

TRICOLOUR ESTATE

THE NEWS THAT MATTERS

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Retro.. Keep It Under Control!

(TE - Special Story)

Black-and-white photos, vintage outfits, and the classic aesthetic of the 1980s are making a massive comeback across social media platforms. Fueled by Artificial Intelligence tools, the craze for recreating vintage looks has skyrocketed overnight. From ordinary citizens to the Prime Minister, everyone seems swept up in this trend. Netizens are enthusiastically transforming their photos into the 1980s style, popularly dubbed the "Retro Look." However, cyber experts warn that a massive threat lurks behind this seemingly harmless entertainment. Cybercriminals are circulating fake advertisements,

messages, and website links with clickbait phrases like, "Convert your photo to the 1980s retro look," "Create a retro photo for free," and "Download this APK file." Clicking these links out of curiosity and installing unverified applications puts your personal information, photos, contact details, messages, and other sensitive mobile data at immediate risk of being stolen. Capitalizing on the curiosity and innocence of internet users, scammers have orchestrated a new breed of fraud, brazenly harvesting personal data under the guise of retro photo filters. A New Trap in the Name of "Retro". It is not



uncommon for cybercriminals to weaponize public interest. Whatever topic gains massive traction inevitably becomes a tool for their fraudulent schemes. The growing fascination with retro photos is currently

being exploited in exactly this manner. Scammers execute these frauds by tricking users into downloading APK files from outside official app stores, clicking on suspicious links, and installing applications that demand highly intrusive permissions just to modify a simple photo.

For the Sake of Fun... Don't

Put Your Data at Stake!

Uploading personal photos to obscure websites simply to chase a trend requires extreme caution. Alongside the photo, fake platforms may covertly collect your name, phone number, email address, and other sensitive details. For this reason, cybersecurity experts strongly advise staying away from unsolicited links, unverified APK files, and suspicious applications. A single click for a retro look can become a severe threat to your digital security. Having fun is fine, but you must think before you click.

Robbery Disguised as 'Permissions'

The moment an unauthorized APK file is installed

Crucial Precautions:

Avoid Unsolicited Links: Under no circumstances should you click on photo-editing links sent by unknown individuals on platforms like WhatsApp or Telegram.

Beware of APK Files: Applications must only be downloaded from official, secure platforms like the Google Play Store (Android) or the App Store (iOS). Never install APK files downloaded from third-party websites.

Scrutinize Permissions:

Whenever a new app is installed, verify whether the permissions it requests are strictly necessary for its function. Always question why a basic photo-editing app would need permission to read your bank SMS alerts or access your contact list.

Cyber Helpline: If you accidentally click a malicious link and suspect you have been defrauded, immediately call the toll-free national cyber helpline at 1930 to file a complaint.

on a smartphone, it prompts the user for permissions to access mobile contacts, the photo gallery, the camera, and incoming text messages. Assuming these requests are standard for the app to function, users often blindly press "Allow"—which is exactly where the real danger begins. Through these granted permissions, users' personal photos, private chats,

bank account passwords, and cellphone OTPs are transmitted to hackers' servers in a matter of seconds. Consequently, not only is personal information auctioned on the dark web, but bank accounts are being drained overnight. Disturbingly, instances of private photos being hijacked for blackmail (sextortion) are also coming to light.

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US Ends H-1B Grace Period?

The Trump administration has proposed eliminating the 60-day grace period that allows H-1B visa holders and other skilled foreign workers to stay in the US after losing their jobs. If finalized, laid-off workers would generally have to leave the United States immediately unless they secure another authorized immigration status. The proposal by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is scheduled for official publication on Friday, September 11, 2026. It targets the 8 CFR 214.1(l)(2) provision, affecting several employment-based visa classifications including E-1, E-2, E-3, H-1B, H-1B1, L-1, O-1, and TN visas, alongside their dependents.

Key Details of the Proposal

The Rationale: DHS argues that the current grace period disconnects a



worker's lawful legal status from their actual employment eligibility. The department claims the reversal will improve program integrity, align regulations with original statutory laws, and reduce the administrative burden on USCIS.

A Return to Former Policy:

This move seeks to restore the pre-2017 policy, under which foreign professionals were expected to depart the US the moment their sponsoring employment ended. The current 60-day safety net was originally introduced in late 2016 to offer high-skilled workers flexi-

bility and job portability.

The Impact:

Data cited in the proposal highlights that between fiscal years 2021 and 2025, an average of 65,752 workers in these categories lost or changed jobs annually—with 99% of them being H-1B holders. DHS estimates that roughly 3,795 workers each year successfully utilized the grace period to have a new employer file a Form I-129 petition on their behalf.

What Happens Next?

Because this is currently a proposed rule and not a final regulation, it has not taken effect yet. DHS has opened the floor for public comments, allowing individuals, immigration advocates, and businesses to submit feedback before a final decision is made.



EDITORIAL

Oil at \$100: Can India Absorb Another Energy Shock?

The return of crude oil to the \$100-a-barrel zone is not merely a market headline for India. It is a warning about the vulnerability of an economy that still depends heavily on imported energy. Brent crude has moved above \$100 amid escalating tensions in West Asia, while India's crude basket has also crossed the \$100 mark. At the same time, the rupee has weakened beyond ₹95 to the dollar. For an oil-importing country, this combination can become a serious economic challenge. India imports around 85 per cent of its crude oil requirement. That dependence means every sustained increase in international oil prices raises the country's import bill. The impact does not stop at petroleum products. Expensive crude increases transportation costs, raises the cost of moving agricultural produce and industrial goods, and eventually affects household budgets. Fertiliser, chemicals, plastics, aviation and manufacturing sectors can all feel the pressure. The immediate concern is inflation. If oil remains above \$100 for a prolonged period, the government and oil marketing companies will face a difficult choice. Either higher costs are passed on to consumers through petrol, diesel and cooking gas prices, or the government and public-sector oil companies absorb a larger part of the burden. Neither option is painless. Passing the cost to consumers can increase inflation and reduce purchasing power. Absorbing it can increase financial pressure on oil companies and public finances.

There is already evidence of the strain. With retail fuel prices remaining largely unchanged, oil marketing companies are reportedly facing negative marketing margins of around ₹5 a litre on petrol and ₹23 on diesel. Domestic LPG is also facing under-recoveries. If crude prices remain elevated, the pressure cannot be ignored indefinitely. The second danger is the rupee. Higher oil prices mean India needs more dollars to pay for imports. That increases demand for the US currency and can weaken the rupee further. The rupee closed around ₹95.44 per dollar on September 10 as rising oil prices added pressure to the currency. A weaker rupee, in turn, makes imported crude even more expensive in domestic terms.

This creates a vicious cycle: expensive oil weakens the rupee, and a weaker rupee makes oil still more expensive. The broader economic consequences could be equally significant. A prolonged energy shock can squeeze corporate profit margins, discourage investment and weaken consumer demand. Higher fuel and transportation costs can eventually feed into food prices as well. For an economy seeking sustained high growth, an external energy shock can become a serious obstacle. But India is not without defences. The country has diversified its crude suppliers significantly over the past few years, increased refining capacity and expanded renewable energy.

The Roots of Reservation in India

(The Struggle for Representation Before Independence)

Reservation in India is often discussed as a post-Independence policy. However, its roots go much further back. The demand for representation of socially and economically disadvantaged communities began during the pre-Independence period itself. For centuries, Indian society was deeply divided by gender, caste and social inequalities. Many communities had limited access to education, government employment and political representation. The demand for reservation and representation emerged from the need to address these inequalities and provide greater opportunities to communities that had remained socially and economically backward for generations.

The roots of the reservation system can be traced to the period after the Revolt of 1857. At that time, upper-caste groups had a strong presence in government administration and employment. Access to English education, trade and new employment opportunities was also largely concentrated among socially dominant groups. As a result, several communities began demanding a greater share in education, government jobs and public institutions. Anti-Brahmin groups, Muslim communities and other socially disadvantaged sections increasingly raised the question of representation in political institutions. One important development was the demand for separate electorates for Muslims. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was among the early leaders associated with this demand. In 1906, a Muslim delegation led by the Aga Khan approached Lord Minto seeking separate electoral constituencies. The Indian Councils Act of 1909 subsequently introduced separate electorates for Muslims. This development also encouraged other communities to seek political representation for themselves.

Mysore: An Early Experiment in Reservation

The princely state of Mysore played an important role in the early history of reservation. The Mysore government had already taken steps to support disadvantaged communities through education. In 1890, it established special schools for certain communities that lacked educational opportunities. Later, Maharaja Krishnaraja Wadiyar introduced measures to increase the representation of backward communities in government employment. Reservation was introduced in lower-level government jobs in 1914 and was later extended to other departments. In 1916, 25 per cent of government posts were reserved for eligible backward communities. The demand for greater representation became stronger with the growth of the non-Brahmin movement in Mysore. The government subsequently appointed the Sir Leslie Miller Committee. Based on its recommendations, a Communal Government Order was introduced, providing 50 per cent reservation in government employment for backward communities. The movement in Mysore became an important chapter in the wider struggle for social justice and equal representation for different communities.

The Struggle in Bengal

The demand for representation also developed strongly in Bengal. In 1917, Hemachandra Naskar established the 'Sarva-bangla Pundrakshatriya Samiti' to work for the advancement of backward communities. Along with other leaders, he worked to create greater social and political awareness among



oppressed communities. The Namasudra community also organised itself and demanded greater political representation. In 1921, the Namasudra Association was formed and sought separate electorates similar to those provided to Muslims. In 1922, the British government announced several concessions. These included allocating one out of every three government jobs to Namasudras and providing representation in the legislative council. The movement gradually focused on three major areas: Education, Employment and Political representation.

Developments in Bombay Presidency

The Bombay Presidency also witnessed several social reform movements aimed at improving educational and employment opportunities for non-Brahmin communities. Organisations such as the Paramahansa Mandali, Prarthana Samaj, Satyashodhak Samaj and Arya Samaj worked in different ways to promote social reform and education. By the early decades of the twentieth century, several organisations representing oppressed communities had emerged. They demanded scholarships, hostels, schools, employment opportunities and representation in local bodies. The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919 also expanded political representation for different communities.

Shahu Maharaj and the Historic Kolhapur Order

One of the most important developments in the history of reservation took place in the Kolhapur State. Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, who became ruler of Kolhapur in 1894, strongly believed that disadvantaged communities needed opportunities in education and government employment. On 26 July 1902, he issued an important order providing 50 per cent reservation in administrative government posts for backward communities. The decision faced opposition from sections of the upper castes, but Shahu Maharaj continued with his reform programme. His contribution went beyond government employment. He established schools and hostels for communities that had historically faced difficulties in accessing education. These initiatives created opportunities for young people to pursue education. His reforms demonstrated that social justice required more than political representation. Education and employment were equally important. In Baroda, Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III also promoted education among lower-caste communities. He established schools and introduced measures supporting free and compulsory primary education.

The Madras Presidency and Communal Representation.

The Madras Presidency became another major centre of the movement for social justice.

Several caste associations were formed during the early twentieth century. These organisations demanded greater opportunities in education, government employment and legislative institutions. The non-Brahmin movement became increasingly influential. Justice P. Theagaraya Chetty and other leaders raised the concerns of non-Brahmin communities before the government. E.V. Ramasamy, popularly known as Periyar, also became a major voice in the movement. He opposed social inequality and demanded representation for communities that had been excluded from opportunities. The government eventually introduced measures for communal representation in the Madras Legislative Council. The Meston Award provided reserved seats for non-Brahmin communities. These developments became an important stage in the history of representation in India.

The Simon Commission and the National Debate

The demand for representation eventually became a national issue. Leaders from different parts of India, including Justice P. Theagaraya Chetty, Namasudra representatives, S.K. Bole and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, raised the concerns of backward and oppressed communities. The Simon Commission, appointed in 1927, arrived in India in 1928. Although the Commission was widely boycotted by several political organisations because all its members were British, some leaders representing disadvantaged communities appeared before it. They explained the difficulties faced by backward communities in obtaining government employment, education and political representation. The Commission's report recognised that backward communities were not adequately represented in government services, educational institutions and legislative bodies. The issue was subsequently discussed at the Round Table Conferences in London. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Rao Bahadur Srinivasan represented the interests of oppressed communities in these discussions.

The Communal Award and the Poona Pact.

The British government announced the Communal Award on 17 September 1932. It proposed separate political representation for several communities. Mahatma Gandhi strongly opposed the provision of separate electorates for the Depressed Classes. The disagreement eventually resulted in the Poona Pact of 1932, which shaped the subsequent form of political representation for the oppressed communities. The events surrounding the Communal Award and the Poona Pact became an important turning point in the history of reservation and political representation in India.

Reservation After Independence

After India became independent in 1947, the Constitution gave a legal and institutional framework to the continuing effort for social justice. The Constitution, which came into force on 26 January 1950, provided special provisions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and allowed the State to make provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes. Articles 15 and 16 became important constitutional foundations for reservation in education and public employment. In 1953, the Government of India appointed the First Backward Classes Commission under the chairmanship of Kaka Kalelkar. Later, in 1979, the Second Backward Classes Commission, headed by B.P. Mandal, was appointed to identify socially and educationally backward classes. The Mandal Commission recommended 27 per cent reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in government employment. The recommendation was implemented by the Central Government in 1990 and led to widespread public debate. In the Indra Sawhney case (1992), the Supreme Court upheld 27 per cent OBC reservation in Central Government services, while providing for the exclusion of the socially advanced section, commonly known as the creamy layer. Reservation policy continued to evolve through constitutional amendments and judicial decisions. The 103rd Constitutional Amendment later introduced 10 per cent reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and also Women's Reservation Bill in India refers to the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023, popularly called the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. Thus, the reservation system after Independence became a constitutional continuation of the earlier struggle for representation and social justice. Finally, the history of reservation in India is a long journey from the struggle for representation during the colonial period to its constitutional framework after Independence. The efforts of leaders and communities across different regions laid the foundations for policies aimed at improving access to education, employment and representation. Understanding this history is essential for having a balanced and informed discussion on reservation and social justice in India rather than 'Reservation Hatao, Desh Bachao'.



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India Storm into Women's Asia Cup 2026 Final

Dubai, September 10: India produced a commanding all-round performance to defeat Bangladesh by 40 runs in the semi-final of the Women's Asia Cup 2026 in Dubai on Thursday, securing their place in the tournament final. Put into bat after Bangladesh won the toss and elected to field, India overcame an early setback to post a competitive 149 for six in their allotted 20 overs. The foundation of the innings was laid by opener Shafali Verma, who played a spectacular attacking knock of 64 from just 40 deliveries. Shafali's innings was packed with seven boundaries and three sixes as she took the attack to the Bangladesh bowlers. Her aggressive stroke-play ensured that India maintained a healthy scoring rate despite losing regular wickets at the other end. India suffered an early blow when Smriti Mandhana was dismissed for just two runs. However, Shafali refused to allow Bangladesh to build pressure and continued to attack. Her confident approach provided India with the momentum they needed during the crucial middle overs. Pratika Rawal added valuable support with a 20-run contribution, helping India rebuild after Mandhana's early departure. As the innings progressed, captain Harmanpreet Kaur took responsibility for the finishing role. Harmanpreet remained unbeaten on 24, while Richa Ghosh contributed 21 and Deepti Sharma added 13. Their late contributions helped India push the score towards the 150-run mark and gave the bowlers a defendable target. With 150 runs required for victory, Bangladesh needed a strong start. Instead, the Indian bowling attack immediately put the pressure on the chasing side.

Bangladesh Struggle Under Pressure
India's bowlers maintained disciplined lines and lengths from the beginning of the Bangladesh innings. Boundaries were difficult to find, and the pressure created by the Indian attack prevented Bangladesh from establishing meaningful partnerships. Wickets at regular intervals further disrupted the chase. Whenever Bangladesh appeared to be building momentum, India struck again, ensuring that the required run rate continued to climb. Deepti Sharma emerged as the standout performer with the bat, claiming three crucial wickets. Her ability to control the middle overs proved decisive as Bangladesh struggled to find scoring opportunities. Nandani Sharma also played an important role, picking up two wickets and adding to the pressure on the Bangladesh batting order. Bangladesh's batters were unable to match the aggression displayed by Shafali during the first innings. The Indian bowling unit kept the scoring under control and forced Bangladesh into a defensive approach. Shorna Akter top-scored for Bangladesh with an unbeaten 22, but she received insufficient support from the other end. Despite remaining at the crease, she could not take Bangladesh close to the target. Bangladesh eventually finished their 20 overs at 109 for seven, handing India a comfortable 40-run victory.

Shafali Sets the Tone
The match was effectively shaped by Shafali's explosive batting effort. Her 64 off 40 balls not only provided India with runs but also changed the tempo of the innings. After Mandhana's early dismissal, there was a possibility that India

could have slipped into a cautious approach. Instead, Shafali attacked the Bangladesh bowlers and ensured that India continued to score freely. Her seven fours and three sixes highlighted the range of her strokeplay. She repeatedly found gaps in the field and punished loose deliveries, forcing Bangladesh to alter their bowling plans. The platform created by Shafali eventually allowed India's middle and lower order to play with greater freedom during the closing stages.

Deepti Completes the Job
While Shafali provided the fireworks with the bat, Deepti Sharma completed the job with the ball. Her three-wicket performance came at crucial moments and prevented Bangladesh from forming the partnerships required for a successful chase. Nandani Sharma's two wickets further strengthened India's control. The Indian bowling attack demonstrated excellent discipline throughout the innings. Rather than relying solely on individual brilliance, the bowlers worked collectively to keep Bangladesh under constant pressure. India's fielding also complemented the bowling effort, ensuring that Bangladesh received very few easy scoring opportunities.

India Through to the Final
The victory takes India into the final of the Women's Asia Cup 2026, where they will face either Pakistan or Sri Lanka. The second semi-final is scheduled for September 11, with Pakistan taking on Sri Lanka for the remaining place in the title clash. The winner will meet India in the final on Sunday. India will enter the final with considerable confidence following their comprehensive semi-final performance.

East Zone End 13-Year Wait for Duleep Trophy



Chennai: East Zone ended a 13-year wait for the Duleep Trophy with a thoroughly dominant performance against South Zone, securing the prestigious domestic title despite the final ending in a draw on Thursday. East Zone's superiority had been evident for most of the contest, and by the time the two teams shook hands at 2:10 pm on the fifth and final day, the trophy was already firmly in their hands. The decisive factor was their extraordinary first-innings performance, which saw them pile up a mammoth 708 runs and establish a commanding 372-run lead over South Zone. The enormous advantage effectively decided the outcome long before the final day. East Zone then continued their domination in the second innings, reaching 388 for seven before the match ended in a draw. Their overall lead had swelled to an imposing 760 runs. The result brought an emphatic conclusion to a campaign in which East Zone consistently held the upper hand, while South Zone struggled to match their opponents with either bat or ball. The final day produced another individual milestone for East Zone as Mohammad Kounian Quraishi registered his maiden first-class century. Quraishi remained unbeaten on 116, reaching his three-figure mark in only his second first-class match. His innings was an important continuation of East Zone's batting dominance and added another name to an al-

ready impressive list of century-makers in the match. He reached the landmark from 179 deliveries, bringing up the century with a brace off left-arm pacer CV Milind. Quraishi was particularly effective in partnership with Anukul Roy, who contributed 64. The pair added 150 runs for the seventh wicket, ensuring that East Zone continued to dictate terms even after the result had effectively been settled. Starting the final day at 212 for five, East Zone showed little urgency to take unnecessary risks. Instead, they concentrated on extending their lead and maintaining control of the contest. East Zone's batting display throughout the final was the foundation of their triumph. Captain Ishan Kishan produced one of the standout performances of the match, smashing a remarkable 270 in the first innings. His huge contribution not only transformed the East Zone innings but also demonstrated his readiness for the demands of red-ball cricket. Kumar Kushagra also played a significant role, registering his sixth first-class century and adding further weight to East Zone's massive total. Shikhar Mohan impressed with a stylish half-century, displaying patience and composure while South Zone struggled to find a way through the East batting order. Veteran Mohammed Shami also made a significant contribution during his 100th first-class appearance. His



experience and spirited performance stood out in a contest in which several of the younger South Zone players failed to make an impact. South Zone's bowling attack found it difficult to maintain pressure throughout the match. Their lack of consistency allowed East Zone's batters to settle and build substantial partnerships. Mohammed Siraj was one of the few South Zone bowlers who managed to generate genuine intensity. The experienced fast bowler produced spells with pace and aggression, but his efforts lacked sufficient support from the other end. Siraj's determination was evident as he repeatedly attacked the batters, but the absence of sustained pressure from the rest of the bowling unit meant that East Zone continued to score freely. By the final day, the South Zone attack appeared increasingly unable to prevent East Zone from extending their already enormous advantage. For East Zone, the long wait is finally over. After 13 years, the Duleep Trophy belongs to them again — secured not through a last-minute twist, but through a performance of sustained dominance that left South Zone with little opportunity to fight back.

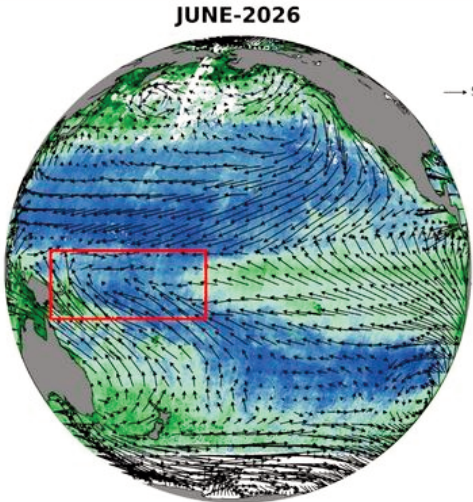
AP Announces Free Power for Ganesh Pandal



Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh has announced free temporary electricity supply for authorised Ganesh pandals during the nine-day festival period from September 14 to 22. The Andhra Pradesh Central Power Distribution Corporation will provide up to 3 kW in rural areas and 5 kW in urban areas under the temporary low-tension supply category. The state government has directed officials to ensure power connections for all eligible organisers and take necessary safety measures to prevent electrical accidents. Pandal organisers seeking higher loads will have to follow the regular temporary power-supply procedure. Minister Nara Lokesh said the initiative was aimed at supporting communities and making Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations more vibrant across the state. Pandal organisers have welcomed the decision.

ISRO Satellite Tracks El Nino Impact

Nellore: India's EOS-06/Oceansat-3 satellite has captured clear signs of developing El Niño and its impact on marine productivity across the tropical Pacific Ocean. Analysis by ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre using the Ocean Colour Monitor-3 and Scatterometer data found a significant decline in surface chlorophyll-a during June 2026. The drop indicates weakening phytoplankton growth and marine productivity. Scientists linked the change to weakened and reversed easterly winds, which disrupted the normal equatorial upwelling that brings nutrient-rich deep water to the surface. Satellite observations also showed the high-chlorophyll zone shrinking westward from April to June. ISRO said the observations highlight the strong link between atmospheric winds, ocean conditions and marine ecosystems. With El Niño expected to strengthen, the low-chlorophyll region could expand further. The findings complement the World Meteorological Organization's outlook on the developing El Niño, underscoring the growing role of Indian satellites in monitoring global climate and ocean changes.



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Style of the Day

Nandini Rai



Nani's 'The Paradise' Shooting Wrapped

The shooting of Telugu star Nani's highly anticipated action entertainer *The Paradise*, directed by Srikanth Odela, has reportedly been completed. The film's post-production work is currently underway. Produced by Sudhakar Cherukuri under SLV Cinemas, *The Paradise* is scheduled to hit theatres on September 24, with premieres planned for September 23. The makers recently released a new picture of Nani from the film, showcasing his rugged period look with long braided hair, a thick beard and a gun. The film has generated strong anticipation following its intense teaser, which hints at a story of oppression, rebellion and resistance against tyranny. The movie was initially scheduled for release on March 26 before being postponed twice, first to August 21 and later to September 24.

Chai's 'Vrushakarma' Set for December 4



Hyderabad: Naga Chaitanya's upcoming mythological thriller *Vrushakarma*, directed by Karthik Dandu, is set to hit theatres on December 4, 2026. The film stars Meenakshi Chaudhary as the female lead, while Jayaram and Laapataa Ladies actor Sparsh Srivastava play key roles. Sukumar has penned the story. Produced by BVSN Prasad and Sukumar under Sri Venkateswara Cine Chitra and Sukumar Writings, the film features cinematography by Neil D Cunha and music by Ajaneesh Loknath. National Award winner Navin Nooli is handling the editing, with art direction by Sri Nagesh Tangala. Naga Chaitanya's first look had showcased him in a rugged, intense avatar, adding to the anticipation surrounding the film.

Chumbak Gave Me a Sisterhood Bond



Sandeepa Dhar has opened up about the close bond she shares with her female co-stars from *Chumbak*, calling the friendships a lasting sisterhood. The actress said Neena, Delnaaz, Mansi, Helly, Amyra and she have formed a close-knit "girl gang" that stays connected despite busy schedules. From brunches and dinners to casual conversations, the group continues to make time for each other. Sandeepa said the show gave her more than a professional experience, bringing women into her life who offer love, support and genuine friendship. She added that she hopes these relationships will continue long after the cameras stop rolling.

Fatima Sana Shaikh: Stand Up for Yourself

Actress Fatima Sana Shaikh has spoken about sexism and deep-rooted patriarchal attitudes in the film industry, urging women to find their voice and stand up for themselves. Speaking at the trailer launch of *Hunkkaar—The Roar*, she said patriarchy is not solely created by men, as women are also part of a system shaped by long-standing social conditioning. Recalling her experiences in industry meetings, Fatima said women-centric projects are sometimes discussed without giving women a meaningful voice in the room. She stressed that women must learn to speak up, challenge discrimination and fight for themselves. Fatima will next be seen as a no-nonsense police officer in the courtroom drama *Hunkkaar—The Roar*, which premieres on JioHotstar on September 25.



Sardar 2: A Spy Thriller That Tests Patience

Sardar 2 attempts to deliver a gripping spy thriller with Karthi in a dual role, centering on a father-son story and a dangerous RAW mission involving a mysterious key, an old Japan operation and a biological weapon. The film begins with an intriguing investigation and maintains its central storyline in the first half. However, several action sequences, particularly the Japan portions, undermine the thriller's credibility. The aerial stunts involving Karthi and Malavika Mohanan often appear unintentionally funny rather than thrilling. The second half becomes increasingly repetitive as Karthi navigates multiple floors and solves puzzles to reach a dangerous machine. The prolonged pre-climax and climax further test the audience's patience. Karthi is decent in the younger portions, but his older look fails to convince. Malavika gets limited scope, while Ashika Ranganath has little to do. SJ Suryah goes overboard with his performance, turning the villain more cartoonish than menacing. Yogi Babu's comedy also feels forced. Overall, *Sardar 2* is too long, too loud and frequently unintentionally funny. What could have been an engaging spy thriller ends up as a tiring misfire.



AA Fans Take HPV Awareness Drive Across 8 States

Allu Arjun fans are taking fandom beyond cinema by launching a large-scale HPV awareness campaign across eight states, conducting 820 programmes and reaching nearly three lakh girl students. Led by the Allu Arjun Fans Association, the initiative has covered Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The campaign focuses on HPV prevention, vaccination and the importance of seeking guidance from qualified healthcare professionals. The initiative highlights how a nationwide fan network can be used for a social cause, taking health awareness directly to schools and communities. With nearly three lakh girls reached, the campaign has added a new dimension to Allu Arjun's nationwide fan following, turning fan enthusiasm into meaningful social outreach.



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