



Teja Sajja thanks fans and industry at 'Mirai' blockbuster meet

After opening to strong collections at the box office, *Mirai* celebrated its success with a grand blockbuster meet in Hyderabad. Lead actor Teja Sajja expressed heartfelt gratitude to audiences, media, and the entire team for making the film a resounding hit.

Teja began his speech by thanking moviegoers for their overwhelming love. "I am forever indebted to audiences. *Mirai* wouldn't have been possible without Karthik and TG Vishwa Prasad Garu. When the project began, many questioned why I was working with Karthik, considering his previous film didn't succeed. But TG Vishwa Prasad Garu stood by us with emotional support, which helped us deliver big," he said.



The actor also highlighted the camaraderie he built with his director and producer. "It went beyond professional collaboration and turned into a personal bond. Manoj Garu's presence elevated *Mirai* to the next level. I also thank Ritika for traveling with

this project for two years. Music director Gowra Hari owned the film and gave it so much time and passion. Special thanks to Shriya Garu, Jagapathi Babu Garu, and all our artists," he added.

Teja further acknowledged the unwavering support of

industry stalwarts. "Rana Garu has stood by every one of my films. Hindi promotions of *HanuMan* and *Mirai* happened only because of him. Prabhas Garu, with his golden heart, always encourages young talent, and I'm grateful for his support. I also thank Karan Johar

Garu, Mythri Sasi Garu, and all our distributors for their belief in this film."

With *Mirai* turning into a blockbuster, Teja Sajja's emotional speech reflected both his gratitude and the collective effort of the team that made the film a success.



Samantha opens up about success, detachment, and finding happiness beyond stardom

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu, once one of the busiest and most sought-after stars in Tollywood, has taken a step back from the constant hustle of cinema. The actress, who was once in demand with back-to-back films and a packed calendar, admits that she has now come to terms with her reduced presence in films and the absence of a much-discussed Rs 1000 crore blockbuster in her career.

Speaking at the Leadership Conclave organized by AIMA, Samantha candidly reflected on her journey in the industry and how her perspective on success has evolved. She recalled a time when she was juggling five films simultaneously, all of which released in

the same year. "Back then, success meant having five releases, a big blockbuster, and a spot in the top ten actors list," she said.

However, Samantha revealed that she is now in a different phase of life. "Today, I haven't had a film release in two years, and I am not on any lists. I don't have a 1000-crore film, but I am the happiest I have ever been," she shared, emphasizing that she no longer feels the pressure of competing or meeting industry-defined benchmarks of success.

The Ye Maya Chesave actress also spoke about the fleeting nature of stardom. She noted that the shelf life of actors is short, and beyond hard work, factors like destiny and grace often determine the trajectory of a star's career. "It

was very important for me to realize that I wanted to create an impact larger than my shelf life as an actor," Samantha explained, hinting at her desire to explore meaningful ventures beyond films. Though she once dominated Tollywood and enjoyed the top spot among her peers, Samantha acknowledges that she is no longer the first choice for big projects with top stars and producers. Still, her body of work and her talent as a performer continue to resonate with fans. On the professional front, Samantha will next be seen in a film directed by Nandini Reddy, marking her return to the silver screen. While her career path may look different now, the actress is embracing this new chapter with contentment and purpose.

SDT urges collective action against child abuse



Hyderabad witnessed a powerful gathering on Saturday as the Abhayam Masoom Summit 2025 brought together young professionals from over 70 cities to raise awareness against child sexual abuse. Organized by Young Indians (Yi) under the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in collaboration with Bharat Rising, the summit featured discussions on protecting children both online and offline.

Prominent personalities

including Supreme Hero Sai Durga Tej, Minister Seethakka, Yi Co-Chairman Bhavin Pandya, National Chairman Tarang Khurana, CII Telangana Chairman Siva Prasad Reddy, and Jyotsna Singh participated in the event. Speaking passionately, Sai Durga Tej said, "We need to protect our children ourselves. Today, children are being abused on social media. People make inappropriate comments and laugh at them. That is not the society we should

build." Sharing personal insights, Tej highlighted the importance of parental involvement, recalling his upbringing and work with NGOs like Think Peace to promote child education in Araku.

He stressed that children must be taught about good touch and bad touch at home and in school, and families should prioritize regular quality time together despite the digital distractions of today's world. He also suggested

measures to enhance accountability online, such as linking children's social media accounts to parents' phones or Aadhaar cards. "Children are impressionable. Unlike celebrities, they cannot ignore negative comments. We must protect them from harmful content," he added.

The summit concluded with a strong call for collective responsibility, urging parents, educators, and society at large to actively safeguard children in both the real and digital worlds.



'Parasakthi' locks Pongal 2026 release date

After the lukewarm response to *Madharasi*, Sivakarthikeyan is gearing up for his next big theatrical outing with *Parasakthi*, directed by Sudha Kongara. The much-anticipated film will hit the big screens on January 14, 2026, coinciding with the Pongal festival. Featuring Sreeleela as the female lead, *Parasakthi* will have a pan-South release in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam. The film's arrival comes just five days after Vijay's *Jana Nayagan*, setting the stage for a massive festive clash at the box office.

Set in the 1960s, the movie explores the anti-Hindi imposition movement in Tamil Nadu, a

politically charged period in the state's history. Sivakarthikeyan plays a pivotal role in this socio-political drama, while Ravi Mohan has been roped in as the antagonist.

The supporting cast includes Rana Daggubati, Atharvaa, and Basil Joseph, adding more weight to the project. Backed by Aakash Baskaran under the Dawn Pictures banner, the film features music by G.V. Prakash Kumar, promising a powerful soundtrack to complement the narrative.

With Sudha Kongara's storytelling, a strong ensemble, and a release timed for Pongal festivities, *Parasakthi* is already one of the most awaited films of 2026.

Saba Azad: Acting is about empathy, not shared experiences

Actress Saba Azad, who stars in *Bandar* (Monkey in a Cage), believes that stepping into morally challenging roles requires empathy above all. Speaking about her character Khushi, she said:

"Acting isn't about having lived the same experiences as the characters we play, it's about empathising with them, no matter how morally ambiguous their situation is. I did my best to empathise with Khushi."

The film, directed by Anurag Kashyap and produced by Nikhil Dwivedi, was showcased in the Special Presentations section at the 50th Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). According to Saba, *Bandar* is a film that cannot be ignored. "Kashyap's films always stay with you long after you leave the cinema. This one will stir conversations and evoke contradictory emotions — you may like it, you may hate it, but you won't be able to ignore it," she said. *Bandar* delves into themes of power, trauma, and memory, centering on a superstar accused of rape and exposing cracks within the legal system. Sharing her approach to such layered storytelling, Saba noted, "It's like any other script — approached with curiosity and honesty."

The film also stars Bobby Deol, Sanya Malhotra, and Sapna Pabbi. Speaking about Bobby, Saba praised him as a "generous co-actor," adding, "He is so vulnerable in the film. It was wonderful working with him."



KJo drops cryptic note on handling negativity

Filmmaker Karan Johar has once again left fans intrigued with a reflective social media update. On Thursday, the 53-year-old director shared a series of slides on Instagram, addressing themes of self-worth, toxic people, and personal growth.

His post carried sharp reminders about valuing oneself and staying away from negativity. One slide

declared, "Rule #1: Fck what they think," while another pointed out, "Sometimes your value isn't seen until your absence is felt." Johar further noted, "Ignoring toxic people is self-care," and encouraged followers to "choose people that choose you."

Other motivational thoughts included: "You can't do big things if you are distracted by small things" and "Once you stop looking, things find you." He concluded with a powerful note: "There are people that will never support you because it's you. Then there are people that will always support you because it's you. You just have to find your people."



Captioning the post, he wrote: "Thoughts I resonate with... #foodforthought #khyalonkacaravan."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Johar is readying his next production *Sunny Sanskari* Ki Tulsi Kumari, a rom-com starring Varun Dhawan and Janhvi Kapoor, releasing on October 2, 2025.

Randeep Hooda pays tribute to the heroes of the battle of Saragarhi

It has been 128 years since the legendary Battle of Saragarhi, where 21 Sikh soldiers of the 36th Sikh Regiment made the ultimate sacrifice while defending a remote communication outpost against a massive onslaught of 10,000 to 14,000 Afghan tribesmen. Marking the historic day on Friday, actor Randeep Hooda remembered the brave martyrs with a heartfelt tribute on social media.

Hooda, who once prepared to play Havildar Ishar Singh in a shelved film project based on the epic battle, reflected on the extraordinary courage of the Sikh soldiers. Sharing his sentiments on Instagram, he wrote: "A dream I missed sharing with the world! The #BattleOfSaragarhi fought by 21 Sikh soldiers under Hav Ishar Singh of 4 SIKH (then XXXVI SIKH) in September 1897 remains a legendary saga of courage

and sacrifice."

The actor highlighted how the soldiers, stationed at 6,000 feet in the North-West Frontier Province (now in Pakistan), held their post against overwhelming odds. "These soldiers held their ground against thousands of Pathan attackers and all were awarded with the Indian Order of Merit. Recognised by UNESCO as one of the eight most heroic battles in history, their bravery epitomised the concept of 'Last Man, Last Round,'" he added.

Remembering the unflinching spirit of the martyrs, Hooda continued, "On 12th Sep 1897, these 22 men stood firm until their final moments, defending their post with unmatched valour. Their story continues to inspire and motivate all of us today."

He concluded his tribute by saluting the regiment: "Our deepest homage to the fallen heroes and heartfelt congratulations to 4 SIKH on their 128th Saragarhi Day. May Waheguru Ji bless the battalion, and may they continue to grow from strength to strength."

