submit forms by



the deadline, or were otherwise found ineligible. The CEO clarified that genuine voters whose names have been deleted can apply for inclusion through Form-6 along with the prescribed declaration during the claims and objections period from July 31 to August 30. The draft

electoral rolls and booth-wise lists of deleted voters have been displayed at Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) offices, Assistant ERO offices, Gram Panchayat and Municipal offices, polling stations, and uploaded to the CEO's official website for public verification. The Election Commission will dispose of all claims and objections between July 31 and September 28, while the final electoral roll will be published on October 3. The CEO said the revision exercise was carried out with the support of 28 District Election Officers, 175 Electoral Registration Officers, 1,079 Assistant EROs, 4,650 BLO Supervisors and 46,397 Booth Level Officers across the State. He also noted that recognised political parties actively participated in the process by appointing 1,27,868 Booth Level Agents (BLAs), almost doubling the 68,868 BLAs available at the start of the revision exercise.

TG SIR Extended

Hyderabad, July 31: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has extended the deadline for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Telangana from August 3 to August 10, giving voters and election officials additional time to complete the enumeration process. According to the revised schedule issued by the Telangana Chief Electoral Office, the rationalisation and reorganisation of polling stations will also be completed by August 10. The draft electoral rolls will be published on August 17, while the claims and objections period will remain open from August 17 to September 16. Verification and disposal of claims will continue until October 15, and the final electoral rolls will be published on October 19.

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EDITORIAL

Digital Arrest: A Threat to the Next Generation

The Supreme Court's recent observations on the alarming rise of "digital arrest" scams have once again highlighted a growing cyber menace that threatens not only individuals but the future of a digitally connected society. Fraudsters posing as police officers, CBI officials, ED investigators, or telecom regulators use fear, intimidation, and technology to convince victims that they are under "digital arrest" for alleged crimes. They then extort huge sums of money through video calls, fake documents, and psychological manipulation. The very term "digital arrest" is a fraud—no law enforcement agency in India arrests or interrogates citizens through video calls. What makes these scams particularly dangerous is their ability to exploit trust and fear. Victims are instructed not to disconnect calls, not to speak with family members, and to transfer money immediately to avoid imprisonment. Professionals, retired officials, students, homemakers, and even highly educated individuals have fallen prey to these sophisticated frauds. The criminals rely less on hacking technology and more on hacking human psychology. The next generation is especially vulnerable. Young people are growing up in a world where digital communication has become an inseparable part of daily life. They are comfortable with online interactions but are not always equipped to identify deception. Deepfake videos, AI-generated voices, forged government documents, and fake caller IDs have made cyber fraud more convincing than ever before. As artificial intelligence becomes more accessible, cybercriminals are likely to deploy even more sophisticated tactics, making digital literacy an essential life skill.

The Supreme Court has rightly emphasized that governments, investigating agencies, banks, telecom operators, and digital platforms must work together to combat these crimes. Public awareness campaigns should become as common as road safety campaigns. Schools and colleges must include cyber safety and digital ethics in their curricula, ensuring that students understand how to verify official communications, recognize red flags, and report suspicious activities. Banks and payment service providers also have a critical responsibility. Faster fraud detection, real-time transaction alerts, stronger verification mechanisms, and rapid freezing of suspicious accounts can significantly reduce financial losses. Telecom companies must strengthen measures against caller ID spoofing and fake SIM networks that facilitate such crimes. Ultimately, the fight against digital arrest scams is not merely about preventing financial fraud—it is about protecting public confidence in the digital ecosystem. India's rapid digital transformation has brought immense opportunities through online banking, digital governance, and cashless payments. However, technological progress must be matched by equally strong cyber awareness and law enforcement capabilities. The message must be clear: there is no such thing as a "digital arrest."

Engineering Degrees Without Jobs
Who Is Responsible - Colleges or Government?

“Four years of study, lakhs of rupees spent, and an engineering degree in hand — yet no job.” This is not the story of one individual. It is the reality faced by lakhs of engineering graduates across India every year. A degree that was once considered a guaranteed pathway to a successful career has now, in many cases, become just a certificate with limited value in the job market.

Campus placements are declining, companies complain about a lack of skills, students complain about a lack of employment opportunities, and parents struggle under the burden of educational loans. The biggest question before society today is — who is responsible for this crisis? Is it the failure of engineering colleges, or the failure of government policies? There was a time when securing an engineering seat was considered a major achievement. Engineering graduates were highly respected, and demand for technical professionals was strong. However, over the years, engineering colleges expanded rapidly without proper planning. Every district and every town witnessed the emergence of dozens of private engineering institutions. Education, which should have been a mission to build knowledge and skills, gradually turned into a business opportunity for many. The consequences of this uncontrolled expansion are now visible. In several institutions, the primary focus has shifted from improving education quality to filling seats. The future of students often takes a back seat to commercial interests. A degree is being produced, but skilled professionals are not. Many private engineering colleges continue to follow outdated syllabi, operate with poor laboratory facilities, and provide teaching methods that have little connection with industry requirements. The knowledge taught inside classrooms often does not match the skills expected by companies. As a result, many students complete four years of engineering but still lack basic technical and professional abilities required for employment. Engineering colleges carry a major responsibility in this situation. Several institutions invest heavily in advertisements, attractive brochures, modern buildings, and promotional campaigns. However, they fail to answer the most important question: How many students from your college have secured quality jobs? True educational success should not be measured by infrastructure alone. It should be measured by the skills developed by students, research opportunities provided, industry partnerships created, and career opportunities generated. Another major concern is the shortage of qualified faculty. In many colleges, experienced teachers with industry exposure are limited. Some institutions struggle to maintain effective teaching standards. Laboratories, which should be centres of practical learning, often become active only during inspections. Internship pro-



grammes sometimes exist only on paper, with students receiving certificates without gaining real-world experience. Projects are frequently completed using purchased reports rather than through original ideas and innovation. Under such circumstances, how can we expect quality engineers to emerge? The role of governments cannot be ignored either. For years, permissions were granted for engineering colleges without ensuring whether the market actually required so many institutions and seats. There was insufficient evaluation of which courses had future demand, which programmes had become outdated, and which colleges were failing to maintain quality standards. Governments frequently announce skill development programmes. But the fundamental question remains: why should an engineering graduate require additional training after spending four years in college? If a student needs another six months or one year of training before becoming employable, then serious questions must be asked about the quality of engineering education provided during those four years. This is not just a loss for students and families. It is also a loss for the nation's economy. A country investing years of education and resources in producing unemployable graduates cannot achieve its full potential. The world is rapidly moving towards advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, semiconductors, cybersecurity, data science, robotics, electric vehicles, and drone technology. However, many engineering colleges are

still teaching concepts and technologies that belong to a previous decade. While industries are transforming at an extraordinary speed, the education system is struggling to keep pace. India's technology sector has tremendous growth opportunities. Cities like Hyderabad have emerged as global IT destinations, while Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Warangal, and other cities are attracting new industries. Yet thousands of local graduates are unable to benefit from these opportunities because their skills do not match industry expectations. The solution requires strong reforms. Engineering colleges that consistently fail to provide quality education and employment opportunities must face strict action. Institutions that cannot maintain standards should be merged, upgraded, or closed. Approval processes must become more transparent, and quality should become the primary criterion rather than the number of colleges or seats. At the same time, colleges must redesign their approach. Industry-oriented curriculum, practical training, research culture, internships, and updated technology education should become compulsory parts of engineering education. Students also need to understand that a degree alone is no longer enough. Continuous learning, practical skills, communication abilities, and adaptability are essential in today's competitive world. But expecting students to compensate for systemic failures alone is unfair. The engineering education crisis is not the result of one single factor. It is a combined failure of colleges, regulators, and policy makers. Colleges failed to maintain quality, and governments failed to ensure proper regulation and accountability. An engineering degree should represent knowledge, innovation, and capability — not just four years of study and a piece of paper. The future of millions of young Indians depends on whether we are willing to reform the system today. The question is not just who is responsible for the crisis. The real question is — who will take responsibility for fixing it?

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- Ranadheer Gundu,
IT Expert, Hyderabad

2,273 Indians Deported
US Sends Back Nationals

The United States has deported 2,273 Indian nationals to India so far in 2026, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that the deportations took place between January 1 and July 31, 2026. He added that 3,567 Indian nationals were deported from the US in 2025. The MEA said it follows a detailed verification process before accepting deported individuals. Officials confirm the person's Indian nationality after examining the available documents and only then facilitate their return to India. The ministry reiterated India's position against illegal migration while supporting legal channels for people seeking opportunities abroad. The deportations come amid stricter immigration policies in the US. The administration of Donald Trump has defended measures aimed at tightening visa regulations, including changes related to the H-1B visa programme. US officials have argued that stricter rules are needed to prevent misuse of immigration programmes, while legal challenges continue over some of the new policies. India has maintained that migration should take place through lawful procedures and has been cooperating with foreign governments on deportation-related matters.

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DOUBLE GOLD

Harsh Singh Strikes Gold

Glasgow, July 31: India's Harsh Singh won the men's 60kg judo gold medal at the Commonwealth Games 2026, overpowering Australia's Joshua Katz with a commanding 10-0 victory in the final. Harsh dominated the contest from the outset, combining sharp attacking moves with solid defence to deny his Australian opponent any chance of scoring. He built an early lead and maintained complete control until the end to secure a one-sided victory. The gold medal further strengthened India's medal tally, taking the country's overall count to 19 medals — 5 gold, 10 silver and 4 bronze. Born on May 24, 2003, Harsh Singh has emerged as one of India's leading judokas through consistent performances in national competitions. He has represented India in several prestigious international events, including the Tokyo Grand Slam, Asian Championships, and IJF World Tour competitions.

Asmita Dey Wins Gold

Glasgow, July 31: India's Asmita Dey clinched the women's 48kg judo gold medal at the Commonwealth Games 2026, defeating Canada's Heidi Quach in a closely fought final. Asmita secured a 2-1 victory in the title bout, displaying excellent tactical discipline and composure under pressure to emerge victorious. She capitalised on key scoring opportunities while maintaining a strong defensive approach to seal the gold medal. The Indian judoka remained unbeaten throughout the competition, advancing confidently through the earlier rounds before producing her best performance in the final. The gold medal further boosted India's medal tally at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games and highlighted the country's growing strength in international judo. Asmita's triumph also marked another milestone for Indian judo and is expected to inspire young athletes aspiring to excel on the global stage.



Ashwin Selector Wait

No Chief Selector Role Yet

Speculation has been growing that former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin could replace Ajit Agarkar as the chairman of the BCCI selection committee. However, current BCCI rules prevent Ashwin from taking up the role at this stage. Ashwin retired from international cricket on December 18, 2024, during India's tour of Australia. Although he is widely regarded as one of India's greatest spinners and is respected for his deep understanding of the game, he is not yet eligible to become a national selector.

Five-Year Rule Blocks Move

According to BCCI regulations, candidates for the national selection committee must have retired from all forms of cricket for at least five years before being considered for the post. Since Ashwin's retirement came in December 2024, he will complete the mandatory cooling-off period only in December

2029. Until then, any reports linking him to the chief selector position remain speculation. Ashwin continues to stay connected with cricket through commentary, analysis and discussions on the sport, but these activities do not change the eligibility rules set by the BCCI.

Agarkar Continues as Chief

Ajit Agarkar has been leading India's selection panel since July 2023. His tenure has seen Indian cricket undergo a major transition, with several senior players moving away from international cricket. The retirement of stars such as Ashwin, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane has forced selectors to focus on building the next generation of Indian players. Under Agarkar's leadership, India achieved major success in white-ball cricket, including victories in the 2024 T20 World Cup, 2025 ICC Champions Trophy,

2025 Asia Cup and the 2026 T20 World Cup.

Future Role Possible

Ashwin's cricketing knowledge and experience could prove valuable for Indian cricket in the future. His analytical approach and understanding of the game could make him a strong candidate for a selector role once he becomes eligible. For now, however, BCCI rules mean Ashwin will have to wait until 2029 before he can be considered for the chief selector's position.



Bumrah Fit for Tests

India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has cleared the fitness test conducted by the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru, boosting India's hopes ahead of the two-Test series against Sri Lanka. Bumrah was selected for the series subject to fitness after suffering an impact injury during the recent ODI series against England. Due to the injury, he missed the third ODI at Lord's. A senior BCCI official confirmed that Bumrah has recovered and completed the required fitness tests. The team management expects the fast bowler to be available for both Tests as he remains a key part of India's plans. The two-match Test series against Sri Lanka will begin on August 15 in Galle, with the second Test scheduled in Colombo from August 23. India need to win seven of their remaining nine matches in the ongoing World Test Championship cycle to stay in contention for a place in the final. A 2-0 series victory against Sri Lanka will be crucial before India face a challenging away series against New Zealand. Despite Bumrah's return, India continue to deal with injury issues. Harshit Rana and Nitish Reddy are unavailable due to hamstring and quadriceps injuries respectively. All-rounder Washington Sundar has been ruled out of the first Test because of a hamstring injury, while pacer Akash Deep remains sidelined due to stress reactions in his back. Bumrah's return provides a major boost to India's bowling attack as the team prepares for an important phase in the World Test Championship campaign.



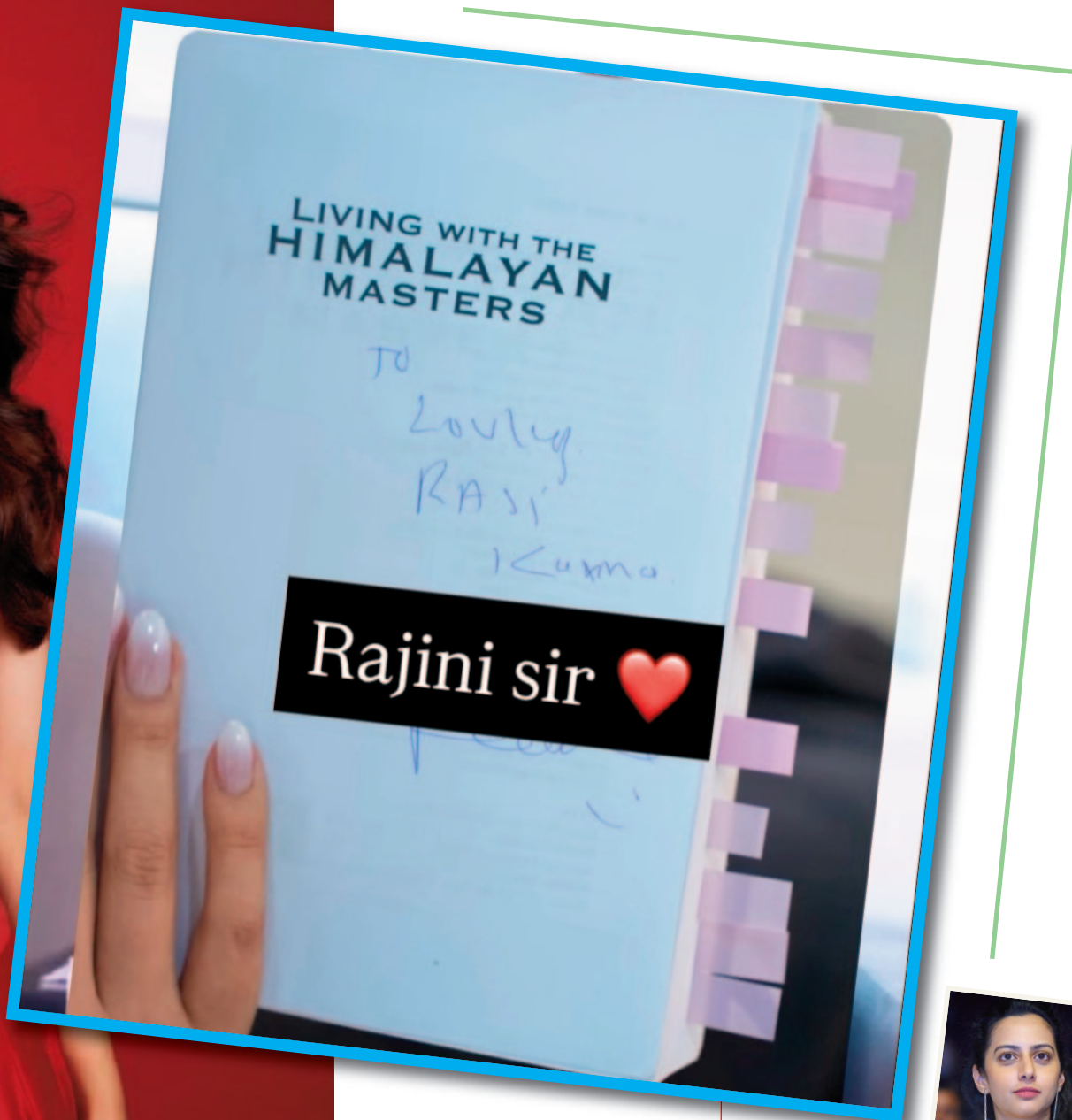
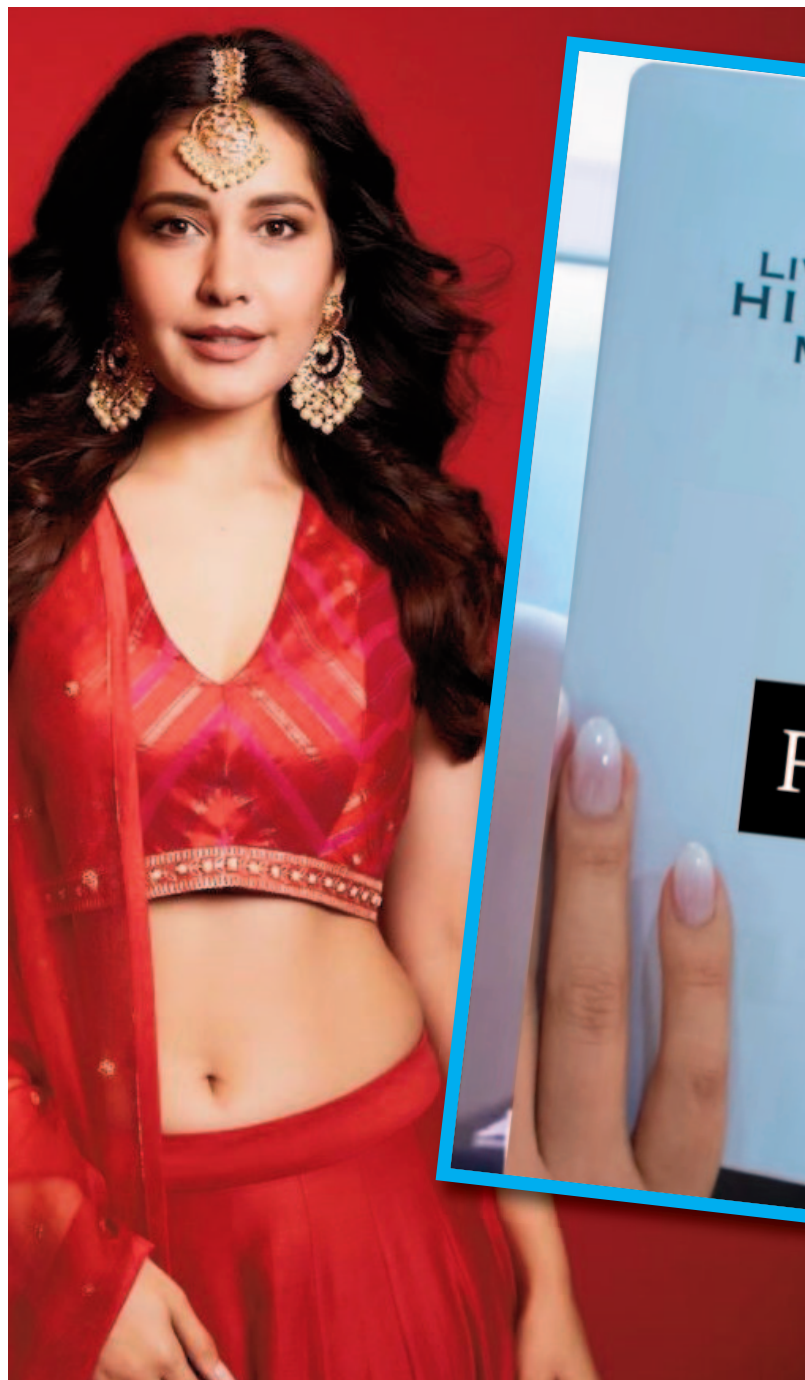
Style of the Day



Rakul Preet Singh

Rashmika advised 6 weeks Rest

Mumbai, July 31: Actress Rashmika Mandanna has reportedly suffered a serious hip injury while shooting an intense dance sequence and has been advised complete bed rest for six weeks by doctors. According to reports, the actress sustained a complete tendon detachment in her hip while balancing hectic shooting schedules for her upcoming films 'Ranabaali' and 'Mysaa'. Medical experts reportedly said the injury is generally seen in athletes involved in intense physical training. Doctors have recommended six weeks of complete rest, after which Rashmika will undergo a structured rehabilitation programme to regain strength and mobility. The injury is expected to affect the shooting schedules of her ongoing films as well as several endorsement commitments. Rashmika is currently associated with nearly 30 national and international brands besides working on multiple film projects. Recently, choreographer Brinda, who is working on a song for 'Mysaa', had praised Rashmika's dedication and work ethic. In a social media post, Brinda said Rashmika's commitment during rehearsals and filming was exceptional, adding that she continued to perform despite being in pain and always accepted corrections with a smile. The makers of 'Mysaa' had earlier revealed that Rashmika recently completed filming a challenging underwater sequence, further highlighting the physically demanding nature of the project.



Super Star Rajinikanth Gifts Raashii Book

Mumbai, July 31: Actress Raashii Khanna has revealed that she received a special gift from Tamil superstar Rajinikanth while shooting for their upcoming film 'Dharman'. Sharing a video on Instagram, Raashii said Rajinikanth gifted her the book 'Living with the Himalayan Masters' after the two discussed spirituality on the film's sets. According to the actress, Rajinikanth asked if she had read the book. When she replied that she had not, he surprised her by bringing a copy two days later. Raashii added that she has been reading it diligently, as the veteran actor jokingly told her he would "test" her on it. She described the book as deeply inspiring, saying it encouraged her to reflect on why many people feel disconnected from themselves. "We spend years becoming someone else, and that's why silence often feels so loud because we are finally left with ourselves," she said. Raashii Khanna is currently working with Rajinikanth in 'Dharman', directed by Ashwath Marimuthu, one of the most anticipated upcoming Tamil films.



Nandamuri Balakrishna's younger daughter Tejaswini is reportedly set to make her acting debut, with industry buzz suggesting a women-centric film as her launch project. Tejaswini has earlier worked behind the scenes on Balakrishna's projects, including AHA's Unstoppable and film promotions.

Sardar 2 Teaser Out

Chennai, July 31: The makers of actor Karthi's much-awaited spy action thriller 'Sardar 2' on Friday released the film's action-packed teaser, raising excitement among fans ahead of its theatrical release. The teaser opens with a high-octane action sequence aboard an aircraft before introducing S.J. Suryah as the film's main antagonist, Black Dagger. Through a gripping monologue, he describes the battle between a father-son spy duo and confidently declares himself the real "show stealer." Packed with stylish action, fast-paced visuals and intense background music, the teaser hints at a large-scale espionage thriller. S.J. Suryah's powerful screen presence and dialogue delivery emerge as the biggest highlights of the teaser. Directed by P.S. Mithran, the film is scheduled for a worldwide release on September 10. The film stars Malavika Mohanan as the female lead, while Sam C.S. has composed the music and George Williams has handled the cinematography. According to director P.S. Mithran, the story begins in Cambodia before shifting to China, expanding the scale of the original film. S.J. Suryah's Black Dagger will serve as the principal antagonist in the sequel.



CHANGE OF NAME

I, MUBASHIR HUSSAIN, S/o MOHAMMED HUSSAIN, Age: 60 Years, Residing at H. No. 2-104/2, Bustand Area, Sirpur Town, Sirpur Town Mandal, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad District, Telangana, do hereby declare that my correct name is MUBASHIR HUSSAIN. In certain records/documents, my name has been incorrectly mentioned as MOHAMMED MUBASHER HUSSAIN.

Both names, MUBASHIR HUSSAIN and MOHAMMED MUBASHER HUSSAIN, belong to one and the same person, i.e., myself. Henceforth, I shall be known as MUBASHIR HUSSAIN for all official purposes.