

Let's reawaken as a nation to sing the song of freedom

SEVENTY-SEVEN years after its 'tryst with destiny', India has much to celebrate today. As the fastest-growing economy and the world's largest pluralist democracy that has succeeded in lifting millions of its citizens above abject poverty over the years, its voice is heard with respect in the chanceries of the world.

The economic and social plight of the elderly on account of their neglect by children who caught up in the pursuit of unguided ambition and material gains, loss of dignity of the marginalised even in death, the wrecking of reputations, privacy and dignity in the media without a meaningful recourse and social consciousness generally immune to the misery of the destitute — this is not the Bharat of Bapu's dreams who, along with his compatriots, had envisioned an egalitarian society in which we could live in the shelter of each other, joined together in empathy.

Laapataa ladies & opportunistic BJP

THE GREAT GAME: Amid outrage over Kolkata rape-murder, Trinamool MPs in danger of being called 'goongi gudiyas'

THE Trinamool Congress' 'laapataa ladies', a sarcastic reference to the Hindi movie by the same name, finally showed up at a march led by their leader and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata on Friday in support of the female doctor gruesomely raped and murdered a full eight days ago at a state-run hospital in the city.



For the first time in years, Didi seems to be on the back foot. She knows she's faltered. Her 11 women Lok Sabha MPs, many of them stars on social media, are keenly aware that when they refused to speak up in support of the victim, except for former journalist Sagarika Ghose, in the all-important hours and days after the grisly murder — the Trinamool allowed the creation of an information vacuum into which the Opposition BJP walked right in.

These smart women, the bane of the BJP in Parliament and in Kolkata, know that when they shut themselves up against their better judgement — perhaps, as they waited for the Kolkata Police to carry out its investigation, or perhaps, waited to hear what their Dear Leader, Didi, first wanted to say on the subject — they waited too long. That, at least for the moment, that sense of trust that politicians constantly strive for in the minds of women and men they claim to lead, seems to be faltering.

assignment. Rumours about the police calling it a 'suicide' (they didn't) or that they cremated her without telling her parents (it was the family that cremated her) blew into the information gap. The X handles of all these women MPs, rightfully most vocal about things gone wrong, were strangely silent. Even when more than half of Kolkata was out on the streets that fetid night of August 14-15, seeking to "reclaim the night", thousands of women and men demanding justice, a right to life and safety, the Trinamool was missing in action. Their anger, passion and ardour that often stir up the Lok Sabha had either been spent or misspent.

But the BJP may still find that Bengal is somewhat different from the Hindi heartland states it has experience of conquering. Despite the growing admiration for Hindutva, the outrage on the streets of Kolkata today is less about the BJP and more about the sheer anger and helplessness it feels against the Trinamool. It is Didi, not the BJP, who invokes Bengal's women as its primary audience and asks for their votes.

A stain on justice

The force of Ram Rahim's frequent furloughs

THE repeated furloughs granted to Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, the convicted leader of Dera Sacha Sauda, highlight a troubling pattern of leniency towards a man who has been convicted of heinous crimes. Over the years, Ram Rahim has been granted multiple paroles and furloughs, raising serious questions about the integrity of the judicial and political systems that enable such decisions.



mark arises on how a government could grant 'good conduct' certificates to someone responsible for grave offences. The timing suggests political considerations, especially in view of Ram Rahim's significant influence over a large voter base in Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan. His sect has historically been courted by political parties, raising questions about whether justice is being compromised for electoral gains.

The Punjab and Haryana High Court's decision to allow the Haryana Government discretion in granting Ram Rahim furlough is deeply concerning. A question

The quest for a piece of the Bangladesh pie

The visible social inequalities and the fight for social justice underscore the need for reservations while the practice has often left a lot to be desired.

SHEIKH Mujibur Rahman's legacy has been consigned to history. Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has taken over after Sheikh Hasina's ouster. What next for Bangladesh? Will it be a civil war or a period of prolonged instability that provides a fertile ground for foreign operators to play the 'Great Game East' in South Asia?

neighbouring India whose fortunes are intertwined with the rise and fall, prosperity or poverty of Bangladesh. Hence, the biggest stakeholder in that country is indisputably India; the leaders in Dhaka need to recognise that Bangladesh juts into India as its underbelly, directly or indirectly affecting the demography of 12 states ('seven sisters' of the North-East, Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha).



Chittagong, Chalna, Khulna, Mongla, Barisal and Cox's Bazar, too, didn't amuse America. Thus, Bangladesh today has become a frontline state for a conflict between overlapping interests of Beijing and Washington. Lately, the US also has been resentful of India's refusal to take sides in the Ukraine war as Delhi displayed her 'strategic autonomy'.

In a throwback to the bloody Partition of British India in 1947, Muslim-majority Pakistan saw itself being dismembered in 1971 to give birth to another Muslim-majority but profoundly secular, liberal and linguistic Bangladesh. In 1947, the British were the sole foreign player. In 1971, during Pakistan's civil war, China, the US, the USSR and India were the four direct actors and the rest of the West was an indirect factor.

India already faces a two-front war owing to the Sino-Pak axis stretching from Karakoram to Kameng and beyond to Walong. Now, stretched further because of the Bangladesh crisis, there will be greater pressure on troops along the McMahon Line to Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh, thereby resulting in a colossal rise in costs. And that's exactly what China is up to: to bleed the Indian economy without firing a shot.

The Belt and Road Initiative, too, has helped China make deep inroads into dual-purpose ports with the reported setting up of the PLA Navy base in the near future. No wonder the US had sought Hasina's nod for a proposed naval base at St Martin's Island off Cox's Bazar, which is adjacent to Myanmar's restive Rakhine state's coastline.

Now, how does Pakistan fit into this Bangladesh game of the giants? Well, one just has to visit the Pakistan Military Academy in Abbottabad, where the 'revenge' mantra is inculcated into every trainee officer over India's role in the 1971 war and the humiliation suffered by the Pakistan army in Dhaka. The idea is to create a permanent state of war without a direct fight — a war of terror to bleed India with a thousand cuts.

The lesson of history, however, is seldom learnt by the fighters, even if they chase a mirage at the risk of their territory being inexorably and inevitably parcelled out. Pages of history are replete with instances of internal political wars turning into an alluring arena for outsiders. Today, four foreign players are again direct stakeholders in the geopolitics and geoconomics of the turbulent nation of Bangladesh: India, the US, China and Pakistan — all with different purposes, though. Resultantly, Bangladesh has to reckon with and reconcile itself to the fact that none of the four is likely to give up its respective strategic interests as long as this young nation burns.

Three of these four nations (the US, China and Pakistan) do not share a border with Bangladesh. It's only

Opposition attacks Centre over lateral entry push by UPSC to fill 45 posts

Congress and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) accused the Modi government of hatching a conspiracy to undermine reservation for the marginalised section of society through this move.

NEW DELHI. The decision taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Central government regarding the lateral recruitment of 45 positions of Secretary, Deputy Secretaries and Director in 24 central ministries has sparked a political row. Major Opposition parties like the Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) have accused the Modi government of hatching a conspiracy to undermine reservation for the marginalised section of society. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge called the Centre's move a 'double attack' on reservation as a ploy to deprive aspirants from Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Weaker Section (EWS) of opportunities.

"The BJP, which has ripped apart the Constitution, has launched a double attack on reservation! First, the Modi government

issued an advertisement to fill at least 45 posts of Joint Secretary, Directors and Deputy Secretary at the Centre through Lateral Entry. Is there reservation for SC, ST, OBC and EWS? As part of a well-planned conspiracy, the BJP is deliberately making such recruitments in jobs so that SC, ST, OBC categories can be kept away from reservation", Kharge said in a post written in Hindi on X. That is why the Congress Party is demanding a caste census for social justice, Kharge said towards the end of a long post.

Tejashwi Yadav of the RJD, a key component of the INDIA bloc with the Congress and others, echoed Kharge's views. Sharing a picture of the order issued by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on X, Tejashwi wrote in Hindi "This



advertisement is a small example of how the Modi government at the Centre is cracking a dirty joke on and messing with the Constitution written by Baba Saheb and reservation". "If UPSC had appointed 45 IAS through the civil service examination, then it would have had to provide reservation to SC/ST and OBC, i.e. out of the 45, 22-23 candidates would have been

selected from Dalit, backward and tribal classes", he added. Urging the people belonging to Dalit-OBC-Tribal and poor general classes to 'wake up', the former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister accused the Modi government of 'ending reservation in a systematic, planned and cunning manner'.

"In the last election, the Prime Minister, his stooge parties in Bihar and their leaders used to claim with great pomp that no one can take away their rights by ending reservation, but in front of their eyes, with their support and cooperation, the rights of the deprived, neglected and poor sections are being robbed and the so-called self-proclaimed OBC PM and SC/ST and OBC leaders of UP-Bihar-Jharkhand are unfortunately clapping and laughing", Tejashwi lamented. He further claimed that in the name of Hindutva, the BJP was

usurping people's rights. Earlier on Saturday, the UPSC invited applications from private sector employees, for lateral recruitment of 45 positions of Secretary, Deputy Secretaries and Director in 24 central ministries. The posts announced by the UPSC included 10 Joint Secretary positions and 35 Director/Deputy Secretary positions. The applications invited for the Joint Secretary positions included, two posts in the Finance Ministry, one post each in the Home Ministry and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, among others. Similarly, the applications invited for Director/Deputy Secretary positions included eight posts in the Agriculture ministry, two posts in the Education ministry and one post each in the Ministry of External Affairs and the Civil Aviation ministry and more.

Champai Soren heads to Delhi with 6 MLAs amid speculation of BJP switch: Sources

NEW DELHI. Senior Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader Champai Soren took an early flight to Delhi on Monday amid speculation of him joining the BJP, sources told India Today TV.

Champai, who was recently replaced as Jharkhand Chief Minister by JMM chief Hemant Soren, is accompanied by six party MLAs, sources said. Champai Soren, who is considered close to the Soren family, was appointed as the Chief Minister after Hemant Soren was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on January 31 in an alleged land scam case. However, Champai Soren stepped down from the post on July 3 after Hemant Soren was granted bail by Jharkhand High Court.

Following this, speculation was rife that Champai Soren was reportedly not happy with the way he was unceremoniously removed from the top post to pave way for Hemant Soren to become the Chief Minister of Jharkhand once again. According to sources, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha has been unable to contact the six MLAs who purportedly accompanied Champai Soren to Delhi.

Champai Soren, sources said, is in touch with several top BJP leaders. Last night, he was in Kolkata where he met Bengal BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari, sources said. Further, sources indicate that Soren has been in continuous touch with Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. However, the senior Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader on Saturday refuted the rumours of him joining the BJP.

"I don't know what rumours are being spread. I don't know what news is being run, so I cannot tell whether it's true or not. I don't know anything about it... Hum jahan par hain vahi par hain (I am here only)", Champai Soren said on Saturday.

"We Are India's No 1...": IAS Coaching Centre Fined For "Misleading" Ad

New Delhi: A coaching institute for the civil services exam has been fined ₹3 lakh for its "misleading" advertisements, the Centre said today.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said that the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has taken action against Sriram's IAS, which has its centers in Delhi, for a misleading advertisement regarding the UPSC Civil Service Exam (CSE) 2022. It was in violation of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, the Ministry said.

Coaching institutes and online edtech platforms use pictures and names of the same successful candidates to influence prospective aspirants (consumers), without disclosing the courses opted by such candidates and length of the course so attended," the statement said. The decision was taken to "protect and promote the rights of consumers as a class and ensure that no false or misleading advertisement is made of any goods or services which contravenes the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019", the Ministry said. Sriram's IAS in its advertisement made the following two claims: "200 plus selections in UPSC Civil Service Exam 2022" and "We are India's No 1 Prestigious UPSC/IAS Coaching Institute".

The CCPA found out that Sriram's IAS advertised various types of courses but the information for the course opted by the advertised successful candidates in the UPSC CSE 2022 was "deliberately concealed" in the advertisement. "This has the effect of consumers falsely believing that all the successful candidates claimed by the Institute had opted for the paid courses advertised by the Institute on its website," the statement read. Information regarding the course opted by successful candidates is important for the consumers to know so that they can make informed choices while deciding which course and coaching institute to join, it said. Sriram's IAS in its response submitted the details of only 171 successful candidates against its claim of 200 plus selections in UPSC CSE 2022.

Air India crew member assaulted in London hotel room by intruder: Reports

The attacker entered the Air India cabin crew member's room at the London hotel and physically assaulted her, hitting her with a clothes hanger before dragging her across the floor.

NEW DELHI. A female crew member of Air India was assaulted by an intruder inside her room at a hotel in London where she was staying, the airline said in a statement on Sunday.

The company said that the incident happened at a hotel operated by a major international chain and stated that a police investigation is underway.

According to reports, the assault took place at the Radisson Red Hotel at Heathrow in London and the airline staff had previously raised concerns about safety at the hotel. A homeless man barged into the room at the hotel where the crew member was staying, news agency PTI reported. As she woke up and noticed the intruder, the man reportedly physically assaulted her. He hit her with a clothes hanger before dragging her on the floor, the reports said. She screamed for help and tried to run out of the room but was

prevented from doing so by the intruder. As per reports, her colleagues heard her cries and came to her rescue. The crew member was taken to the hospital following the incident.



The assailant was arrested. "We are deeply anguished by an unlawful incident of intrusion at a hotel, operated by a major international chain, that affected one of our crew members," a spokesperson for Air India said. The airline added, "We are providing all possible support to our colleague and their broader

team, including professional counselling. Air India is also working with the local police to pursue the matter to the fullest extent of the law, and with the hotel management to ensure such incidents are not repeated". The airline has not officially commented on reports suggesting that the crew member may have been sexually assaulted. One of the sources told PTI that she was allegedly sexually assaulted at the hotel, while two other sources claimed it was a physical assault. Congress leader Manish Tewari, responding to the reports of the assault, called it a "very disturbing" incident and alleged that Air India "deliberately put the cabin crew at risk" by not addressing the safety issues. "The news report pertaining to the sexual assault on an Air India Crew Member in London is very disturbing.

Send reports every 2 hours: Centre to states amid Kolkata murder protests

NEW DELHI. As the country is reeling under the nationwide protest over the Kolkata rape and murder case, the Union Home Ministry has issued an order to all the states, asking them to submit reports regarding the law and order situation every two hours. In the wake of nationwide protests and outrage over a trainee doctor's rape and murder in a Kolkata hospital, the Home Ministry stated that the law and order situation in all the states should be monitored. The Union Home Ministry has directed the police forces of all states across the country to send reports every two hours through email, fax, or even WhatsApp.

Henceforth, a continuous two-hourly law and order situation report in this regard may kindly be sent to



the MHA control room (New Delhi) by Fax/ Email/ WhatsApp from 4 pm today (16/08/24)," reads the official notification issued by Centre, news agency PTI reported.

On August 9, the 31-year-old postgraduate trainee doctor's semi-naked body was found in the seminar hall of the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. A civic volunteer of the Kolkata Police, Sanjay Roy, was arrested in connection with a gruesome rape and murder the next day. The Calcutta High Court handed over the probe to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday. The accused, Sanjoy Roy, will undergo a psychoanalysis test, as the CBI has called in a team of experts from Delhi's Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) to Kolkata.

Protesting doctors are demanding justice and urgent reforms, including an overhaul of resident doctors' working and living conditions and the implementation of a central law to protect healthcare professionals from workplace violence.

Mercedes Runs Over Cyclist In Delhi, Driver Arrested, Car Seized

New Delhi: In yet another hit-and-run case, a 34-year-old cyclist was found dead on a south Delhi road after he was hit by a Mercedes car on Saturday, police said. A passerby called up the police after seeing the man lying in a pool of blood on the Ashram to Bhogal flyover. The body was found on the roadside while his cycle was discovered around 150 metres away. The victim has been identified as Rajesh Kumar, a gardener, who was a resident of South Delhi's Madanpur Khadar. A case has been registered and an investigation is on.



During investigation, the driver of the Mercedes was identified as 45-year-old Pradeep Gautam, who lives in Noida. The owner of the luxury car had given Gautam the vehicle to put it

up for sale. Gautam has been arrested and his vehicle was seized for further investigation.

The postmortem will be conducted today and the body will be handed over to the relatives after the autopsy. Last week, in a similar hit-and-run incident, a man was killed and his friend was severely injured when a speeding SUV crushed them at Versova beach in the early hours of the morning.

The victim was a 36-year-old rickshaw driver who was sleeping on the beach with his friend to escape the heat. The driver of the SUV and his friend were arrested by the police.

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Trinamool vs Trinamool on whether top cop should be probed in Kolkata rape case

Two senior Trinamool Congress leaders, Kunal Ghosh and Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, held different opinions about whether Kolkata's Commissioner of Police Vineet Goyal should be questioned by the CBI in connection with the rape and murder case of a trainee doctor.

New Delhi: Senior Trinamool Congress leader Kunal Ghosh called out fellow party leader Sukhendu Sekhar Ray for demanding the questioning of Kolkata Commissioner of Police in connection with the rape and murder of a trainee doctor.

Ray, a Rajya Sabha MP, demanded strict probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which took over the probe into the rape and murder case from the Kolkata Police. "CBI must act fairly. Custodial interrogation of ex-Principal and Police Commissioner is a must to know who and why floated suicide story. Why wall of hall demolished, who patronised Roy to be so powerful. Why sniffer dog used after 3 days. Hundreds of such questions. Make them speak," Ray said in the tweet.

Ray's remark came as Kolkata's Commissioner of Police Vineet Goyal faces criticism over the police's handling of the case in its nascent stages. While the police claimed they did everything that was expected of them, the Calcutta High Court transferred the probe to the CBI, citing no significant progress in the

police investigation. Besides the Commissioner, Sukhendu Sekhar Ray also referred to Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of state-run RG Kar Medical



and College and Hospital, who had resigned from the post two days after the trainee doctor's body was found on August 9. Ghosh is currently being probed by the CBI. On Ray's comment, Kunal Ghosh said, "I

also demand justice in RG Kar case. But strongly oppose this demand regarding CP. After got information He has tried his best. Personally CP was doing his job and

investigation was in a positive focus. This kind of post is unfortunate, that too from my senior leader (sic). "The role of the city police and the hospital administration was criticised amid huge uproar over the brutal rape and murder of a 31-year-old trainee doctor. The victim's family alleged that the first call they received about their daughter's death mentioned that she had died by suicide

There are also allegations that the renovation near the third-floor seminar hall of the chest department in the emergency building of the hospital was ordered to destroy vital evidence. Notably, the woman's body was found in the seminar hall on August 9.

News box

Ticketless man boards US flight after 'following family', airline probes

World szDelta Air Lines said Friday it is reviewing how a man who allegedly followed a family around the terminal then boarded the family's plane earlier this month without a ticket for the flight. The incident happened at Washington Dulles International Airport.

"Delta has processes in place for gate agents and flight crews to verify that individuals onboard aircraft prior to departure are customers that are booked on that particular flight," the airline said in a statement. "Delta is reviewing the matter in question internally and has been in touch with airport authorities in conjunction with this review." Delta Air Lines said Friday it is reviewing how a man who allegedly followed a family around the terminal then boarded the family's plane earlier this month without a ticket for the flight.

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Swiss flight makes emergency landing in Kazakhstan due to medical incident



Astana, A Boeing 777 aircraft operated by Swiss International Air Lines flying from Tokyo to Zurich made an emergency landing in Kazakhstan on Saturday due to a medical incident onboard, followed by issues after the aircraft landed, the airline said. The Boeing 777-300ER's nose wheel got caught in the grass and was stuck, requiring it to be towed back onto the runway, the airlines said in a statement. The aircraft will be examined for damage and will be a subject of an investigation. Swiss confirmed that none of 319 passengers onboard were injured due to the incident. "We'll defer to the airline for information about their fleet and operations," Boeing said in a statement.

Volcano erupts after 7.2-magnitude earthquake hits Russia's Kamchatka region



Moscow Russia's Shiveluch volcano has erupted, sending an ash column up to 8 kilometres high, following a magnitude-7.2 earthquake that struck off the eastern coast of the country, CNN reported, citing the state-run media outlet TASS. The volcano has released a gush of lava and there were no reports of people injured, according to the reports. A magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck off the east coast of Russia's Kamchatka region at a depth of 51 km (32 miles), according to the European Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC). There were conflicting reports of tsunami warnings. The US National Tsunami Warning Centre said there was a tsunami threat from the quake. However, the Kamchatka branch of Russia's emergency ministry reported that there was no tsunami threat. Russian officials added that the recorded aftershocks from the quake ranged in magnitude from 3.9 to 5.0. According to the US Geological Survey, the earthquake struck 29 kilometres below the surface with its epicentre approximately 102 kilometres east of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, which is a port city with over 181,000 residents, is surrounded by volcanoes and is located across a bay from a key Russian submarine base.

The Shiveluch volcano, which is situated around 450 kilometres from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, is a colossal, perpetually active volcano. Renowned as one of the world's largest and most volatile volcanoes, it has a history of frequent and powerful eruptions. Russian news agency reported that there was no "major damage" in the quake and "buildings are now being examined for potential damage, with special attention paid to social facilities". The US National Weather Service's Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre in Honolulu warned minor sea level fluctuations could occur in some coastal areas near the earthquake site for several hours.

Thai King endorses nation's youngest PM 2 days after being elected

Bangkok. Paetongtarn Shinawatra was endorsed as prime minister by Thailand's king on Sunday, two days after parliament elected her, paving the way for her to form a cabinet in the coming weeks. Paetongtarn, 37, becomes Thailand's youngest prime minister just days after ally Srettha Thavisin was dismissed as premier by the Constitutional Court, a judiciary central to Thailand's two decades of intermittent political turmoil. Daughter of divisive former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Paetongtarn won by nearly two-thirds in a house vote on Friday to become Thailand's second female prime minister and the third Shinawatra to take the office, following Thaksin and her aunt Yingluck Shinawatra. The approval by King Maha Vajiralongkorn, a formality, was read out by House of Representatives Secretary Apat Sukhanand at a ceremony in Bangkok on Sunday. Dressed in official uniform, Paetongtarn knelt in homage to a portrait of the king before giving a short speech thanking the king and the people's representatives for endorsing her as prime minister. "As head of the executive branch, I will do my duty together with the legislators with an open heart," she said. "I will listen to all opinions so together we can take the country forward with stability," she said.

Paetongtarn, who has not served in government previously, faces challenges on



multiple fronts, with the economy floundering and the popularity of her Pheu Thai party dwindling, having yet to deliver on its flagship digital wallet cash handout programme worth 500 billion baht (\$15 billion). After accepting the royal endorsement, Paetongtarn hugged her father Thaksin and other family members.

In her first press conference, Paetongtarn said she will continue with all policies of her predecessor Srettha, including "major" economic stimulus and reform, tackling

illegal drugs, improving the country's universal healthcare system and promoting gender diversity. She said the government will not abandon its flagship digital wallet policy but will seek to "study and listen to additional options" to make sure the scheme is fiscally responsible. The goal is to stimulate the economy so this intention remains," Paetongtarn said. The prime minister said she has no plans to appoint her father Thaksin to any government position but will seek his advice. Paetongtarn said

details of her government policies will be presented to parliament next month. The fall of her predecessor Srettha after less than a year in office is a reminder of the risk for Paetongtarn with Thailand trapped in a tumultuous cycle of coups and court rulings that have disbanded political parties and toppled multiple governments and prime ministers. Also at stake is the legacy and political future of the billionaire Shinawatra family, whose once unstoppable populist juggernaut suffered its first election defeat in over two decades last year and had to make a deal with its bitter enemies in the military to form a government.

The upheaval of recent days indicates a breakdown in a fragile truce struck between Thaksin and his rivals in the royalist establishment, which had enabled the tycoon's dramatic return from 15 years of self-exile in 2023 and ally Srettha to become premier the same day.

More than a week ago, the court that dismissed Srettha over a cabinet appointment dissolved the anti-establishment Move Forward Party - the 2023 election winner - over a campaign to amend a royal insult law that the court said risked undermining the constitutional monarchy. The hugely popular opposition, Pheu Thai's biggest challenger, has since regrouped under a new vehicle, the People's Party.

UK plans to treat extreme misogyny as form of terrorism

World For the first time, the United Kingdom government is planning to treat extreme misogyny as a form of terrorism. The Telegraph reported that UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper has issued an order to review the country's counter-terrorism strategy to address violence against women, identify gaps in the current laws, and study emerging ideologies. This move will put violence against women in the same bracket as far-right extremism. Under the proposal, it would be compulsory for school teachers to refer students they suspect of extreme misogyny to the government's counter-terror program. The local police will assess anyone who is referred to the program to see if they display signs of

radicalisation and need to be deradicalised. Speaking with The Telegraph, Cooper stated, "For too long, governments have failed to address the rise in extremism, both online and on our streets, and we've seen the number of young people radicalised online grow. Hateful incitement of all kinds fractures and frays the very fabric of our communities and our democracy." The Labour MP added, "Action against extremism has been badly hollowed out in recent years, just when it should have been needed most. That's why I have directed the Home Office to conduct a rapid analytical sprint on extremism, to map and monitor extremist trends, to understand the evidence about what works to disrupt and divert people

away from extremist views, and to identify any gaps in existing policy that need to be addressed to crack down on those pushing harmful and hateful beliefs and violence," he stated. This comes after a senior police official warned last month that social media influencers like Andrew Tate could radicalise youth into extreme misogyny in the same way terrorists draw in their followers. Calling it "quite terrifying," Deputy Chief Constable Maggie Blyth stated that the Online Safety Act needs to advance further and that rapid actions should be taken in order to protect children. Earlier last month, the UK's National Police Chiefs' Council released a report on violence against women and girls.

Israeli airstrike targeting Hamas vehicle in West Bank kills two terrorists

Ramallah. Israel said it killed two senior Hamas terrorists in an airstrike on their car in Jenin in the occupied West Bank on Saturday, claiming they were involved in the killing of an Israeli. A joint statement from the Israel Security Agency and the Israel Defence Forces identified the terrorists as Ahmed Abu Ara and Rafet Dawasi, both from the West Bank's northern district around Jenin. In a statement, Hamas' Al-Qassam Brigades military wing said it was mourning the deaths of two fighters in an Israeli air strike on their vehicle in Jenin. The Israeli statement said the two terrorists were involved in planning a shooting attack last week in the West Bank's Jordan Valley where an Israeli man, Yonatan Deutsch, was killed. Israeli authorities said then that Palestinian gunmen opened fire on a main road in the occupied West Bank on Aug. 11, killing one and wounding another. Later that day, the al-Qassam Brigades said its West Bank-based fighters killed an Israeli soldier at point-blank range near the settlement of Meholah in the Jordan Valley and "returned to their bases safely." Hamas said the operation came in retaliation for Israel's strike on a school where displaced Palestinians were sheltering in Gaza City which the civil defence service said had killed at least 90 people. Violence in the West Bank has escalated since the war in Gaza between Israel and Palestinian group Hamas broke out in October, with more Israeli raids, Jewish settler violence and Palestinian street attacks. In a move condemned by the United States, the United Kingdom and France, Israeli settlers killed at least one Palestinian on Thursday in an attack on a village near the West Bank city of Qalqilya. The latest West Bank violence comes as a new round of talks in Doha aimed at ending 10 months of fighting in Gaza are due to resume next week. The Gaza war and escalating West Bank violence threaten to spill into a wider regional conflict involving Iran and its proxies in the region, including Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen.

US man arrested in connection to 1973 murder case based on DNA evidence

Boise An Idaho man has been arrested in connection with the shooting death of a woman in California more than 50 years ago, authorities said. DNA evidence led investigators to identify Michael Eugene Mullen, 75, as a suspect in the death of Nina "Nadine" Fischer in 1973, the Marin County Sheriff's Office said. Mullen was arrested near Salmon, Idaho, on Wednesday, and he is being held in jail while awaiting extradition to California. Mullen's defense attorney, Dan Brown, did not immediately respond to voice and email messages left for him on Saturday. Fischer lived in San Rafael, California, with her husband and young

daughter when the 31-year-old was killed in November 1973, the Marin County Sheriff's office said in a news release. Both Fischer and her husband were Swedish nationals, and they were preparing to move back to Sweden at the time. Fischer's husband found her body when he returned home from work. She had been sexually assaulted and shot three times, and her 2-year-old child was found unharmed in another room. Law enforcement officials questioned some witnesses — including movers and an assessor who had been at the house that day — but the investigation turned up no leads and the case went cold, according to

newspaper articles published after her death. In 2021, the Marin County Sheriff's Office sent the case to the California Department of Justice's Familial Search Program. The program compares DNA from crime scenes to a DNA database in an effort to try to find relatives of a potential suspect. After several months, the DNA resulted in a possible lead, and after three more years of investigation Mullen was identified as the suspect, the sheriff's office said. The Marin County District Attorney's office and sheriff's office worked with the Idaho State Police and the Lemhi County Sheriff's.

85 dead as Sudan paramilitary fighters attack village, authorities allege

The RSF has been repeatedly accused of massacres, rapes and other gross violations across the country since the war started in April last year.

Cairo Fighters from Sudan's paramilitary group rampaged through a central village, looting and burning and killing at least 85 people, including women and children, authorities and residents said on Saturday, the latest atrocity in the country's 18-month devastating conflict.

The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces began attacking Galgani in the central province of Sennar late in July and last week RSF fighters "indiscriminately opened fire on the village's unarmed residents" after they resisted attempts to abduct and sexually assault women and girls, Sudan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. More than 150 villagers were wounded, it said. The RSF has been repeatedly accused of massacres, rapes and other gross violations across the country since the war started in April last year, when simmering tensions between the military and the group exploded into open fighting in the capital Khartoum and elsewhere. Describing the hours-long attack, three residents said hundreds of RSF fighters stormed the village on Thursday, looting and burning houses and public properties.

The offensive came after the residents put up resistance and repelled an attack by a small group of RSF fighters, according to a health care worker at the local medical centre who spoke to The



Associated Press. The group retreated but hundreds of RSF fighters in dozens of pickup trucks with automatic rifles and heavy weapons returned, according to the worker and another resident. As of Friday, the medical centre had received at least 80 bodies, including 24 women and minors, said the worker, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of fears for his safety. Mohamed Tajal-Amin, a villager, said he saw seven bodies — six men and one woman — laying in the street midday Friday.

"The Janjaweed are in the street and people are not able to recover their dead and bury them", he said, using the name of the Arab militias that became synonymous with genocide and war crimes in

Darfur two decades ago and from which the RSF grew out. RSF spokespeople didn't return requests for comment on Saturday. In June, the RSF assaulted Sinnar's provincial capital, Singa, about 350 kilometres (217 miles) southeast of Khartoum. They looted the city's main market and took over its main hospital, forcing thousands of people to flee. The latest attack came as the United States has led efforts to resume peace talks between the military and the RSF. The talks, which are boycotted by the military, began last week in Switzerland. Diplomats from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, the African Union and the United Nations were attending the talks. The RSF sent a delegation to Geneva but didn't take part in the meetings. "The RSF remains here ready for talks to start; SAF needs to decide to come", US Special Envoy for Sudan Tom Perriello posted on X on Friday, using the acronym for Sudan's Armed Forces. The talks were the latest international effort to settle the devastating conflict that killed dozens of thousands of people and pushed the county to the brink of famine. Already famine was confirmed last month in a sprawling camp for displaced people in the western region of Darfur.

Biden to make case against Trump in Chicago convention, Harris likely to join

Joe Biden, who stepped aside from running for re-election a month ago under pressure from fellow Democrats, will give a prime-time address to the convention on Monday night to make the case for electing Harris and defeating former President Donald Trump, the Republican candidate.

Washington Vice President Kamala Harris is likely to join President Joe Biden on stage at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago on Monday as he passes the torch to her as the party's candidate in the November 5 presidential election, sources said on Saturday. Biden, who stepped aside from running for re-election a month ago under pressure from fellow Democrats, will give a



prime-time address to the convention on Monday night to make the case for electing Harris and defeating former President Donald Trump, the Republican candidate. Two sources familiar with

internal deliberations said the campaign has been discussing having Biden and Harris appear on stage together on Monday night and that it was likely to happen. There also have been talks about her appearing before

Biden speaks at the big event. Harris will be coming off a bus tour of western Pennsylvania on Sunday. She will be in Chicago for much of the crucial convention week. She will make a side trip to Milwaukee on Tuesday for a campaign event, returning to Chicago to hear her husband, Doug Emhoff, address the convention that night. Biden, 81, reluctantly abandoned his re-election bid after Democrats raised questions about his mental fitness after a poor debate performance against Trump on June 27. The president told reporters on Friday night that he would spend the weekend fine-tuning his convention speech. His message for the convention? "Win," he said with a smile.

Biden had lost ground to Trump in some polls after the debate and Harris, 59, has made the race a more competitive one in several states where the election is likely to be decided.

NEWS BOX

Nottingham Forests' Danilo suffers horror injury in club's Premier League opener

New Delhi Nottingham Forest midfielder Danilo suffered a broken ankle during their Premier League opener against Bournemouth on August 17, a significant setback for both the player and the team. The incident occurred just 10 minutes into the match at the City Ground when Danilo went up for a header in the center of the pitch. As he landed, he collided awkwardly with Bournemouth forward Antoine Semenyo, leading to the severe injury. The match was immediately halted as the medical staff rushed onto the field to attend to the 23-year-old Brazilian. The severity of the injury was evident, and the team used Forest flags to shield the scene from the crowd. After several minutes of treatment, Danilo was stretchered off the pitch, leaving the team and fans concerned about his recovery. Club manager Nuno Espirito Santo confirmed during the post-match press-conference about the seriousness of Danilo's injury. "It's a tough moment for all, especially for Danilo. We don't know yet what has happened but we know it's serious," Nuno



told Sky Sports. "Since last season he has been talented in the way he manages the game. He is a very good player so it is a tough moment. Everyone loves him in the dressing room," Nuno added.

Danilo joined Nottingham Forest from Brazilian side Palmeiras in January 2023 and quickly established himself as a key player. In his time with the club, he has made 43 appearances, becoming a vital part of the team's midfield. However, this injury could see him sidelined for a significant portion of the season, if not the entire campaign.

The injury marks the first major setback in Danilo's career, and it comes at a time when Nottingham Forest is aiming to make an impact in the Premier League. With Danilo potentially out for the long term, Forest may now need to explore options in the transfer market to find a replacement and strengthen their squad to cope with his absence.

Pat Cummins wants to play cricket in LA 2028: Watching Olympics got us excited

New Delhi, Australia fast bowler Pat Cummins wants to participate in the Los Angeles Olympics, set to be hosted in 2028. LA is set to bring back cricket as a sport for



the first time since 1900, and Cummins is excited to become a part of it. Speaking to Fox Sports, Cummins said that the Australian players were excited to be a part of the Olympics when the action unfolded in Paris, earlier in July and August. "Watching the Olympics, it got us all excited. You want to be part of it right there in the middle. I'd love to be on that side (at LA28). I think I'll be 35 or something, so hopefully still there or thereabouts," Cummins said. "Honestly right now, it feels a long way away. Maybe once we get closer and start building into it, everyone gets a bit more excited," the fast bowler further added. T20I is the only format where Cummins does not captain Australia. The fast bowler has won a hat-trick of ICC trophies with the Australian team, winning the T20 World Cup in 2021 and then ODI World Cup and World Test Championship in 2023. CRICKET'S INCLUSION IN LA OLYMPICS

Cricket is set to make a historic comeback to the Olympic Games after a 128-year absence, with its inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. This significant development marks a major milestone for the sport, which has been steadily gaining popularity globally. The decision to include cricket in the Olympics was made following a comprehensive two-year process, during which the International Cricket Council (ICC) collaborated closely with the Los Angeles 2028 Organising Committee (LA28). The inclusion of cricket in the Olympics is expected to have a profound impact on the sport's global reach and appeal. Cricket enjoys immense popularity in the Asian sub-continent, and its inclusion in the Olympics is anticipated to tap into this lucrative market, boosting India's broadcasting rights for the IOC by over \$100 million. The sport's return to the Olympics is also seen as a significant opportunity to expand its audience and attract new fans, particularly in the United States, where cricket is gaining traction through the success of Major League Cricket.

CA to celebrate 150 years of Test cricket with AUS vs ENG one-off match in 2027

Cricket Australia has announced a special one-off Test between Australia and England in 2027 to celebrate 150 years of Test cricket.

New Delhi Cricket Australia (CA) has announced to host a special Test between Australia and England to commemorate 150 years of Test cricket in 2027. Notably, CA released the men's hosting rights schedule for home Tests till 2031 on Sunday, August 18. While finalizing the schedule, CA revealed the hosting of the special Test between the oldest rivals of the game at the historic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) to celebrate cricket's most respected format. Notably, the first-ever Test match was played from March 15-19 between Australia and England in 1877 at MCG where Australia



emerged victorious by 45 runs. CA CEO Nick Hockley expressed his excitement for the highly anticipated sesquicentenary calling it a wonderful celebration of the pinnacle format. "The 150th anniversary

Test match at the MCG in March 2027 will be a wonderful celebration of the pinnacle format of the game at one of the world's great sporting arenas and we can't wait to host England on that occasion," CA CEO Nick

Hockley told cricket.com.au.

Notably, CA earlier hosted the centenary Test between the two teams held from March 12-17 in 1977. It was a grand occasion at the MCG as every living men's cricketer who had played either Australia or England in an Ashes was invited to watch the game.

CA hosted centenary Test in 1977

In a major coincidence, Greg Chappell's Australia beat Tony Greig's England by 45 runs, the same margin by which Australia had won the maiden Test. Meanwhile, Australia and England will ignite their rivalry down under ahead of the sesquicentenary Test in Ashes 2025-26. Notably, Australia have retained the urn since 2017 with England last holding it in 2015. Furthermore, the Three Lions are yet to win a Test in Australia since 2011 having suffered 0-5, 0-4 and 0-4 series losses in the last three Ashes tours. However, England have given tough competition to Australia at home with their last series loss coming in 2003 against their arch-rivals. The Kangaroos managed to draw the series 2-2 on the last two occasions and hence will be hungry to continue their dominance at home in the upcoming series.

Jaspal Rana blasts NRAI selection policy: 'No system to protect shooters'

Manu Bhaker's coach Jaspal Rana has blasted the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) for its inconsistencies in selection policy. Rana has said that he wants continuity from the NRAI where the shooters are better protected by the system.

New Delhi Double Olympic-medallist shooter Manu Bhaker's coach Jaspal Rana has strongly criticized the National Rifle Association of India's (NRAI) "ever-changing" Olympic selection policy, stating that it has harmed promising talents and will continue to do so if consistency is not maintained. Rana, a pistol legend with three Asiad gold medals, emphasized the need for a fixed policy, highlighting that the current system fails to support shooters and often leads to their decline. Rana pointed out that the selection policy changes every six months, which creates uncertainty and makes it difficult for shooters to prepare. He



suggested that the federation should decide on a policy and stick to it, regardless of whether it is right or wrong. This consistency, he believes, will significantly improve the performance of shooters. "The (federation's) selection policy changes every six months. I met the sports minister and told him 'get the selection policy from the federation. Let them decide... whatever they decide, right or wrong, we are not discussing that, and then stick to it'. You will see the difference (in the performance of shooters)," said the decorated marksman. Rana cited examples of talented shooters like Saurabh Chaudhary and Jitu Rai, who faded away quickly despite their initial success. He also mentioned Arjun Babuta, who finished fourth in Paris and is now struggling to regain his form. Rana questioned why there is no effort to support these shooters and help them regain their

position. The NRAI had amended its selection criteria in 2021, reducing bonus points for quota winners and reintroducing trials.

However, Rana argued that even with these changes, there is no consistency, and the federation's approach remains unclear. He emphasized that Olympic and world medallists need protection and support to continue performing at the highest level.

"Where is (pistol shooter) Saurabh Chaudhary, where is (Asian Games gold medallist pistol shooter) Jitu Rai? Does anybody talk about them? No. Are we talking about (10m air rifle shooter) Arjun Babuta, who finished fourth in Paris? He missed the medal by a fraction," the firebrand 48-year-old asked.

"Nobody is thinking how to get him back on the platform (again)," said Rana, who was allegedly told to leave the Karni Singh ranges by the federation's High Performance Director Pierre Beauchamp during the Paris Olympics Selection Trials. Rana's concerns are particularly relevant for Manu Bhaker, who won two bronze medals in Paris but will have to fight for a place in the national squad once she returns from her break. He advocated for a system that allows Olympic medallists to compete in every trial, ensuring they receive the necessary facilities and support to continue their success.

Rishabh Pant tries his hand at bowling in Delhi Premier League opener



New Delhi Star India wicketkeeper batter Rishabh Pant was spotted bowling in the opening match of the Delhi Premier League between South Delhi Superstarz (SDS) and Purani Dilli 6 (PDL) on Saturday, August 17 at Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi. Captaining Purani Dilli 6, Pant came in to bowl the last over of the match with SDS requiring just one run to win. The wrist-spinner ended up bowling a low full toss which was driven towards long on for a single as SDS won the match by seven wickets after successfully chasing the target of 198 in 19.1 overs. However, fans were happy to have witnessed the rare sight of Pant bowling. Pant has bowled just two overs in his professional career in first-class cricket where he managed to pick one wicket in the two overs he bowled. Apart from that, he's never bowled in international cricket or IPL. The southpaw scored 35 (32) with the bat in the first innings with the help of four fours and a six.

Pant seemed to struggle against the spinners as he failed to maintain a strike rate of 100. However, he managed to break loose in the end with a flurry of boundaries to boost his tally. The India cricketer didn't have a memorable start to DPL as his team lost the match.

Ayush Badoni stars in SDS' win

After being put in to bat first, Purani Dilli 6 posted a huge score of 197/3 in their allotted 20 overs with Arpit Rana (59 off 41), Vansh Bedi (47 off 19) and Lalit Yadav (34* off 21) doing the bulk of the scoring. SDS Captain Ayush Badoni had a good outing with the ball registering figures of 1/27 in four overs. In reply, SDS chased down the target in 19.1 overs courtesy of half-centuries from Priyansh Arya (57 off 30) and Badoni (57 off 29). Sarthak Ray also played a brilliant innings of 41 (26) with the help of four fours and three sixes. Shivam Sharma starred with the ball for PDL picking 2/38 in four overs.

Enzo Maresca says Chelsea ready for 'always changing' Pep Guardiola and City

Chelsea's new head coach Enzo Maresca is ready for the challenge of facing Pep Guardiola's Manchester City in their Premier League opener, acknowledging the tough task ahead while embracing the excitement of starting against the reigning champions.

New Delhi The Premier League 2024-2025 will witness its first big clash of the new season in the highly-anticipated clash between defending champions Manchester City against Chelsea on August 18.



Meanwhile, the new Chelsea boss Enzo Maresca believes that his side is all ready to take on his former colleague Pep Guardiola's tactical genius. Maresca, who once served as Guardiola's assistant at City, had a successful stint with Leicester City, helping them gain promotion last season. Now, he is tasked with revitalising Chelsea, who parted ways with Mauricio Pochettino

ahead of the new season. This match promises to be an exciting contest, as both teams aim to start their campaigns on a strong note. "After eight or nine years together, you can do so many different things. Pep is not a manager that is always doing the same, he is always changing. For us, it will be exactly the same. It will be a tough game but exciting to start against the champions," Maresca said. at the pre-match press-conference. City, under the leadership of Guardiola, are chasing an unprecedented fifth consecutive Premier League title, while Chelsea are looking to find consistency after a turbulent season. With Manchester United and Liverpool already securing wins in their opening matches, the pressure is on both City and Chelsea to perform.

Kamran Akmal bashes PCB for 'international mockery' due to no crowd in Karachi Test

Former Pakistan cricketer Kamran Akmal has lashed out at the PCB for hosting the second Test between Pakistan and Bangladesh in Karachi despite the ongoing construction work at the stadium.

New Delhi Former Pakistan cricketer Kamran Akmal has lashed out at Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for hosting the second Test against Bangladesh at National Bank Stadium in Karachi. Notably, due to the ongoing construction work at the stadium as

part of the preparations for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, the PCB has not allowed the crowd the game. However, the decision hasn't gone down well with Akmal who called it a joke for Pakistan cricket that matches are played without any crowd. The former wicketkeeper-batter said that the board could've arranged the game in some other stadium as Pakistan have many options. "The second Test match will be played in Karachi. So I think you know that there is a renovation going on in Karachi. They are preparing a stadium for the Champions Trophy. So it will be a joke for Pakistan that Test matches are being played in Pakistan without a crowd. And we don't just have 2-3 stadiums; we also have Faisalabad Stadium. We could have played there too; it is a top-class stadium. So much cricket has happened there," Kamran said in a video uploaded from his YouTube



channel. Further speaking ahead, Akmal suggested that Multan stadium would've been a good option calling PCB's decision an international mockery of their cricket. Pakistan's unbeaten record over Bangladesh "There is a stadium in Multan. And you know that Multan Stadium is very good. And the crowd also comes there. So you know that

this is your stadium; you could have put another Test match at one of these two venues. So it would have been good. So I think it will be an international mockery of our cricket. These things should not happen," he added. Meanwhile, Pakistan will take on Bangladesh in the first Test beginning from August 21 at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi. Bangladesh arrived in Pakistan four days in advance to prepare for the series due to the ongoing political turmoil in their country. Notably, Pakistan have an unbeaten record over Bangladesh having beaten them in 12 out of the 13 matches played between the two teams. Hence, the Shan Masood-led side will be eager to continue their dominant record in the upcoming series as well.



Tara Sutaria

Confirmed For Yash's Toxic? Photo From Set Viral After She DENIED Co-starring With Kiara Advani

Tara Sutaria's team has seemingly confirmed that the actress has been roped in for Yash's Toxic. Although the actress had earlier dismissed reports of playing the 'second love interest' in the film, her hairstylist's recent Instagram post can be seen as a nod that she is, in fact, a part of the film. Eagle-eyed fans noticed that her hairstylist had shared a story on Instagram with Bangalore as the location. The two hashtags in the photo read "toxic" and "team Tara". A screenshot of the same was shared on Reddit and the post immediately went viral on the microblogging site. While the authenticity of the photo cannot be verified (at the time of publishing this article), it is being seen as a confirmation by Tara and Yash's fans.



For the unversed, several reports had earlier claimed that Tara Sutaria has been roped in to play Yash's love interest in his highly anticipated film Toxic. Taking to her Instagram story, Tara wrote, "Hello all! The articles released over the last few days about a project and I are false and not shared by me." The actress added, "Whenever there is something to share, I will share it with all of you! My love always. PS - Nobody is second to anyone."

According to an earlier report by Peeping Moon, Tara will play one of the two love interests of Yash in the upcoming film Toxic, with Kiara Advani cast as the other. The high-octane, multi-lingual film boasts an impressive ensemble cast, including Nayanthara as Yash's sister and Huma Qureshi in a negative role. Set against the dark backdrop of the drug mafia, Toxic will feature Yash in a gritty gangster avatar, promising an intense cinematic experience. The makers have not revealed the information about the additional cast members yet. The fans of the actor have been waiting for updates regarding the shooting schedules of the movie. The wait is now over. As per reports, the first shooting schedule of the movie is set to begin in the second week of April. The makers have not announced this officially yet.

Rhea Kapoor Supports Blake Lively Amid Criticism Over It Ends With Us Promotional Campaign



Blake Lively, following her latest release It Ends With Us, has hogged the limelight for all the wrong reasons. The actress is facing criticism for her 'tone-deaf' promotional strategy for the film which is an adaptation of Colleen Hoover's bestselling novel. As fans call out Blake for her 'insensitivity' to belittle the issue of domestic violence that her film addresses, producer Rhea Kapoor came out in her support. She dropped a comment on Blake's Instagram, addressing the criticism around her promotional campaigning. Rhea Kapoor wrote, "The commentary on the marketing of the film is so sad. More power to Blake, Colleen and the producers for promoting the crap out of this movie. As a filmmaker, we know how difficult it is to bring real women's stories into the mainstream and share them with as many people as possible. Celebrate women that we see everyday that have been through this and come out stronger and embrace their light. Normalise telling their stories instead of throwing them into a box."

Further, Rhea Kapoor also called out those criticising Blake Lively for wearing 'pretty dresses' during the promotions of a film that addresses a serious issue of domestic violence. She added, "You want to shame the actress for wearing pretty dresses for the press tour instead? What was she supposed to do? Hide at home in sweats? a great way to ensure even fewer of these stories are told. And so what if she promoted her brand she's a business woman and she's doing press god how judgmental. Are. We." To give you some context, Blake Lively's promotional approach for her recently released film It Ends With Us has not sat down well with the netizens.

A Sneak Peek Into Yash And Radhika Pandit's Varamahalakshmi Puja With Kids



KGF star Yash and his wife Radhika Pandit have been married for seven years now. The couple continues to celebrate their union through posts dedicated to each other on various occasions. Often documenting special occasions on Instagram, Radhika shared a new post on Saturday, featuring a few glimpses from her Varamahalakshmi puja with family. Apart from Yash and Radhika, the picture also featured Ayra and Yatharv taking part in the festivities at their residence. As seen in the pictures, Yash and Radhika Pandit's house was beautifully decorated with flowers, with an idol of Goddess Lakshmi placed in the living area. Radhika, for the puja, wore a mauve traditional silk saree adorned with golden patterns. With a gold necklace and earrings, she elevated her look. Yash, on the other hand, was dressed in a classic white dhoti and shirt. The pictures captured the couple offering prayers with both their cute kids.

Captioning the images, Radhika Pandit wrote, "A day filled with devotion, gratitude, and family. May the blessings of the Goddess fill your lives with joy and prosperity. Happy Varamahalakshmi to you all."

Earlier this year, Yash and Radhika Pandit celebrated a milestone in their relationship as they completed eight years of being engaged to each other. Seizing the opportunity, Radhika made sure to express her love for her husband through a short yet striking note. Sharing a bunch of throwback pictures on the photo-sharing application, she wrote, "8 years ago on this day, when we got engaged, I knew I would choose you in every lifetime." Radhika Pandit and Yash met each other on the sets of TV show Nandagokula. Their on-screen chemistry soon evolved into a real-life romance which only intensified during the filming for back to back projects together. In 2016, the couple decided to get married. Now, they are proud parents to two children. Work-wise, Yash is busy filming for his upcoming film Toxic. A few days back, the actor unveiled his look for the new role wherein he is seen flaunting his short hair and a beard.

Rasika Dugal

Reveals She Is 'Tired Of Crying On Screen', Credits OTT For Career Boost

Rasika Dugal, known for her pathbreaking performances in shows such as Mirzapur and Delhi Crime, recently said that she is tired of crying on camera, with or without glycerine. She said that there was a time when she could read a script backwards and it would at least have two crying scenes in the last 10 minutes. The candid comments came during an interview with The Indian Express where the actor shared how OTT has added a variety to the roles offered to her. Rasika has carved a niche for herself in the Indian film industry, especially in the digital entertainment space. Talking to the publication, Rasika mentioned how OTT has acted as a driving force in her acting career and helped her find nuanced work where she could play a femme fatale (such as in Mirzapur) instead of the same overly emotional roles.

Moreover, she said it was due to streaming services that much of her work reached a larger audience. "Streaming services provided a new lease on life for me because many of my films had not received the recognition they deserved. There were numerous small films. Besides the fact that I got a lot of work, shows like Mirzapur allowed me to reach a large audience. This is when I realized that streaming services can help smaller films find an audience," Rasika noted.

However, the actor maintained that although much better than before, small-budget cinema still struggles to find its due on streaming platforms. Moreover, the emergence of OTT has supported new actors and directors but at the same time, not all content on OTT is good. "Time has changed again and smaller films are struggling to find an audience on digital platforms. It is not true that all the shows being made for OTT are of good quality. But there is enough work and enough room for newness, new talent, new directors, new script ideas, all of that, so that's good," the actress added.

