



Covid 19: Karnataka govt issues guidelines for schools, general public

Bengaluru: Amid rising COVID-19 concerns and a surge in active cases in the state, the Karnataka government on Saturday issued a circular and public advisory outlining guidelines for schools and the general public. The circular states that the guidelines are intended to protect the health of school children and the general public. The circular in connection with schools stated, "These guidelines were formulated based on the recommendations made during a COVID-19 review meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on May 26, given schools reopening across the state in June." Advertisement Key points include that children showing symptoms such as fever, cough, or cold should not be sent to school and must receive appropriate treatment as per medical advice. Children



should only return to school after fully recovering from all symptoms. If a symptomatic child reports to school, parents must be informed immediately, and the child should be sent home. Similarly, if teachers or school staff develop symptoms such as fever, cough, or cold, they are advised to take necessary precautions. The circular emphasises

maintaining hygiene, practising cough etiquette, and following COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviour (CAB). The circular was issued by K.B. Shivakumar, Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare Services, to all district Deputy Commissioners and the Chief Health Officer of the Bengaluru civic agency. In a public advisory regarding

COVID-19 surveillance and safety, the health department stated, "In light of the increase in COVID-19 cases in Karnataka, the state continues to monitor and manage the situation through ongoing efforts to prevent transmission, detect cases, and provide care. The Department of Health and Family Welfare urges all citizens not to panic but to remain vigilant and actively support public health measures. Continued cooperation is essential to detect and contain new variants or potential outbreaks. Your health is our priority." The public has been advised to stay alert but not anxious, avoid spreading unverified information, and report international travellers to authorities for necessary follow-up. People are encouraged to wear masks in crowded places, maintain physical distancing,

and practice good hygiene. Citizens are also urged to report symptoms early, support testing and surveillance, and report unusual spikes in COVID-19-like symptoms through the IHIP portal's community monitoring tool. The public is advised to keep shared spaces clean. A toll-free helpline number has also been provided for health advice and emergency patient transport. The advisory concluded by stating, "Together, we can quickly identify and control potential illnesses, keeping ourselves and our communities safe." As of May 30, Karnataka reported 234 active COVID-19 cases. The state's positivity rate stood at 24.7 per cent, and the case fatality rate was 0.8 per cent. Among the active cases, 223 patients are in home isolation, while 11 are hospitalised.

Chandrababu distributes elderly pension, asks MLAs and MPs to visit villages



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu recently addressed a gathering in Cheyeru, Konaseema district, where he championed the state's pension initiatives aimed at supporting impoverished citizens. During the event, which involved the distribution of pensions, Naidu noted the significance of ensuring aid reaches beneficiaries directly at their homes on the first day of every month. "In fulfilment of our promises, we increased the pension amount immediately upon taking office," Naidu remarked. He highlighted that the pension scheme, originally established by NTR, is a crucial part of the government's commitment to assist the poor. "Andhra Pradesh is the only state offering high pensions. Our government is dedicated to uplifting the impoverished," he asserted. Naidu cited various measures his administration is implementing to enhance the lives of residents, including the recruitment of teachers through Mega DSC, as well as providing three free cooking gas cylinders to every household. He emphasised a comprehensive approach, stating, "We aim to ensure three meals a day for the poor." The Chief Minister encouraged local MLAs, MPs, and leaders to visit every village and participate in the pension distribution programme to better understand the issues facing the community. He reiterated the government's commitment to not only providing financial assistance but also empowering the poor through education and skill development. "Instead of merely giving fish, we will teach the method of giving fish," he explained. In a further effort to safeguard families, Naidu announced an automatic pension transfer to widows upon their husband's death, along with a provision allowing pension payments for up to three months to prevent sudden financial hardship. The initiative reflects the state government's ongoing efforts to reinforce its support for vulnerable populations across Andhra Pradesh.

Ab goli ka jawab gole se milega: PM Modi warns Pak again; hails 'Operation Sindoor'

Bhopal: Prime Minister Narendra Modi once again issued a warning to Pakistan, declaring that any act of aggression would be met with an even greater response. "Ab goli ka jawab gole se milega (now we will respond to bullets with shells)", he asserted on Saturday. He described 'Operation Sindoor' as a symbol of India's indomitable spirit, a testament to the nation's courage and commitment to defending its sovereignty. Speaking at the 'Women Empowerment Maha Sammelan' in Bhopal, held to mark the 300th birth anniversary of Devi Ahilyabai Holkar, he reflected upon the heroic legacy of the revered ruler. PM Modi reiterated that terrorists had dared to challenge the strength of Indian women, a move that led to their downfall, along with those who supported them. He emphasised that 'Sindoor' has long stood as an emblem of feminine power in Indian tradition, signifying strength, devotion, and sacred duty. Citing an example from Hindu mythology, PM Modi said, even in the lore of Lord Hanuman, his devotion to Lord Rama is intertwined with the symbolism of



'Sindoor', marking a bond of faith and unwavering commitment. Referring to the recent acts of terror in Pahalgam, PM Modi said that they were not just an attack on innocent lives but an assault on India's cultural fabric and unity. He pointed out that the aggressors had sought to fracture the spirit of the people and dared to challenge the indomitable force of women's strength, a mistake that proved to be their downfall. Highlighting the success of 'Operation Sindoor', PM Modi described it as the most formidable and triumphant mission in India's history against terrorism. He praised the armed forces for advancing deep into enemy territory, dismantling their hideouts, and burying them

beneath the weight of justice. today This operation, he said, delivered a powerful message to the world that "India will no longer tolerate proxy wars waged through terrorism." Those who seek to threaten India's sovereignty will find no refuge, as the forces of justice will strike at the very heart of hostility, eliminating not only the perpetrators but also those who enable and support them. "The cost of aiding such atrocities," he declared, "would be severe, and the response to every act of aggression would be absolute." Extolling virtues of Ahilyabai Holkar, PM Modi emphasised that her name evokes deep reverence. PM Modi recalled her pioneering stance on social reform,

highlighting that in an era when discussions about women's rights were rare, Ahilyabai boldly advocated for women's property rights and the right of widows to remarry. She championed these causes with conviction, defying tradition and challenging societal norms that sought to limit women's autonomy. Furthermore, she established a contingent of women warriors in the Malwa army, recognising female strength and capability at a time when such ideas were revolutionary. PM Modi remarked that the world, particularly the West, often criticises India's treatment of women while overlooking its long history of female leadership and valour. He pointed out that Ahilyabai's vision extended beyond her own kingdom. She took strategic measures to form women's security squads in villages, reinforcing their role as protectors of their communities. Her legacy, he said, is not just one of governance but of nation-building, embodying the power of women in shaping India's future. Offering his respects, he expressed hope that her blessings continue to guide the nation forward.

Heavy rains likely in Andhra Pradesh for next two days

The recently formed cyclone in the Bay of Bengal has made landfall along the coast of West Bengal and Bangladesh, prompting the Meteorological Department to issue heavy rain warnings for the northeastern states and West Bengal. Moderate rainfall is also forecast for Andhra Pradesh, with heavy rains expected along the Coastal Andhra. A yellow alert has been activated for the Alluri, East Godavari, and West Godavari districts, as the region braces for heavy downpours and gusty winds, expected to reach speeds of 40 to 50 kilometres per hour. The state can anticipate cloudy weather over the next three days, along with light to moderate rains in various



areas. On Saturday, May 31, 2025, light to moderate rain is expected in several districts, including Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Parvathipuram, Alluri Seetharamaraju, Visakhapatnam,

Anakapalle, Kakinada, Konaseema, East Godavari, West Godavari, Eluru, Palnadu, Prakasam, Nellore, Kurnool, Nandyal, Annamaya. Meanwhile, light rain may occur in districts such as Krishna, NTR, Guntur, Bapatla, YSR Kadapa, Anantapur, Sri Sathya Sai, Chittoor, and Tirupati. As of 5 pm on Friday, rainfall measurements indicated significant downpours in the region, including 87.5 mm recorded in Gurla and Settivaripalli (YSR Kadapa), 79.2 mm in Vepada, 79 mm in Muthiyalapadu (Nandyal), and 74 mm in Narsipatnam (Anakapalle). Residents are urged to remain vigilant and prepared for the forecasted weather conditions.

WALTAIR DIVISION OF ECOR TAKES SUSTAINABLE STEPS TO END PLASTIC POLLUTION

In a concerted effort to promote a sustainable environment, foster community participation, and reduce plastic pollution across the railway network, Indian Railways has launched a comprehensive clean environment campaign involving passengers, NGOs, students, and the general public. This initiative is part of a wider observance of World Environment Day, which will be celebrated across Indian Railways from 22nd May to 5th June 2025.

As part of the celebrations, the Waltair Division has undertaken proactive steps to raise awareness about environmental conservation. Awareness drives have been initiated at station premises to inform the public about the ban on single-use plastics. Passengers are being encouraged to carry reusable steel bottles in an effort to significantly reduce plastic waste.

The Environment & Housekeeping Department of



Waltair Division has initiated special drives to enhance waste management across the division. These drives include cleanliness campaigns at railway stations and surrounding areas, railway establishments with enthusiastic participation from local communities and NGOs.

Speaking on the occasion, Divisional Railway Manager Shri Lalit Bohra emphasized that the

initiative aims to strengthen waste management practices and reinforce the ban on single-use plastics at railway stations. He stated that awareness campaigns are being actively conducted to educate passengers about responsible waste disposal and the importance of environmental sustainability.

To further spread the message, Nukkad Natak (street plays) will



be organized at various stations to highlight the harmful effects of plastic use. One such event under the World Environmental Campaign was held at Duvvada Railway Station under the guidance of Kanchumurthi Eswar, ZRUCC Member, East Coast Railway. The event saw enthusiastic participation from various participants including Shri Muthyala Naidu, Corporator of Ward 88, GVMC; GVMC sani-

tary staff, Duvvada Railway Station teams, Duvvada Rail Users Association, Lions Club, students from Vignan College, and representatives from CHEYUTHA Foundation, Manava Vikasa Vedika, Manavatha and Sathya Sai Seva Samithi. Placards were displayed and slogan announcements were made during train arrivals to effectively engage passengers.

Author Murali Mohan is awarded an honorary doctorate.



Hyderabad, May: 31, Metroudayam

The Asian International Cultural Research University under the auspices of the Asia International Cultural Academy was held in Tamil Nadu on Saturday. The event was held at the Hosuru Fortune Hotel and was held in various fields. On this occasion, the versatile scholar of the city, which is conducting literary, cultural and service activities in the Telugu states, has been honored by the President, Socialist and Prominent Author Murali Mohan Raju. He said that it was a pleasure to provide an honorary doctorate in the field of literature, recognizing the literary services that have been doing the last 18 years. Retired Assistant Judge Dr. J. Haridas, Karate World Record Holder Dr. Karate Srinad, Retired Assistant Commissioner Dr. Lion SB. Chabji, Retired DCP BS Angadi and others participated

Cricket Association of the Deaf, New Working Committee Elected

Hyderabad, May: 31, Metroudayam

Telangana State Cricket Association of the Deaf (TSCAD) elected a new Committee at Sundarayya Vignana Kendram on Saturday. T. Chiranjeevi, Pallabhaneni Prasad as General Secretary, V. Jayaprakash as Vice Presidents, Shekilkant as Joint Secretary, Imran as Treasurer and Seven others were elected as members of the committee. Later, presidential general secretaries Chiranjeevi and Prasad said that soon the state-level Asia Cup cricket competitions are being held in Hyderabad. DS State Vice Presidents Katamoni Venkatesh Goud and Chandrasekhar were present at the event.



The aspirations of the protesters hope that the Congress government will fulfill, Prof Kodandaram

HYDERABAD: May: 31, Metroudayam

Telangana activists unions have organized an agitation program at the GunPark martyrs stupam demanding the immediate implementation of the assurances given to the Telangana activists in the election manifesto. demanded immediate implementation of the promises made in the manifesto during the state governments election, to recognize the governments fought for the Telangana state. The state government has demanded that the families of the Telangana movement be given 250 yards of houses and the promise of an honorary salary of Rs 30,000/-. MLC Prof Kodandaram speaking at



the event. The demands of Telangana activists have been brought to the attention of the government. They hoped that a positive announcement will be released

soon. Telangana activists JAC Secretary General Prapul Ramreddy, Telangana Aspirations Forum Convener Kumaraswamy, Ramagiri Prakash, Chandranna

Prasad, Anjireddy, Pedda Yadagiri, Nagesh, Dharna lakshmi, Anjali, Suji Swarupa Rani, Padma Others were Participated.

'He's uplifted us in every way': PM Modi gets thumbs up from women

Bhopal: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for several development projects on Saturday, including airports in Datia and Satna in Madhya Pradesh. Women who came to hear the Prime Minister speak at a programme in Bhopal praised the government's efforts and stated that PM Modi has done commendable work for women. Speaking to IANS after listening to the Prime Minister, a woman named Varsha said that ever since PM Modi came to power, he has launched numerous initiatives for women. "Schemes Ladli Behna Yojana and many others have directly benefited women. 'Operation Sindoor' has become a symbol of women's strength. I thank PM Modi for transforming the lives of women," she said.



Another woman, Deepti, lauded the Prime Minister's speech, saying that he touched upon many important issues, particularly Operation Sindoor. "PM Modi has taken several decisions in favour of women, including providing reservations and empowering them. I believe that if women are empowered, society becomes stronger," she added. Shivani Yadav

noted that the Prime Minister made special mention of women in his address. "He said that women are not just limited to managing their households, but are also standing strong at the borders, defeating enemies," she said. Pratibha, another attendee, shared that PM Modi has significantly boosted women's empowerment. "He said in his address that women are

advancing, and the country is greatly benefiting from their progress," she said. Another woman highlighted that PM Modi spoke about the growing participation of women in governance and their continued rise in various sectors. Apart from women, numerous young girls also gathered to hear the Prime Minister. Shivani pointed out that he mentioned women's empowerment and also announced the Indore Metro as a major gift for the region. Shikha said that PM Modi unveiled several key projects for Madhya Pradesh on Saturday. "He also released a special commemorative coin on the occasion of the 300th birth anniversary of Devi Ahilyabai Holkar. He talked about the importance of women's empowerment and gifted the Indore Metro as well," she added.

UDAYAM Poetry's



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Teachers(we)are Guiding Stars

We hold no swords, we wear no crown,
Yet shape the world from classrooms ground.
With gentle voice and patient hand,
We help young minds to understand.

We light the flame of deep desire,
To reach, to learn, to climb up higher.
We see the spark in every child,
And teach with hearts so calm and mild.

We plant the seeds of dreams and truth,
And tend the garden of our youth.
With every lesson, word,



and glance,
We give each soul a fighting chance.

No praise We seek, no wealth, no fame—
Yet nations rise because We came.
Our teachers dear, so strong, so wise,
We are the stars in learnings skies.

Sathaiah jamboju
SA in English Zpss
Jaipur Mancherial

UDAYAM Poetry's



95814 19999

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An Ode to Her

She is the whisper in the morning breeze,
The fire that melts the winters freeze.
She carries the Sun within her chest,
A beacon of love, a Soul of zest.

She walks with Grace, yet bears the weight
Of dreams unspoken, silent fate.
A daughter bright, a sister true,
A mother with a heart so pure.

She weaves the World with hands so small,
Yet holds the Sky, she lifts us all.
Her tears have watered fields of hope,
Her strength has taught the World to cope.

Without her breath, the Stars would fade,
The Earth would falter, dimmed, dismayed,
For even He is but a



name,
Until She ignites his flame.

Where she is cherished, Gods remain,
Their blessings fall like Sacred rain.
Not made to kneel, but rise and shine,
A force of love, both fierce, Divine.

So honor her—not in mere word,
But in the way your Soul has heard.
For shes the thread in lifes grand weave,
The light, the warmth, the breath we breathe.

Smt. Latha Murthy

UDAYAM Poetry's



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GLOBAL TOUCH!

Even neighbours contact is not so easy!
What to tell about Nearby village or town!
Those days are like that!
Rapid change in present scenerio!

Global touch at our reach!
Touch the screen fly over seas!

Distance not at all a problem!
Not only voice even the picture nearby!

Universe itself a family like!
This is made possible with advanced technology!
Communication skills so well developed,
within a split of second both ends meet!

Latest global message service!
Paved the way even for

UDAYAM Poetry's



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SUNDAY BOOK REVIEW.

NTR, A MANY SIDED PERSONALITY.

It was around 6 am on 18th January 1996, I was having my cup of coffee at a road side hotel near the bus station in our seedy town. The radio in the hotel was relaying the morning 5-minute English news bulletin from Delhi. All of a sudden, the newsreader took a long pause and broke the sad and devastating news saying that the former CM of Andhra Pradesh, N T Ramarao died of a massive cardiac arrest in the wee hours this morning. And the bulletin ended.

A Dutiful Son. Even as a child, according to his biographers K. Chandrahas and K. Lakshminarayana, NTR often went to the fields with his parents and those visits instilled in him values and the principle of hard working. This made NTR what he was. He used to wake up very early in the morning and practise yoga and meditation.

As a high school student, NTR was bright and was known for his beautiful hand and illustrations. He even helped his father in his milk business and till the end he remained to be a dutiful son. But NTR failed in the intermediate and was forced to marry at an early age. At this stage he was desperately in need of a job and for some time he worked as a court attender for a salary of sixty four rupees. Later he tried his hand in tobacco business and running a printing press but soon he burnt his fingers and folded up them.

A Talented and Tenacious Student. Later NTR's father forced him to pursue a B A course in A C College Guntur, much against his will. NTR used to walk three kilometers to catch a train in Vijawada to go to Guntur and this he did for three years. It was here that the actor in NTR came out

and made waves on the stage when acting in combination with friend Kongara Jaggaiah. Within no time NTR made a name and this fetched him straight away an offer to act as the hero in a film from none other than Producer and Director C. Pullaiah. As his aim was to clear the B A exams in one attempt, NTR had the temerity to turn down the offer. Later in the exams for the post of Sub-registrar, NTR was one among the seven successful candidates out of about 937 but he worked in that post only for 11 days before finally boarding a train to Madras for a successful and scintillating acting career.

A Peoples Man. When become successful people, most of us tend to use name and clout to farther our personal aggrandizement. Only a few persons readily spare their power and purse for a public cause. NTR belonged to the latter category of people. Soon in his acting career he, taking a cue from the lives of actors like Ballary Raghava and Prithviraj Kapoor, NTR also took up the cause of helping people in the wake of severe drought in Rayalaseema in 1952. With a small troupe of actors, NTR toured the state, staging shows and collecting donations for the Rayalaseema drought victims. In 60s and 70s, floods in Bihar were as regular as clockwork and almost every time NTR went to people with a hat in hand and gave succour to people outside the state. He also gave his mite to many such people's causes and this laid the foundation for him for a memorable role as a peoples leader in real life in later days.

A Supportive Man. Though he became a successful and busy hero, NTR was always down to earth, helpful and supportive. He helped many new, and aspiring actors and other artists. NTR lent a hand to Sobhan Babu when he was struggling for film offers. Again when the young and ambitious Aswini Dutt came to

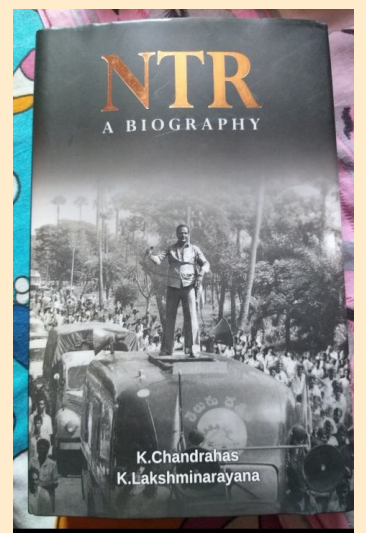
Chennai to make a movie and approached NTR, he readily gave him dates and paired him with director Bapaiah. The rest is history. Aswini Dutt became a mega producer and made many blockbuster movies with NTR. For scores of film actors and artists, NTR gave a break in one way or other. Again it was NTR who introduced Dr. C. Narayana Reddy as a lyricist and the writer went on to pen thousands of memorable songs, winning many laurels. Their friendship continued even after NTR became a CM. Actor Satyanaraya was yet another actor who found in NTR a friend, guide and philosopher.

A Superstitious Man. NTR's love for the number 9 is too well known. The number plate on his official car bore 9999. Little is known about why he liked the number but perhaps destiny had it—his native village Nimmakuru has nine letter in English, his first initial Nandamuri too has nine letters in English and with his two initials, the name N T Rama Rao is also 9 in letters. And finally he died on January 18th (9 in total) at the age of 72 (again 9)!

Romantic in Real Life. NTR was very handsome and after entering the films, this quality became an Achilles heel for him. He became involved with many women romantically and his wife, who gave him seven sons and four daughters, swallowed his infidelity with uncommon dignity. This romantic streak in him was like the dark spot in the Moon. In this regard NTR was like Ravana and Shakespeares Antony who also had a magnetic pull towards women and suffered fatal setbacks in their lives.

But in the sunset years of NTR life after his wife's death, this love for women became just a longing for companionship. At this stage yet another woman came into his life, permeating everything in both his personal and political life to a great deal till his tragic and untimely death in the year 1996.

In his long and eventful life of 72 years, NTR wore many hats and donned many roles with ease and aplomb. Though he was

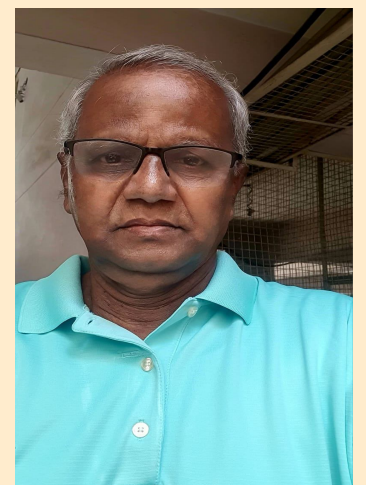


an actor, producer, director, writer, and politician, NTR the man was behind all these roles. And the saying that 'Character is destiny' perhaps fittingly holds a mirror to him, the man.

In their book 'NTR', a Biography, the writers K. Chandrahas IRS and K. Lakshminarayana IAS in particular, who worked with NTR for long years and watched his life from close quarters, present an authentic 'ring-side' view of NTR in his many and varied roles. Though there are a couple of biographies about NTR in the market, this biography is unique in the sense that the writers have written for the first time in simple English about all important aspects from his childhood to his last minutes in life. This voluminous book with 110 chapters under five parts and a huge sheaf of rare pictures is very exhaustive, informative and a must both for his fans and for those who are fascinated by NTR and his scintillating many-sided personality.

M. SOMASEKHAR PRASAD
HOD DEPARTMENT OF
ENGLISH RETD
GANDHINAGAR
HYDERABAD.
9866936345.

NTR- A Biography
K. Chandrahas
K. Lakshminarayana
Rs 650
CLS Publishers.



Thailand's Opal Suchata Crowned Miss World 2025

Opal Suchata Chuang from Thailand has been crowned Miss World 2025, rising above contestants from 108 countries to claim the prestigious title. The grand finale, held amid global anticipation, saw Opal visibly moved as her name was announced, marking an emotional moment of triumph. She succeeds Kristina Pyszková of Czech Republic, who warmly passed on the crown with heartfelt congratulations. Impressively, Poland showcased a strong performance this year, securing both the first and second runner-up spots, while Miss Martinique claimed the third runner-up position. Born in Phuket, Opal now becomes the 72nd Miss World and is set to receive a cash prize of ₹8.5 crore. Her win is being celebrated across Thailand, highlighting a remarkable blend of beauty, purpose, and national pride.



Universal peace!
Time factor may lead to misunderstanding!
That is wiped out completely with the global communication Improvement!

Composed by:
B. Satyanarayana Rao,
(Ba. Sa. Raa)
Vijayawada.



'Tribanadhari Barbarik' theme song struck a haunting chord with listeners



A new wave of curiosity has swept through Telugu cinema with the announcement of Tribanadhari Barbarik, an upcoming anthology film written and directed by Mohan Srivatsa. With its intriguing structure, layered narrative, and mysterious central element — a book titled Tribanadhari — the film is generating significant buzz. The story interweaves multiple characters and timelines, all connected through the enigmatic book. Featuring a powerhouse cast including Sathyaraj, Vasishta Simha, Satyam Rajesh, Udhyabhanu, Sanchi Rai, Kranthi Kiran, VTV Ganesh, and Motta Rajendran, the film brings together a mix of veteran performers and fresh talent. However, how their lives intersect remains a closely guarded secret. Amplifying the intrigue is the recently released Barbarik Theme Song, which has struck a haunting chord with listeners. Composed by the experimental Infusion Band and penned by lyricist Sanare, the track blends soulful Indian melodies with atmospheric sounds. A chorus of powerful voices — Krishna Chaitanya, Sai Charan, Shiva, Harsha Vardhan, Valli Gayathri, Sindhuja Srinivasan, Nada Priya, Brundha — and a rap segment by Aditya Iyengar adds layers to the film's mood, mirroring the multi-threaded storytelling. Technically, the film boasts solid backing. Produced by Vijaypal Reddy, the visuals by DOP Kushendar Ramesh Reddy and the editing by Marthand K. Venkatesh are expected to enhance the film's narrative depth. Srinivas Punna's art direction will help transport viewers across timelines and realities. Tribanadhari Barbarik seems poised to be more than just an anthology — it aims to be a philosophical and emotional experience, inviting audiences to decode a cinematic puzzle.

Ajay Devgn on casting Kajol in 'Maa': The role demanded her strength

At the trailer launch of the upcoming mythological horror Maa, Ajay Devgn revealed the reason behind casting his wife, Kajol, in a role unlike any before — not just as the lead actor but also as the producer. The film, set in the occult universe of Shaitaan, delves into a mother's spiritual and supernatural struggle to save her child from demonic forces haunting an ancient haveli. Speaking at the event in Mumbai, Devgn highlighted the emotional weight the story carries and why Kajol was a natural choice. "The character of the mother was so strong, who else could we imagine in the role but her?" he said. He further added, "It wasn't just about casting my wife. This was about finding someone who could carry the emotional and psychological intensity the role demanded. Kajol brings that naturally." Directed by Vishal Furia, Maa marks Kajol's debut in the horror genre and expands the eerie cinematic universe first explored in Shaitaan. The film blends mythology and terror as a mother, guided by divine energies, confronts evil to protect her child — presenting a powerful tale of maternal instinct turned into supernatural force. With haunting visuals and emotionally charged storytelling, Maa aims to strike a deep chord with audiences across languages. Releasing in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and Bengali on June 27, 2025, the film is not just a genre thriller but a cinematic ode to motherhood, belief, and inner strength. Backed by Ajay Devgn and fronted by Kajol, Maa promises to be a compelling mix of hor-



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Scotland schedule wrapped for Varun Dhawan's rom-com 'Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai'

Varun Dhawan has officially wrapped the Scotland schedule for his upcoming romantic comedy Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai. Taking to social media, the actor shared behind-the-scenes glimpses and wrote, "It's a schedule wrap for us here in Scotland on #haijawaan-itoishqhonahai. So many days everyone pulling together to make this happen. Bringing u all the laughs soon. Now back home." The film, helmed by David Dhawan, draws inspiration from the song "Ishq Sona Hai" from the 1999 hit Biwi No.1, which starred Salman Khan and Karisma Kapoor. Reuniting with his father for this film, Varun is set to headline what's touted to be a nos-



taligic nod to the charm and madness of classic 90s rom-coms. The cast includes a powerhouse ensemble — Mrunal Thakur, Mouni Roy, Chunkey Panday, Pooja Hegde, Maniesh Paul, Jimmy Shergill, Rakesh Bedi, Ali Asgar, Kubbra Sait, Rohit Saraf, Rajeev Khandelwal, Nitish Nirmal, and Sreeleela — suggesting a laughter riot in the making. While the plot details remain under wraps, buzz indicates the film will blend humor, love, and old-school Bollywood vibes. Produced by

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Ramesh Taurani under the TIPS banner, the film's release date is yet to be announced. Adding a layer of fun to Varun's post, Janhvi Kapoor — his co-star from the upcoming Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari — commented, "Sunny Sanskari is needed back in the bay asap pls." Arjun Kapoor chimed in with a quirky, "Ramesh ji!!! The hypebeast..." Apart from this, Varun is also gearing up to play Major Hoshiar Singh Dahiya in Border 2, alongside Sunny Deol, Diljit Dosanjh, and Ahan Shetty, under Anurag Singh's direction. Varun's romantic innings and patriotic portrayals seem to be keeping his calendar both packed and promising.

Riddhima Kapoor Sahni completes debut film shoot in Shimla, calls it a heart-warming journey

Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, daughter of veteran stars Rishi Kapoor and Neetu Kapoor, is all set to make her much-anticipated Bollywood debut. The fashion designer and entrepreneur has just wrapped up the shoot for her first film, tentatively titled DKS, in the picturesque locales of Shimla. Taking to Instagram, Riddhima expressed her joy and gratitude at reaching this milestone, calling the experience deeply emotional and transformative. "Firsts are always special, because it's those very 'firsts' that form the blueprint of learnings we will carry for the rest of our lives," she wrote in her story, clearly moved by her initiation into the world of cinema. Reflecting on her 52-day shoot, Riddhima described the film as "heartwarming, funny, and beautiful," and shared



that the journey was full of emotion, laughter, and collaboration with a team of over 200 people. "We plotted, we danced, we laugh-cried and cried-laughed," she added, teasing a joyful cinematic ride for audiences

once DKS hits the big screen. Although plot details and the full cast remain under wraps, Riddhima confirmed her mother, Neetu Kapoor, has been on set and is thoroughly enjoying the process. However, she did not confirm whether Neetu has an on-screen role in the film. Riddhima previously made a cameo appearance on Netflix's Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives, where she was seen alongside Maheep Kapoor, Seema Sajdeh, Neelam Kothari, and Bhavana Pandey. Now, with her full-fledged acting debut, fans are eager to see if she lives up to her celebrated lineage. As the industry waits in anticipation, all eyes are on Riddhima's next big reveal — the official title, trailer, and release date of DKS.

Success is saying no to work: Saif Ali Khan

Saif Ali Khan may be a versatile actor, but when it comes to defining success, his priorities are crystal clear — family always comes first. Speaking at the Arab Media Summit, the Sacred Games star offered a heartfelt take on what truly matters to him in life, drawing a distinct line between professional hustle and personal happiness. Unlike many who equate success with relentless work, Saif believes that real achievement lies in being present for loved ones. "I hate coming home and seeing the kids already asleep. That's not success," he said, emphasizing how crucial those fleeting family moments are. "Success is being able to say, 'No, I need to go home now to catch that half hour with them.'" Saif



added that he refuses to work when his children are on holiday, calling that time "sacred." He also shared the unique phase of life he's in — one that requires him to keep in touch with both his elderly mother

and his young children. "I'm at that crazy age where I have to call both my mom and my children," he remarked. For the Jewel Thief actor, everyday family activities — cooking pasta together, sharing meals, or simply spending time with his kids — are the real markers of success. "That's the real glue of life," he said. Saif concluded his talk by stating, "Success and privilege, for me, is being able to say no to work and yes to time with my family." On the professional front, Saif is gearing up for a busy slate, including Race 4, a biopic with Rahul Dholakia, a yet-untitled project with Priyadarshan, and a social thriller directed by Hansal Mehta.

Monsoon romance '8 Vasantalu' locks June 20 release date

Mythri Movie Makers, known for supporting strong content-driven films, is presenting 8 Vasantalu, a poignant love story directed by Phanindra Narsetti. Featuring Ananthika Saniilkumar in the lead role, the film promises an emotional and introspective journey, as hinted by the earlier promos. Produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar, the movie is now officially set for a theatrical release on June 20, perfectly timed for the monsoon season. The newly released poster sets the



tone for the romantic drama, capturing Ananthika Saniilkumar in a radiant mood. Draped in a beautiful saree with a rose delicately tucked in her

hair, the poster mirrors the film's romantic and nostalgic vibe. Adding to the film's emotional depth is a musical score by Hesham Abdul Wahab, who is cur-

rently riding high on a wave of successful projects. The technical team also boasts strong talent, including Aravind Mule in production design, Shashank Mali on editing duties, and Babasai Kumar Mamidipalli as executive producer. With just a few weeks left for the release, the makers are gearing up to increase the buzz with regular updates and promotional activities. 8 Vasantalu aims to deliver a cinematic experience filled with heartfelt storytelling, soulful music, and a celebration of love.