WAY TO NEWS

PRGI No: TGENG/26/A6521

ENGLISH DAILY

Telangana | Vol: 01 | Issue:46 | Sunday 21 October 2026 | Editor: Lingala Narender | Price:1/- | Pages: 8

TG to Unveil Aerospace and Defence Policy 2.0 Soon: Revanth Reddy



Hyderabad, Oct 24 (Way to News): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has called upon defence industry leaders and entrepreneurs to strengthen their investments in Telangana and work towards making India a global leader in defence manufacturing and technology. He announced that the state government would soon unveil its Aerospace and Defence Policy 2.0, aligned with the Telangana Rising 2047 vision.

The Chief Minister was speaking at the Raksha Expo 2026 curtain-raiser event held at Taj Falaknuma Palace in Hyderabad as part of the Invest Telangana Global Summit initiative. On the occasion, he unveiled the official logo of Raksha Expo 2026 and outlined the state's plans to establish Telangana as a major industrial hub for the country's defence sector.

Revanth Reddy said India must move beyond importing defence technology and focus on achieving self-reliance while emerging as a major exporter of advanced defence equipment and technologies. He urged industry representatives to double their proposed investments in Telangana and assured them of the government's support in addressing their requirements.

"Telangana should emerge as the largest industrial hub for India's defence sector," the Chief Minister said, calling for greater collaboration in defence, aerospace, space technology, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and drone manufacturing. He stressed that innovation and advanced technologies would play a crucial role in strengthening India's defence capabilities.

Referring to the Telangana Rising 2047 vision document, Revanth Reddy said the state aimed to become a $1 trillion economy by 2034 and a $3 trillion economy by 2047. Telangana currently accounts for more than 2.5 per cent of India's population and around 5 per cent of its GDP. The government aims to increase the state's contribution to 10 per cent by 2047, he added. The Chief Minister said defence manufacturing, aerospace and allied industries would be instrumental in achieving these economic targets. He described Raksha Expo as an important platform for bringing together industry leaders, researchers, manufacturers and technology innovators to explore new opportunities and strengthen partnerships.

Continued on Page 2

'Deal with inimical elements firmly', directs Amit Shah while reviewing Delhi Security



New Delhi, Oct 24 (Way to News): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday chaired a high-level security review meeting at the Delhi Police headquarters and directed security agencies to deal with any inimical elements firmly ahead of INDIA Bloc's protest call on November 1.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Intelligence Bureau chief Mahesh Dixit, and top officials of the Home Ministry and Delhi Police attended the meeting. The discussions focused on the overall law-and-order situation in the national capital and preparedness for the coming days.

Sources said HM Shah appreciated the Delhi Police for effectively managing recent protests and marches without allowing the situation to deteriorate. He made it clear that no one has the right to disrupt law and order, and directed that any such elements would be dealt with firmly. The Home Minister instructed the police to increase patrolling in sensitive areas and ensure the safety of women, elderly persons and children at public places.

He also called for greater use of CCTV cameras and artificial intelligence to keep a watch on suspicious individuals.

Special attention was ordered at all entry points to the capital to prevent anti-social elements from entering the city. More than 250 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), including CRPF, BSF, ITBP, SSB, CISF and RAF units, have already been deployed in Delhi.

The deployment, which includes women personnel, has been extended till October 31 and can be prolonged further based on the security assessment.

Meanwhile, the opposition has announced a mock parliamentary session on October 30 focusing on a proposal to impeach Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, followed by a large march to Ramleela Maidan on November 1. However, several trade organisations in Delhi, including the Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI), have demanded the postponement of a rally proposed by the Congress and the INDIA bloc for November 1st. In this regard, Delhi's traders have written to the Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, requesting that the rally be held after November 10th.

Neha refuses peace bond, asked to reply by Oct 29



New Delhi, Oct 24 (Way to News): Neha Bora, AISA president, on Saturday reiterated that she would not furnish a peace bond sought by the Delhi Police, even as the preventive proceedings against her moved to the next stage with the police handing over documents supporting their case.

Bora appeared before the Special Executive Magistrate (SEM) at the Mandir Marg police station, a day after the Delhi High Court dismissed her challenge to the police notice. Her lawyer was provided with the documents cited by the police to support their claim that there was a likelihood of a breach of peace. She has been given time until October 29 to file her response.

"We don't have any conditions. We are not going to sign the bond," Bora said.

Advocate Abhik Chimni, speaking to The Tribune, said, "The defence will examine the material before responding at the next hearing." "The High Court has dismissed the challenge to the show-cause notice. However, it has laid down important parameters, stating that all material relied upon to suggest a possible breach of peace must be provided to us. Today, we showed the High Court judgment to the SEM, who gave us all the documents. We will examine them before the next hearing," Chimni added.

"The court's findings are important as they uphold the right of persons facing such proceedings to know the allegations against them and have a reasoned opportunity to reply," he added.

Centre trying to stop tirath scheme: Kejriwal



New Delhi, Oct 24 (Way to News): The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday attacked the Narendra Modi-led Centre after the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) inspected buses ferrying elderly pilgrims under the Punjab Government's Mukh Mantri Tirath Yatra Scheme. AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal alleged an attempt was being made to obstruct the Bhagwant Mann government's pilgrimage scheme for senior citizens. He asked why the rights body had inspected pilgrimage buses for the first time and whether similar checks had ever been carried out on state-run buses elsewhere in the country.

The NHRC, however, refuted the political bias claims, citing passenger safety standards set by the Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT). It said it took note of complaints alleging safety violations in sleeper buses deployed by the state. In a post on X, Kejriwal said, "The NHRC has inspected buses for the first time in its history. Which buses? The super deluxe buses taking people from Punjab on tirath yatra." Referring to the NHRC's observations, he said, "What shortcomings did it find? Questions such as why there is a partition between the driver and passengers. Did the NHRC inspect UP roadways buses? No. Did it inspect buses operated by any other state's roadways? No."

Defence Secretary gets 1-year extension

New Delhi, Oct 24 (Way to News): The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on Saturday approved the extension in service for Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh for a year beyond October 31 this year. Singh will continue as Defence Secretary till October 31, 2027, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Singh's extension fits into a clear pattern of administrative continuity under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has preferred to grant extensions to key officials. Singh, who assumed charge as Defence Secretary in November 2024, is a 1989-batch IAS officer of the Kerala cadre. Recently, DG, Information, Government of India, Dhirendra Ojha, was also granted a one-year extension. In August, the government had extended Cabinet Secretary TV Somanathan's tenure by one year beyond August 30, 2026, and Home Secretary Govind Mohan was given a year's extension up to August 22, 2027.

Farooq credits Pak with keeping K-issue alive; seditious, says BJP



Jammu, Oct 24 (Way to News): Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah triggered a political controversy on Saturday by saying India's neighbour was "protecting" the people of the Valley by keeping the Kashmir issue alive on the global stage. The BJP termed his remarks "seditious" and demanded an apology to the people of the country.

Speaking at an NC event in north Kashmir's Baramulla, Abdullah accused New Delhi of not doing "justice" to Jammu and Kashmir. "What hope will you (people of J-K) have from them (Delhi)? Will you expect that they will do justice to you?" Abdullah said in his address.

Without naming Pakistan, the NC chief said "our neighbour is constantly after them (India) and they (New Delhi) are silent today because of the pressure from the world". "Our neighbour… is reaching everywhere, saying that the Kashmir issue has not been resolved. It is protecting us; otherwise, their (New Delhi's) intentions are not good," Abdullah remarked.

Urging people to "have the courage to stand up to them and fight", Abdullah said, "If you don't keep it, you will be wiped out.... Your name and identity will disappear, and no one will even remember you."

Senior BJP leader and J&K spokesperson Altaf Thakur described Abdullah's remarks as "seditious and anti-national" and asked the authorities to "examine" his statements and initiate legal action. "Abdullah should be booked for making such pro-Pakistan statements. A leader who has taken an oath under the Constitution cannot be allowed to question the country's intentions towards its own people while giving political legitimacy to Pakistan's narrative," he said.

Abdullah accused Delhi of saying one thing, "but doing something entirely different".



WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

TG to Unveil Aerospace and Defence Policy 2.0 Soon: Revanth Reddy

FROM PAGE 1



Highlighting the changing nature of modern warfare, Revanth Reddy said drones, robotics and artificial intelligence-powered systems would significantly transform future battlefields. He emphasised the need to encourage cutting-edge research, technological innovation and collaboration between public and private sector organisations.

He noted that Hyderabad occupied a strategic position in India's defence ecosystem, with several prominent research institutions and defence establishments located in the city. Telangana also provides important services to the Indian Navy, while a Very Low Frequency naval radar station is being constructed in the Damagundam Reserve Forest area of Vikarabad district.

The event witnessed participation from leading defence, aerospace and space-sector organisations, including DRDO, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bharat Dynamics Limited, Mishra Dhatu Nigam, Tata Group, Airbus, Safran, Lockheed Martin, Bharat Forge, Skyroot and Dhruva Space.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, Telangana DGP C.V. Anand, US Consul General in Hyderabad Laura Williams, former DRDO chairman Dr. D. Satheesh Reddy and several senior officials and industry representatives attended the programme. The Chief Minister also invited delegates to participate in the second edition of the Invest Telangana Global Summit, scheduled to be held from December 7 to 9 at Bharat Future City in Hyderabad. He expressed confidence that the summit and Raksha Expo would strengthen Telangana's position as a preferred destination for defence and advanced technology investments.

Ponguleti Assures House Sites for Journalists

Hyderabad, Oct 24 (Way to News): Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has assured journalists that the state government is committed to addressing their long-pending demand for house sites and will take steps to allot plots in suitable residential locations without legal complications.



In a statement issued on Saturday, the minister said the government was preparing a comprehensive action plan to fulfil the housing aspirations of journalists who have been waiting for a permanent solution to the issue for a long time. He emphasised that the proposed house sites would be located in habitable areas, enabling journalists to settle down with their families and lead a dignified life. Ponguleti acknowledged the difficulties faced during previous attempts to allot housing plots to journalists. He said the government was keen to avoid a recurrence of such problems, particularly legal hurdles that had affected earlier efforts. The government was examining the issue carefully to ensure that the proposed allotments could be implemented smoothly.

The minister said the matter had been discussed in consultation with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and other ministers. The government was working towards a permanent and practical solution to address the housing concerns of journalists, he added. Housing has remained a long-standing demand of journalists across Telangana, with many seeking suitable residential plots to secure accommodation for their families. The minister's assurance has renewed expectations among members of the journalist community that concrete steps will be taken to resolve the issue.

Ponguleti urged journalists not to be apprehensive about the delay and reiterated that the government would make efforts to fulfil their demand.

"Telangana Against SIR" Protest Rescheduled to October 25 at Indira Park

Hyderabad, Oct 24 (Way to News): The "Telangana Against SIR" protest in Hyderabad has been rescheduled to Sunday, October 25, 2026, at 2 pm at Indira Park. The organisers announced the revised schedule and appealed to people concerned about electoral rights and democratic values to participate in the demonstration.



The protest is being organised under the banner of "People Against SIR" to express opposition to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The campaign seeks to highlight concerns over the electoral roll revision process and emphasise the importance of protecting every eligible citizen's right to vote.

The demonstration will be held under the slogans "My Vote, My Right" and "Save Democracy, Save Our Vote." Through the protest, the organisers aim to bring public attention to issues surrounding voter inclusion, electoral transparency and the protection of democratic rights.

Indira Park, a prominent venue for public meetings and demonstrations in Hyderabad, has been selected as the venue for the programme. Participants are expected to assemble at 2 pm to express their views on the SIR process and call for the protection of voting rights. The organisers stated that the programme had been rescheduled and expressed regret for the inconvenience caused to participants due to the change in date. They requested those planning to attend to take note of the revised schedule and reach the venue accordingly.

2BHK house allotment letters distributed to eligible beneficiaries in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Oct 24 (Way to News): Transport and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar distributed allotment letters for double-bedroom (2BHK) houses to beneficiaries from the Bahadurpura and Karwan Assembly constituencies at the Hyderabad Collectorate.



The programme marked an important step in extending housing support to eligible beneficiaries under the state government's double-bedroom housing scheme. The allotment letters will enable the selected beneficiaries to move forward with the process of securing their allotted houses and provide greater housing security for their families.

During the programme, Unique Disability ID (UDID) cards and relevant certificates were also distributed to conjoined twins Veena and Vani, along with children from orphanages. The initiative highlighted the importance of ensuring access to government welfare benefits and official documentation for persons with disabilities and children requiring institutional care.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar emphasised the importance of welfare initiatives aimed at supporting eligible families and vulnerable sections of society. The distribution of housing allotment letters and disability-related identification documents reflected the government's efforts to facilitate access to welfare schemes and essential services. The programme was attended by Bahadurpura MLA Kausar Mohiuddin, Karwan MLA Mohammed Mubeen, Hyderabad District Collector Dr. Priyanka Ala, and other public representatives, leaders and officials. The event brought together elected representatives and district officials to facilitate the distribution of welfare benefits to beneficiaries from different sections of society.

CTI URGES RAHUL TO DEFER INDIA RALLY, CITES RS 10,000 CR TRADE RISK

Hyderabad, Oct 24 (Way to News): The Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) has urged Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to postpone the INDIA bloc's proposed rally at Ramlila Maidan in Delhi on November 1 until after November 10, warning that the event could disrupt business worth approximately 10,000 crore during the peak Diwali shopping season.

The traders' body expressed concern that the rally could affect commercial activities in the national capital at a crucial time for retailers, wholesalers and other businesses preparing for the festive shopping rush.

According to the CTI, disruptions associated with the rally could affect the movement of customers, goods and commercial vehicles, potentially causing significant losses to traders during the busy festive period.

The organisation has appealed to Rahul Gandhi to consider rescheduling the event to avoid inconveniencing the trading community and minimise the potential economic impact.

The proposed rally comes amid heightened political activity by the opposition INDIA bloc. However, the CTI has stressed the importance of balancing political programmes with the economic interests of traders during the festive season.

The CTI also pointed out that the festive season is a critical period for Delhi's trading community, with businesses relying on increased customer footfall to boost sales and recover investments. It urged the authorities and rally organisers to take into account the potential impact on traffic movement.

AIR QUALITY DETERIORATES IN HYDERABAD, AQI REACHES 189 IN BALAPUR

Hyderabad, Oct 24 (Way to News): Air quality in Hyderabad is deteriorating once again, with an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 189 recorded in Sri Venkateswara Colony, Balapur, raising concerns over increasing air pollution in the city. An AQI of 189 falls under the 'Moderate' category on India's National AQI scale, indicating that air pollution may cause breathing discomfort to people with asthma, lung or heart diseases, children and older adults.

The rising pollution levels highlight the need for increased monitoring and effective measures to control emissions and improve air quality. Residents, particularly those belonging to vulnerable groups, are advised to limit prolonged or strenuous outdoor activities if they experience breathing difficulties.

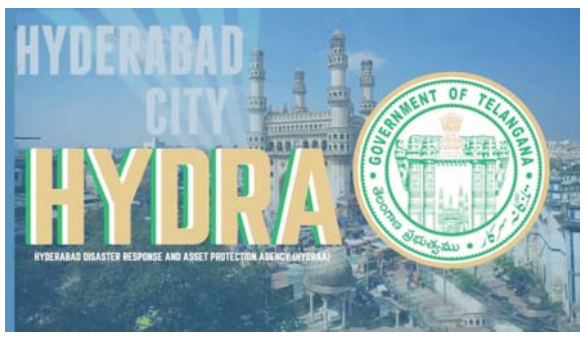
Authorities and citizens must work together to address pollution sources and safeguard public health.

Experts point out that vehicle emissions, construction dust, road dust and emissions from industrial activities can contribute to deteriorating air quality in urban areas. Increased traffic congestion and ongoing construction work may further aggravate pollution levels, particularly in densely populated neighbourhoods. Regular monitoring of pollution hotspots is therefore essential to identify major sources and take timely corrective measures.

Health experts advise people with asthma, respiratory illnesses and heart conditions to remain cautious when pollution levels rise. Children and older adults should also avoid prolonged exposure to polluted air, especially near busy roads and construction sites.

HYDRAA launches major operation against illegal water extraction near sunnam pond

Hyderabad, Oct 24 (Way to News): The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has launched a major operation against alleged illegal water extraction through unauthorised borewells in residential properties surrounding Sunnam Pond in Hyderabad.



During the operation, HYDRAA officials targeted bore pipes extending from houses near the pond and took action against suspected unauthorised groundwater extraction activities. The operation was conducted in coordination with Revenue and municipal officials to examine alleged violations and prevent the continued misuse of groundwater resources. According to officials, illegal water extraction activities in the surrounding area have reportedly continued for decades. The authorities are examining the arrangements through which water is being pumped from borewells located on residential premises near the pond. The operation aims to curb unauthorised groundwater extraction and ensure compliance with applicable regulations in the vicinity of Sunnam Pond. Officials are also examining the role of residential properties allegedly involved in extracting and supplying water without the required permissions.

The coordinated action involving HYDRAA, Revenue and municipal departments is part of efforts to address alleged irregularities around the water body and protect local water resources.

MBT questions proposed renaming of Basheer Bagh X Road as 'Sree Ram Chowk

Hyderabad, Oct 24 (Way to News): Majlis Bachao Tehreek (MBT) spokesperson Amjed Ullah Khan has questioned the reported proposal to rename Basheer Bagh X Road as "Sree Ram Chowk" and raised concerns over the alleged installation of a religious structure and a large cut-out of Sree Ram at a Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) park in the area. Khan questioned the GHMC and Hyderabad City Police over the reported installation, claiming that the cut-out had been erected without permission from the concerned civic authorities.



He called for clarification from the authorities regarding the permissions granted for the installation and the reported renaming proposal. The matter has raised questions about civic permissions and the procedures to be followed for changes to public place names and installations on municipal property. See less Amjed Ullah Khan urged GHMC officials and the Hyderabad City Police to clarify whether the proposed renaming of Basheer Bagh X Road and the reported installations at the municipal park had received the necessary approvals. He stressed the need for transparency in decisions involving public spaces and sought details of the permissions granted by the concerned departments.

He also called on the authorities to ensure that municipal parks and other public properties are used in accordance with established rules and regulations. The MBT spokesperson maintained that the civic administration should clarify the status of the proposal and the legality of the reported installations to address public concerns and avoid further controversy.

PM Rahat Scheme: Cashless treatment up to Rs 1.5 lakh for road accident victims

Ranga Reddy, Oct 24 (Way to News): District Collector C. Narayana Reddy has directed officials to ensure the effective implementation of the Central Government's PM Rahat scheme, which provides cashless medical treatment of up to 1.5 lakh to eligible road accident victims for seven days from the date of the accident.



The directions were issued following a video conference held on Saturday by State Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju with District Collectors and senior officials from various departments to review the scheme's implementation.

The Chief Secretary instructed officials to ensure that all road accident cases reported at government and private hospitals are registered on the designated online portal. He stressed the need for prompt police verification of victims' details and directed District Collectors to regularly review hospital claims, approve eligible claims as per the prescribed guidelines, and ensure timely payments to hospitals.

He also called for close coordination between the Police and Health departments to prevent delays in providing medical treatment. Officials were advised to create public awareness about the NextGen m-Parivahan mobile application, which enables users to report road accidents and check the status of claims. Grievances arising during implementation must be addressed promptly, with technical assistance sought through the District Road Safety Committee wherever necessary. Following the video conference, Collector C. Narayana Reddy directed district officials to take coordinated measures to prevent road accidents. He instructed the concerned departments to identify accident-prone areas, address road safety deficiencies and implement preventive measures without delay.

The Collector emphasised coordination among the Transport, Police, Medical and Health, Roads and Buildings (R&B), and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) departments. He also ordered a review of ambulance services, hospitals and trauma centres to ensure that accident victims receive timely medical attention.

Tank Bund links hands in call for Gyanesh Kumar's resignation

Hyderabad, Oct 24 (Way to News): Members of civil society groups gathered in large numbers at Tank Bund on Saturday, October 24, to form a human chain demanding the rollback of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar. The protesters raised slogans against SIR, CEC Kumar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Home Minister Amit Shah. The participants included prominent personalities and activists such as Prof. Haragopal, economist Parakala Prabhakar, MLC Kodandram and retired IAS officer Akunuri Murali.



The protest was organised by People Against SIR, a coalition of several civil society and student organisations. SFI, National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM), PDSU, and several civil society and student groups co-organised the event, the organisers said in a release. Economist Parakala Prabhakar said the government has denotified Jantar Mantar as a protest site but wherever objections to SIR are expressed in the country it becomes Jantar Mantar. "Are you trying to denotify every town in this country? Are you trying to denotify every person in the country?" he said to reporters. Prabhakar is the husband of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. He demanded scrapping SIR, "restoring eligible voters", disbanding the Election Commission and that the selection committee of Election Commissioners should comprise the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition and the Chief Justice of India.

ED moves Supreme Court against Delhi HC order quashing PMLA case against NewsClick

New Delhi, Oct 24 (Way to News): The Enforcement Directorate has moved the Supreme Court against a Delhi High Court order quashing a money laundering case against NewsClick, a news portal, and its editor-in-chief Prabir Purkayastha on charges of violating FDI rules.

In its plea before the top court, the agency contended that the high court quashed its enforcement case information report (ECIR) without examining the PMLA case, and there was an inordinate delay of five months in the pronouncement of the judgment. In a judgement dated May 29, Justice Neena Bansal Krishna of the high court said the continuation of an FIR registered by the Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) was "nothing but a gross abuse of the process of law", and once the FIR under the predicate offence was quashed, the ED's ECIR in the matter was also liable to be closed.

The EOW's 2020 FIR alleged that PPK Newsclick Studio Pvt Ltd, NewsClick's parent company, received foreign direct investment (FDI) of Rs 9.59 crore from Worldwide Media Holdings LLC USA during the financial year 2018-19, in violation of the foreign investment law, which caused a loss to the government exchequer.

It claimed that the investment was made by greatly overvaluing the shares of the company to avoid the cap of 26 per cent FDI in a digital news website, and that over



45 per cent of this investment was diverted/siphoned off as salary, consultation fees, rent, etc., for ulterior motives. The ED subsequently registered a money laundering case against NewsClick, Purkayastha and others.

PPK Newsclick Studio sought quashing of the FIR, claiming that it was replete with vague allegations.

The high court, in its judgement, said the investment was an economic decision, which "did not spell out any criminal offence", and as per the reply of the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to a letter by the news outlet, there was no cap/restriction on receipt of the FDI in digital media at the relevant time. The court held that the investment was as per acceptable practices, and the offences of cheating or criminal breach of trust, even if all the allegations were admitted, were not established. It said that for the offence of cheating, there has to be a "cheated" person, which should be M/s Worldwide Media Holdings LLC in this case, but there was no such complaint, and instead the complaint was made by "merely an informant".

The court also noted that a company in the business of digital print media was bound to incur expenses on payment of salaries, consultation fees, rent, etc., and the allegation of siphoning was therefore not tenable.

The court also rejected the ED's attempt to sustain its money laundering case based on the offence of conspiracy under IPC, stating that the investigating agency must show the "illegal objective" or "means" adopted by NewsClick an others for the offence.

"Pertinently, extensive investigations were carried out by the ED for about a year and a half, and the petitioners as well as their employees have been summoned and examined many a times, but nothing incriminating till date has been found or placed on record.

AP CM Naidu Directs Cyclone Preparedness, Rainwater Conservation



Vijayawada(Way to News): Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to remain on high alert and take precautionary measures following the heavy rainfall forecast under the influence of a developing cyclone over Bay of Bengal. He instructed officials to make effective use of the expected rainfall in coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema by filling reservoirs and irrigation tanks. He stressed the need to prevent rainwater wastage, conserve available water, and manage irrigation resources efficiently to benefit farmers. In view of the adverse forecast, Andhra Pradesh Central Power Distribution Corporation Limited (APCPDCL) is preparing to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the cyclone.

APCPDCL chairman and managing director P. Pullareddy held a review meeting with superintending engineers from districts under the corporation soon after the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority warned of possible strong winds and heavy rainfall due to a low-pressure area over the east-central and south-eastern Bay of Bengal.

Pullareddy directed officials to ensure availability of field staff and close coordination among the stakeholder departments. He wanted advance preparation for possible damage to electrical poles and power lines. He wanted vehicles and repair equipment ready to restore power promptly in the event of disruptions. Control rooms have been established at all circle and division offices to coordinate emergency response and restoration work.

The APCPDCL CMD directed that all leaves be called in view of the possible cyclone. Emphasising public safety, he asked officials to create awareness among consumers about the dangers of touching fallen electrical wires.

He said reports of electrical hazards and power interruptions must be addressed promptly to prevent accidents and restore essential services in the affected areas as early as possible. Fisheries department has stepped up precautionary measures to protect seagoing fishermen. Andhra Pradesh has a coastline of 1,053 km across 12 coastal districts, with 555 marine villages, 350 fish landing centres, and 30,043 fishing boats. Following a cyclone alert issued by the India Meteorological Department on October 22, fishermen have already been advised not to venture into the sea until October 29. Boats already at sea have been instructed to return to the coast immediately.

Jantar Mantar protest: Justice R Subhash Reddy-led SC panel to hold sitting on October 29



New Delhi, Oct 24 (Way to News): The Justice (Retd) R Subhash Reddy-led Supreme Court-appointed High Powered Enquiry Committee (HPEC) probing the alleged violence during the July Jantar Mantar CJP protests will hold a sitting here on October 29 to record evidence of affected persons on the alleged use of pellet guns and harassment of female protesters.

The panel will hold its proceedings from 11 am onwards at its office at Shiksha Sadan, 17 Rouse Avenue Institutional Area, sources said, adding members of the public and those affected by violence during the protests can walk in between 11.30 am and 3 pm on Thursday, Oct 29 to submit their complaints or representations, or present evidence, provided they carry valid identity proofs. The committee will specifically examine the alleged use of pellet guns, targeted violence and harassment of female protesters and instances of alleged excessive use of force and property damage on both sides, they said.

The CJP-led march to Parliament on July 20 witnessed violent clashes between security personnel and demonstrators, during which police used tear gas shells and baton charges to disperse the crowd. Some students were admitted to hospitals with injuries allegedly caused by pellet guns.

The agitation which commenced at Jantar Mantar on June 20 spread across several cities and was called off on July 25 after Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigned.

Chaired by retired Supreme Court judge Justice R Subhash Reddy, the five-member panel was constituted by the top court to examine allegations of police excesses against student protesters during the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)-led protests, and counter-allegations of violence against police personnel. The other members of the HPEC are former Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice Ravi Shankar Jha, former Delhi High Court judge Justice Shalinder Kaur, former CBI director Rishi Kumar Shukla, and retired Meghalaya Director General of Police L R Bishnoi.

To facilitate widespread participation and safeguard vulnerable witnesses, the committee has launched an online portal, hpec.nic.in. Affected persons, witnesses and stakeholders can access prescribed formats on the portal to upload statements, representations, and supporting documentary evidence.

Jamia Millia Islamia moves classes to online mode amid students' protest over union

New Delhi, Oct 24 (Way to News): Jamia Millia Islamia on Saturday announced that all classes have been shifted to online mode with immediate effect until further notice as a "precautionary measure" as the students continue to protest for the 13th day, demanding restoration of their Jamia Milia Islamia Students' Union.



Several students have been on hunger strike, demanding restoration of Jamia Milia Islamia Students' Union (JMISU) and the removal of the University's Chief Proctor over "crackdown" on protestors.

In a statement, the University said, "In view of the ongoing situation and in order to ensure the safety and security of bonafide students in the University Campus, the Competent Authority, JMI, has decided to conduct classes of all courses of the University through online mode with immediate effect until further notice." "The above decision has been taken as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety and well-being of bonafide students while safeguarding their academic interests and ensuring continuity in the teaching-learning process without any undue disruption," it added.

The University further directed the Deans/Heads/Directors and faculty members as well as all the students, to adhere to the online class schedule and ensure regular participation in academic activities.

"All faculty members are requested to make the necessary arrangements for conducting classes through online platforms and to provide students with the required academic support and learning materials. Any further instructions or updates in this regard shall be communicated through the official process of the University," the statement further read. Meanwhile, the students alleged that the University's administration has started "assaulting" the students amid the negotiations. "The hunger strikers and the protest site are being attacked. This reveals the most brutal face of the Jamia administration. Furthermore, the University has been shifted to online mode," the All India Students' Association (AISA) said in a statement.

A student, speaking to reporters, said, "They are trying to remove our entire protest site and drive us out of here.

Most infiltrators in Uttar Pradesh are from Uttarakhand, says Akhilesh Yadav

Lucknow, Oct 24 (Way to News): Samajwadi Party (SP) chief, Akhilesh Yadav, has triggered a controversy with his remark that the "most infiltrators in UP are from Uttarakhand", drawing a sharp response from Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, who accused the Kannauj MP of insulting the people of the Himalayan state and recalled the 1994 Rampur Tiraha incident.

The controversy erupted after Yadav made the remarks while responding to questions from reporters in Lucknow on Friday. He was asked about the BJP's allegations that the Opposition was attempting to protect the votes of infiltrators by raising questions about the Election Commission of India (ECI). Responding to the allegations, Yadav said,



"The people who are saying this themselves are infiltrators… Most infiltrators in UP are from Uttarakhand. One has to define infiltrators… The term infiltrators will not weaken the 'Hindustaniyat'. They are making efforts to end 'Hindustaniyat'. They have made a mockery of faith and devotion…"

His remarks drew a strong reaction from Chief Minister Dhami, who took to X to defend the people of Uttarakhand and describe the statement as an insult to the state's identity, history and sacrifices.

"Uttarakhand is both the Devbhoomi and Veerbhoomi. This sacred soil has given the nation numerous sants, soldiers, and individuals devoted to national service. Shri Akhilesh Yadav ji, calling the people of Uttarakhand infiltrators, is an insult to the pride of the Devbhoomi and to our struggles," CM Dhami said.

The Uttarakhand Chief Minister also invoked the Rampur Tiraha incident of 1994, when activists demanding a separate Uttarakhand state were fired upon during the tenure of then Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav.

11 crore farmer IDs created five months ahead of deadline: Minister

New Delhi, Oct 24 (Way to News): Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, on Saturday said India has achieved its target of creating 11 crore Farmer IDs five months ahead of the March 31, 2027 deadline. The milestone achieved under the Digital Agriculture Mission will help benefit various schemes to be provided in a transparent manner, Chouhan said in an X post.



Further, a statement from the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare said the Farmer ID acts as a unique digital identity to give farmers transparent, efficient and timely access to government schemes, bank credit, crop insurance and disaster relief while reducing paperwork and repeated verification. Over 6 crore farmers across the country have so far received direct benefits under various schemes through the Farmer ID-based service delivery system. A verified farmer database was linked with agricultural services, which eliminated fraud and the need for duplicate verification. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, state governments and field-level officials worked in coordination to achieve it five months ahead of schedule, the minister said.

Chouhan said the Farmer ID system would significantly reduce the need for farmers to repeatedly visit government offices and banks or submit the same documents for different schemes. Farmers often had to provide documents repeatedly to access various benefits, resulting in a loss of both time and money. States and Union Territories are also taking specific steps, in accordance with applicable rules, to bring tenant farmers and actual cultivators onto the digital platform The initiative will strengthen delivery of services such as Kisan Credit Cards, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana claims and Minimum Support Price procurement, the statement said.

NCERT flags risks of deepfakes, data misuse

New Delhi, Oct 24 (Way to News): Artificial intelligence (AI)-generated deepfakes, misuse of personal data, online harm and privacy risks have found a place in the National Council of Educational Research and Training's (NCERT) introductory module on computational thinking (CT) and artificial intelligence for students of Classes IX to XII, with a focus on the ethical and responsible use of technology. The module cautions students against misinformation, unfairness and the tendency to trust AI-generated responses that reinforce their existing beliefs, emphasising the need to verify information rather than accept it at face value.



Explaining the dangers of confirmation bias, the textbook says, "You tend to trust information that agrees with you more than information that challenges you. If an AI assistant gives an answer that matches what you already believe, you are less likely to check it whereas if it contradicts you, you check it twice. The trouble is that your existing beliefs then go unchallenged simply because they are familiar, not because they are true, which is the opposite of what careful thinking requires."

The module also draws attention to the risks posed by deepfake images and fabricated audio and videos of public figures. It describes how a person's face can be placed onto another body without consent, noting that women and girls are overwhelmingly targeted, although anyone can be affected.

"The harm is real, even though the image is fake; the social and emotional damage to the target is the same," the module says, while warning that fabricated content featuring well-known personalities can spread rapidly and cause damage before its authenticity is verified.

Alongside these risks, the textbook highlights India's growing AI capabilities, citing safety checks in the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Bhashini for translation into Indian languages and the IndiaAI Mission aimed at building national AI capacity.

It also refers to Aadhaar's extensive use of biometric authentication, stating, "Aadhaar's biometric authentication operates at one of the largest scales of any deployed identity system in the world."

The NCERT said the module adopts an experiential, activity-based approach to learning, using discussions, practical exercises, experimentation and reflection. The activities can be conducted with or without digital devices, allowing students from different school settings to participate.

Meta smart glasses sting row: Priyank Kharge warns of suspicion during meetings with top leaders

Bengaluru, Oct 24 (Way to News): Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Saturday said the use of camera-equipped Meta smart glasses during meetings with senior ministers or the Chief Minister could raise doubts, stressing that visitors should follow protocol and respect the dignity of the office. Reacting to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's statement that Meta smart glasses were used in an alleged sting operation targeting him and Kerala Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan, Kharge said covert recordings and sting operations had become a concern.



"A lot of people come and meet ministers. Quite naturally, CBI and IT are also being misused. Very clearly, I had mentioned earlier that they have now started doing these covert videos or sting operations," he said.

Kharge said it was unethical for visitors meeting senior Cabinet ministers or the Chief Minister to wear camera-equipped glasses without regard for the concerns of those being recorded.

"You might have Meta glasses or whatever for your eyesight. But if it has a camera, quite naturally there will be doubts," he said, adding that visitors should show courtesy and respect for the office they were meeting.

On Congress MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah's statement that some Congress leaders were allegedly involved in the sting operation, Kharge said the videos themselves showed the presence of people belonging to the party. "That is very evident in the video itself. In all videos, there are faces visible who belong to the party. They cannot deny it, but it is a very clear case of extortion. It is a very clear case of blackmail, and we are investigating. Sooner or later, everything will be out," he said.

Kharge's remarks came amid an ongoing investigation into the alleged sting operation, with the minister expressing confidence that further details would emerge as the probe progresses.

It can be recalled that Shivakumar has alleged that an industrialist who met him wearing Meta AI smart glasses may have been attempting to record their conversation as part of a suspected sting operation targeting him and the Kerala Chief Minister. In an interview with a prominent Kannada television channel recently, Shivakumar said he became suspicious when the industrialist.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Editorial

Ladakh's Historic Hearing

It was another historic day for Ladakh. The Ladakh Bench of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh began regular hearings at Leh, bringing to a close a journey that has tested the patience of litigants and the legal fraternity alike. Few developments in recent memory have touched the everyday lives of the region's people so directly. The inaugural sitting was presided over by Chief Justice Dr Pushpendra Singh Bhati; virtually, Justice Sanjay Parihar sat physically in Leh. Five Division Bench matters were heard first, after which Justice Parihar sat singly and disposed of business in as many as 60 cases listed before the single bench. That 65 matters were taken up on the very first day shows that this is no ceremonial opening. The court has begun work in earnest.

Credit must go to the High Court for the meticulous arrangements that ensured a smooth start. Setting up a functioning bench at over 11,500 feet, where extreme weather and difficult logistics complicate even routine tasks, is an extraordinary achievement by any standard. The seamless hybrid hearing also shows that technology can be a dependable bridge across distance. The Administration, too, deserves appreciation for its support in making the day possible. The significance of this technological trial extends beyond the High Court. The successful conduct of hybrid proceedings from Leh strengthens the prospect of Supreme Court hearings being facilitated for Ladakh, as announced earlier.

For decades, litigants from Leh, Kargil, Nubra, Zanskar and other far-flung areas undertook long, costly and often arduous journeys to Srinagar or Jammu to pursue their cases. Travel expenses, accommodation, loss of earnings and the sheer difficulty of the terrain, particularly in winter, forced many to abandon legitimate grievances rather than approach the High Court at all. Justice delayed was bad enough; justice made inaccessible was worse. The new bench opens a channel through which relief can reach people swiftly and affordably, and it should encourage those who had long stayed away to seek their constitutional remedies without hesitation. Advocates of Ladakh stand to gain as well. A local bench will widen professional opportunities, build legal expertise in the region and strengthen the Bar. Every section of society will ultimately benefit from having justice closer to home.

The establishment of regular High Court hearings in Leh also carries significance for strengthening public confidence in the justice delivery system. Access to justice is a fundamental principle of democracy, and geographical barriers should not prevent citizens from seeking legal remedies. With proceedings now taking place in Ladakh, litigants can expect reduced travel burdens, lower expenses and easier coordination with their lawyers. The move is particularly important for residents of remote villages, where harsh winters and limited transport connectivity have traditionally made court appearances difficult.

However, the long-term success of the Leh Bench will depend on maintaining regular hearings, ensuring adequate staffing and providing the infrastructure needed for the smooth functioning of judicial proceedings. Courtrooms, digital connectivity, administrative support and access to case records must remain reliable throughout the year. Special attention will also be required to ensure that litigants from Kargil, Zanskar, Nubra and other distant areas can benefit equitably from the new arrangement. Consistent coordination between the judiciary and the administration will be essential to address logistical challenges.

The politics of fire and fury

Jyoti Malhotra



BY the time RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat delivered his annual Vijayadashami speech earlier this week in Nagpur, underlining the organisation's support for PM Modi and the BJP by ruling out "regime change", arsonists had touched off bookstalls wielding Left literature in Bengal, customarily set up around Durga Puja pandals.

The book vandalism, no doubt, reminded you of Ray Bradbury's famous 1953 novel, Fahrenheit 451, subtitled, 'the temperature at which book-paper catches fire and burns' — a novel written at the height of the McCarthy era in the US, which harked back to the book burnings in Nazi Germany as well as the repression of the Soviet Gulag, when anti-national reading, writing and thinking invited severe punishment.

Of course the Bengali comparison is overdrawn. In any case, the state Finance Minister, Swapan Dasgupta — who no doubt has read a book or two more than Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, who seems to delight in his own anti-intellectualism — has sort of redeemed his government by saying that he hangs his head in shame at the manner in which lumpen elements and goons have trashed Leftist bookstalls during the just-concluded Durga Puja festivities. (Do read too, Dear Reader, the eminent journalist Shikha Mukerjee's article on this very subject in The Tribune's pages earlier this week, for a deeper understanding of the matter.)

Dasgupta had the courage to speak up this week because he understands that the idea of Bengal is larger than Suvendu Adhikari — just like Jyoti Basu, the larger-than-life former CPI(M) leader and chief minister who spoke out against his own party back in 1996, when he described its refusal to let him become Prime Minister as a "historic blunder".

The point here is that both gentlemen, belonging to starkly different ideologies, one to the Left and the other to the Right, are/were clearly able to accept disparate ideas in the same crucible. It is the essence of democracy. Dasgupta stood up for the right of the opposing idea to oppose. Many in the Left are unable to shout "lal salaam" and imbibe the sonorous recitation of the Mahalaya in the same breath. But the good comrade, Jyoti Babu, understood that even if religion was the opium of the masses, there was always the exception to the rule — the celebration of the goddess Durga. And the goddess Kali. And the goddess Saraswati.

That's why the misquoted cliché, misattributed to Gopal Krishna Gokhale, for a long while held true : What Bengal thinks today, the rest of India thinks tomorrow. (Gokhale did not say this in 1905.) Still, the problem is not with Bengal or Bengalis, notwithstanding Suvendu Adhikari, but that the idea of being different in India today, of swimming against the tide, is slowly fading. To be sure, this has been happening for some time. The art of the repartee, of skewering your opponent with a knife tipped with satire, not rage, has more or less disappeared. Politics is much more angry these days. Perhaps everyone has much more to be angry about.

That's why the Delhi street protests — when the police have allowed them to be held, that is — at least in parts, have been a refreshing change. The "ek kachori, do samosa" sloganeering works because the girls of Miranda House are spoofing Delhi Police : where are you, when we most need you? Or when Neha Bora demands that the cops, who have just detained her and her compatriots, should give them all a cup of tea? The students have understood the age-old dictum : When your opponent is far stronger than you, make fun of him.

Still, something is already shifting in Delhi. The mood is getting tougher. It's clear the government is employing a two-pronged approach — first, shut down all popular dissent, both street protests as well as its manifestations, including photographs from an exhibition showcasing the protests. The time for fun and games is shrinking.

Second, target the main Opposition party. No matter the Congress has shrivelled up in most parts of the country, PM Modi fully recognises it as the only political group that still has the capacity to reinvent itself. It was hardly a coincidence that Modi's comments at the NDTV World Summit on Thursday spoke of the expanding influence of "dimagi Naxals" or "intellectual Naxals" on the Congress. It is hardly a coincidence the BJP is targeting Rahul Gandhi's alleged holiday abroad at this time — he is believed to be in Vietnam — asking, who he's meeting there.

It's quite another matter that Rahul Gandhi has walked right into the tiger's lair by even bothering to allegedly holiday abroad at a time like this — thereby putting into question the entire Opposition's gambit. (Or if he isn't, no one in the Congress is confirming or denying.) The balloon is already deflating. Both the government and the Opposition recognise that political parties like the Congress, and coalitions like the INDIA bloc — not ragtag outfits who take heart from being "cockroaches" and at best can play the role of a spirited distraction — must lead the charge.

That's why Mohan Bhagwat's comment ruling out "regime change" in his Vijayadashami address is so important. For a start, his line this time was much tougher compared to when he spoke to GenZ and GenAlpha students in August, admitting the "time for obedience" was over. Second, with elections in key states like Uttar Pradesh and Punjab round the corner, Bhagwat knows there can be no sunlight between the BJP and the RSS.

Time, then, to return to both Bengal and Ray Bradbury — what does it mean when Suvendu Adhikari is not chastised by his party for stoking the idea of book vandalism? As for Bradbury, horrified by the "book burnings of Nazi Germany", who told an interviewer he wrote Fahrenheit 451 because he was worried at the way things were going in 1950s America, where "too many people were afraid of their own shadows". Perhaps, when all is said and done, the only question that remains is whether this is really the temperature at which paper burns. Or if you need a brand-new idea to coax the fire into lighting up again.

Starlink Entry in India Sparks Debate Between SpaceX and Telecom Giants

TCA Sharad Raghavan



If you can't beat them, join them"—words India's largest telecom companies are now being forced to live by.It's rare for India's corporate giants to find somebody they can't beat in the country, coddled as they are by the government. But this is exactly what Bharti Airtel and Jio have faced in the satellite communications space, with the government siding with Elon Musk's SpaceX—and its Starlink communications system—despite their strident protests. Now, having failed to beat Starlink or stymie its entry into India, both Airtel and Jio have joined hands with Musk's company. But the Indian government isn't convinced. There are significant security concerns with such satellite communication services, after all. License approvals are also a significant bargaining chip to use during trade tariff negotiations with the US.

That's why Starlink's tie-up with Airtel and Jio is ThePrint's Newsmaker of the Week. On Tuesday, Airtel announced its partnership with SpaceX "to bring Starlink's high-speed internet services to its customers in India". According to the release by the company, Airtel and SpaceX will look to make Starlink equipment available at Airtel's stores — potentially available to anybody who wants to buy it — and will make the satellite communication services available to Airtel's business customers. The release also touched upon the key promise of satellite communication, which is to bring connectivity to "even the most rural parts of India".

A day later, Jio Platforms announced its own deal with SpaceX. The aims, objectives and game plan laid out by Jio were largely the same as Airtel's— availability at retail stores and taking internet to India's remote areas. "Ensuring that every Indian, no matter where they live, has access to affordable and high-speed broadband remains Jio's top priority," Mathew Oommen, Group CEO of Reliance Jio said.

These two announcements are particularly significant because preventing the entry of Starlink in India had been one of those rare issues on which rivals Airtel and Jio agreed. In October 2024, Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia clarified that spectrum for satellite communication services would be allocated administratively rather than through auction. While Musk welcomed this news at the time, Jio's Mukesh Ambani and Airtel's Sunil Bharti Mittal had both voiced their dissent. Ambani wrote a letter to Scindia advocating in favour of an auction for satellite spectrum, and Mittal argued, "They (SpaceX) need to buy the spectrum just as telecom companies buy. They need to pay the licence fees and also secure their networks like telecom companies do."

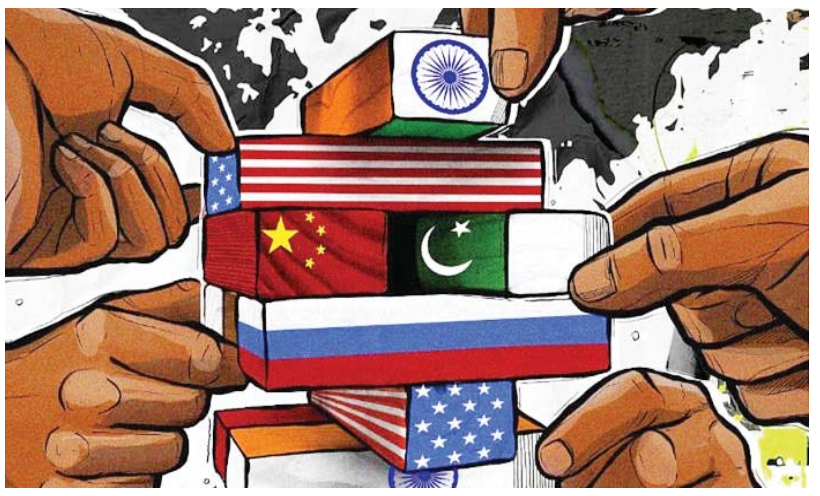
Yet, once it became clear that the government was not changing its stance on how the licensing would be done, it looks like both Jio and Airtel are accepting that joining hands with SpaceX is the only way forward. Soon after the back-to-back announcements, the Congress took to social media to target the government over these partnerships. "It is abundantly clear that these partnerships have been orchestrated by none other than the PM himself to buy goodwill with President Trump through Starlink's owner Mr. Elon Musk," Congress Member of Parliament Jairam Ramesh posted on X, which is incidentally another company owned by Musk. RPG Enterprises Chairman Harsh Goenka had his own take: "The old 3M made its mark with Post-its. The new 3M—Musk, Mittal & Mukesh—are sticking together for Indian dominance." Both the Jio and Airtel releases mentioned upfront that their respective deals were subject to SpaceX receiving its own authorisations to sell Starlink in India. But national security isn't an insignificant matter.

The government of India has valid reason to be concerned about the national security implications of allowing satellite communications, especially by a foreign company. In December 2024, the Indian Army seized a Starlink device in strife-ridden Manipur, raising alarms that militant groups could be using such devices to circumvent internet restrictions imposed by the government.

This wasn't a one-off either. Earlier in December, it was reported that the Andaman police had issued a notice to SpaceX seeking details of who purchased a Starlink device allegedly recovered from a huge drug bust. Finally, the government's decision to administratively allocate the spectrum and strictly control the licensing process also gives it the power to use Starlink's India entry as a bargaining chip in negotiations with Musk's buddy US President Trump. Trump is pushing India to lower its import tariffs and India is looking for its own negotiation tools. Market access is a big one, and Musk's proximity to Trump makes this particular issue that much more significant.

Donald Trump and the Politics of Power, Personality and Territory

Swasti Rao



It's Bura Na Maano Holi Hai, where strategic affairs meet colourful chaos, and the world of diplomacy gets a splash of something far more unpredictable than the usual international commentary. It's that time of year when we throw a little colour into the otherwise grey world of strategic thinking—after all, why shouldn't international relations get a touch of the festival's wildness?

So, buckle up for this colourfully serious take on global strategic chaos, where the world's leaders, much like Holi revellers, find themselves covered in a mess of upended geopolitical powder. The grandmaster of strategic fence-sitting—north, south, east, west—India is everywhere and nowhere at the same time. The country has perfected the art of playing both sides, but even that couldn't save it from the wrath of the one and only tariff king, US President Donald Trump. Picture this: India, caught in the middle of a strategic Holi festival, with colours flying in every direction—some we didn't even ask for. Argumentative Indians are organising seminars on Trumpian tariffs against India as their sincere argumentations are grandly ignored in the Trumpian world.

As for our hyped role in ending wars, we tried dialling up both sides as the world's most committed international phone operator, making sure no one really picked up. And just when the Americans need a mediator to compensate for the Oval Office showdown, our lines are engaged: "Sorry, the person you are trying to reach is busy giving Indians their next great feel-good story. Please leave a message after the bhajan."

Let's be honest. The UAE and Saudi Arabia seem to be acing the mediation game right now—all without 'a suit'. As for India? Well, it's nice to pretend we are still in the running, because how can India not have an answer, regardless of the problem? Vishwaguru vibes!

Back in the United States, Trump has been keeping the meme world bustling, but let's not ignore the real issue—Free Melania. Have you seen how the First Lady doesn't even glance at the first man? Meanwhile, the Second Lady, Usha Vance, is practically glued to Mr Second Fiddle, JD Vance, demonstrating the true meaning of strategic loyalty. Forget about arms deals or ceasefires—marital diplomacy could very well be the next frontier in strategic affairs. Cheers to Usha Vance for laying the groundwork here.

And then there's Trump's hair. Once upon a time, former UK prime minister Boris Johnson was the uncontested champion of global hair (un) cut diplomacy. Then Trump showed up and grabbed the crown. It's the perfect symbol of his obsession with strategic real estate. After all, why just negotiate peace treaties and ceasefires when you can grab Greenland and Gaza, and turn the former into a military base and the latter into a riviera? If there's land, Trump wants it. If it has rare earth minerals, even better. And the First Lady is fine as long as she is not accompanying him at these grab gigs.

But Trump isn't just focused on plots—he's trying to blur the line between deal and treaties altogether, with a weapon of mass destruction called the Executive Order.

Speaking of power and strategic mileage, French President Emmanuel Macron takes his constitutionally vested powers so literally, one would think he'd be guarding the last croissant in all of Paris if the constitution let him. Just as we thought he was a spent force, using all emergency provisions to avoid cohabitation and ignore French strategic setbacks in the Francophone world, Trump and Putin bequeathed him with a new role—the saviour of Europe—replete with a couple of nuclear weapons. Even in the toughest times, Europe has its nuclear options, as Macron assures the world on X every day.

Of course, it's nice to have someone who'll smile through skyrocketing debt and rising unemployment, like Macron does. Just don't ask him about the practical use of those nukes, and don't ask him how French boots on the ground will tread the streets of Ukraine with a strategic gap called absence of US backstop. Statements are meant to be fun.

Over in Brussels, the European Union has mastered the art of regulation and debate. Need a new slogan? They have it covered—ReArm, ReFuel, RePower. Need more regulations? You're in the right place. But while the rest of the world is busy making decisions, the EU is stuck in the eternal loop of "another debate on the regulation decided last week".

One would think they'd have figured it out in so many decades, but no—they've got a second wind. Just don't ask them to make up their minds about Ukraine—they are regulating 'as long as it takes'. But they are also creating consensus among the member states, despite the dynamic duo of disgruntlement: Hungary and Slovakia—the EU's favourite rebels without a cause.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

France records 135 arrests during demonstrations by early saturday afternoon

- The suspect, identified as Kevin T., was arrested with a submachine gun and tear-gas grenades
- Three associates of the suspect were also arrested and are currently detained



Paris, Oct 24 (Way to News): French police had made 135 arrests during demonstrations across the country by 1 p.m. local time (1100 GMT) on Saturday, French Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said at a press briefing.

Nunez said 136 public order incidents had been recorded nationwide during Saturday's demonstrations, with 35,000 people counted in public spaces nationwide so far. Several French cities have authorised demonstrations for Saturday, including Lille, Strasbourg, Mulhouse, Grenoble, Marseille, Toulouse, Amiens and Paris, French television channel BFM TV reported.

For security reasons, the Paris public transport operator RATP said 24 metro stations in Paris would be closed from 9 a.m. local time (0700 GMT) on Saturday. In Lyon, where demonstrations have been banned across a large part of the city center, small gatherings have been dispersed by law enforcement officers using tear gas grenades, BFM TV said.

Nearly 15,000 supporters of the National Rally (RN) are expected in Orleans on Saturday and Sunday for the far-right party's congress and the launch of RN leader Marine Le Pen's presidential campaign, French daily Le Monde reported. Meanwhile, between 20,000 and 30,000 opponents of the far-right party are expected to gather in the city on Saturday.

Nunez said on Friday that 70,000 police officers and gendarmes would be deployed nationwide for the demonstrations. Soldiers from the French army's Operation Sentinelle would also be mobilized to help prevent violence during the protests, Xinhua News Agency reported. Nunez said last week, that more than 2,000 people were arrested during violent protests across France.

Material damage was considerable, affecting several hundred businesses, he said.

"Demonstrating is a fundamental right. Causing disorder through coordinated violence is not," Nunez said.

The clashes erupted in late September over poor conditions in schools and teacher shortages. The movement quickly expanded into nationwide anti-government demonstrations driven by soaring living costs, high fuel prices, public sector budget cuts, criticising President Emmanuel Macron's administration. French anti-terror investigators said Saturday they have extended the detention of a man suspected of opening fire in the Paris suburbs a day earlier, killing one person and wounding five. The 39-year-old man, partly identified as Kevin T., was arrested Friday in possession of a submachine gun and tear-gas grenades in his car, after the victims were shot as a vehicle drove through the working-class town of Trappes and neighboring La Verriere.

President Emmanuel Macron branded the shooting a "racist terrorist attack," as most of the victims were from foreign backgrounds.

The French National Anti-Terrorism Prosecutor's Office (PNAT), which is handling the case, said the suspect's time in detention was extended after initial interrogations. It said that three members of the suspect's family and circle of friends were also arrested late Friday and detained. The shooting was another shock to France, where political and social tensions boiled over a week ago into riots that have marred the country's image six months ahead of elections to choose Macron's successor.

The French government has urged citizens to maintain peace and avoid further violence as authorities prepare for large-scale demonstrations and investigate the deadly shooting. Security agencies are monitoring potential threats amid rising political tensions.

Starlink, Starshield speeds restored for Ukraine- Zelensky

Kyiv, Oct 24 (Way to News): Ukraine's Starlink and Starshield satellite communication services have been restored to the speeds available before restrictions were imposed, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Saturday, thanking the US and other partners for their help.

"The most important thing today is that Starlink and Starshield operations have been restored to the speeds we had before the restrictions. The speeds are now where they need to be. The restoration began overnight, and by this morning, speeds were already sufficient. This matters: for our frontline logistics, for defending Ukraine against jet-powered 'shaheds'," Zelensky posted on X.

"I thank all Americans and all our partners who took this seriously and truly helped – members of Congress, senators, all the media, the State Department, and the President. Protecting lives matters," he added, which is vital.

Earlier this week, Zelensky said he held a "substantive conversation" with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, discussing ballistic missile interceptors, early warnings of Russian missile attacks and the restoration of satellite communication services used by Ukrainian forces. "I spoke with Marco Rubio, and it was a substantive conversation – focused on the issues that matter. I am grateful for his readiness to help and his clear position. First, ballistic missile interceptors, which are needed to protect lives. Second, early warning of Russian ballistic missile attacks,

Trump demands officials identify noncitizen voters in California



WASHINGTON, Oct 24 (Way to News): Less than two weeks before US midterm elections, the Department of Justice has warned election officials across California they could be targets of federal "scrutiny" if they refuse to help identify suspected noncitizens on voter rolls and set aside their mail ballots pending citizenship checks. According to letters dated Friday, local officials were given 48 hours to help determine the citizenship status of individuals on federal government lists. The Justice Department shared with Reuters texts of six of the letters on Saturday, which were signed by Bilal Essayli, first assistant US attorney for the Central District of California.

He warned counties that continuing to process ballots from individuals on the list without verifying citizenship status risked "significant federal scrutiny and legal exposure."

Officials who knowingly counted ballots cast by individuals identified by federal agencies as noncitizens risked becoming "aiders and abettors to a federal crime," Essayli wrote.

Each letter includes local statistics drawn from a previously distributed list of 20,000 people who the Justice Department alleges are noncitizens registered to vote. For those whose "citizenship status cannot be confirmed, we request that you immediately instruct the appropriate elections official to segregate — not cancel — those individuals' vote-by-mail ballots until their citizenship status can be determined," Essayli wrote. The Justice Department said it identified 1,754 suspected noncitizens registered to vote in Orange County, 1,355 in Riverside County, 1,133 in San Bernardino County, 334 in Ventura County, 180 in Santa Barbara County and 63 in San Luis Obispo County.

Another letter separately shared by Contra Costa County listed "407 likely aliens" registered.

"This letter came to us 11 days before Election Day with an unenforceable 48-hour deadline," said Dawn Kruger, a spokesperson for Contra Costa County's Elections Department, adding: "Our office is conducting this election in accordance with federal and state laws and that is what we will continue to do." Versions of the letters were sent to all 58 California counties, according to the New York Times. In the run-up to the midterms, the Justice Department has ramped up prosecutions of people accused of illegally voting while not holding US citizenship.

The White House has also pushed federal agencies to accelerate their review of at least 47 state voter rolls obtained by the Department of Homeland Security, according to an internal email seen by Reuters.

On October 16, the Justice Department warned Los Angeles County and California election officials they could be liable as abettors of a federal crime if they count mail ballots returned by more than 20,000 people the Trump administration says are probably noncitizens. California officials have rejected the moves, saying the federal government has not provided sufficient information about how it identified the alleged noncitizens.

California Secretary of State Shirley Weber has accused the administration of attempting to unlawfully access protected voter data and purge voter rolls, saying such efforts undermine confidence in elections.

India, Bahamas discuss expanding cooperation in Green, Blue and Orange economies

Kingston, Oct 24 (Way to News): Reflecting the shared priorities for sustainable and inclusive growth, India and the Bahamas continue to discuss expanding cooperation in the orange, green and blue economies, the High Commission of India in Kingston said on Saturday. India's High Commissioner Mayank Joshi, who is concurrently accredited to the Bahamas, paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Philip Edward Davis and reaffirmed the strong ties between the two nations.



"High Commissioner Mayank Joshi paid today a courtesy call on The Honourable Philip Edward Davis, K C, MP, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. Reaffirmed the strong India–Bahamas ties rooted in shared democratic values, Commonwealth bonds and commitment to multilateralism and the Global South," the High Commission posted on X.

"HC Mayank Joshi exchanged perspectives on expanding cooperation between India and Bahamas in the Orange, Green and Blue economies, reflecting shared priorities for sustainable and inclusive growth," it added. In September, the India-CARICOM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM), held on the sidelines of the 81st UNGA in New York, underscored the commitment of the two sides to deepen their relations both in the bilateral and global contexts.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar and Suriname's Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and Cooperation, Melvin W J Bouva, co-chaired the meeting, during which the co-chair of the 15-member CARICOM group of countries from the Caribbean region conveyed the group's decision to support India's candidature for UNSC term 2028-29.

The India-CARICOM FMM was attended by the Foreign Ministers of Barbados, Dominica, Bahamas, Guyana, Jamaica, St Vincent and Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Haiti, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, the Finance Minister of Grenada, the CEO of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belize and the Secretary General of CARICOM, Carla Natalie Barnett. "During the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction at the steady progress in cooperation between India and countries of the CARICOM

Iranian speaker Qalibaf unable to attend BRICS Parliamentary forum in New Delhi

Tehran/New Delhi, Oct 24 (Way to News): Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf will be unable to attend the Meeting of Speakers of the Parliaments of BRICS Member Countries in New Delhi next week due to "certain unforeseen circumstances", the Embassy of Iran in New Delhi stated on Saturday.



The Parliament of India will host the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum on October 26-27 in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan.

"The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in New Delhi wishes to inform that, due to certain unforeseen circumstances, H.E. Dr. Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran, will be unable to attend the Meeting of Speakers of the Parliaments of BRICS Member Countries in New Delhi," read a statement issued by the Iranian Embassy on Saturday.

"It is also emphasised that the parliamentary delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran will participate in the meeting. As one of the members of BRICS, Iran reaffirms its commitment to active and effective participation at the highest levels in the summits and meetings of this grouping," it added.

According to the Iranian Foreign Ministry, the country's delegation will continue its dialogue and consultations with delegations from BRICS member countries in New Delhi, with a view to expanding and deepening bilateral and multilateral cooperation, particularly in the field of parliamentary relations and cooperation.

"The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran also expresses its sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of India for its gracious hospitality and the arrangements made to host this meeting. It wishes the Meeting of Speakers of the Parliaments of BRICS Member Countries every success and hopes that it will yield constructive outcomes towards strengthening cooperation and engagement among member countries," the statement added.

Several global parliamentary leaders will assemble in New Delhi for the conference being hosted under India's chairship on the theme of people-centric development.

250,000 rally in Madrid demanding state pension guarantees

MADRID, Oct 24 (Way to News): Authorities said 250,00 people marched through central Madrid on Saturday demanding protection for the Spanish state pension scheme, one of the hot topics in a parliamentary election next month. The rally comes amid a political row over the sustainability of Spain's pension scheme and the cost of living, with Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez accusing the right of planning to weaken inflation-linked increases.



Demonstrators walked peacefully from Atocha train station to the Gran Via, the Spanish capital's prime shopping avenue, watched by intrigued tourists.

Madrid authorities told AFP there were around 250,000 demonstrators, several of whom carried banners saying "protect and guarantee our pensions."

Juan Fernandez, a 38-year-old civil servant in the southern city of Seville, said he was "unsure" he would get his future pension and was opposed to any drive to privatise the system.

"The value of any privatised chunk would be linked to the stock market price. There would be winners — and losers," he told AFP.

Earlier this month, Ester Munoz, an MP from the right-wing opposition Popular Party (PP) predicted the current pension system would "collapse" and called for it to be changed, prompting criticism from the government. "Pensions should be sacrosanct," Pilar, who is 64 and close to retirement, told AFP, declining to give her surname. She condemned "the tendency to privatise everything" and said she was glad to see other protests in recent weeks over housing costs and a lack of protection for tenants. "I think the housing crisis has woken young people up," she said. She urged the Spanish public to "defend everything we've worked for — not just pensions, but public services like health and education too." PP leader Alberto Nunez Feijoo said on Monday his party would continue to raise pensions in line with inflation every year if it won the November 29 election and he became prime minister.

Sanchez has accused the PP of questioning the mechanism linking pension increases to inflation, in force since 2022, because it voted against the legislation introducing the measure. Around 6.8 million Spaniards receive a state pension. As of September, the average amount was 1,576 euros ($1,765) a month, according to the social security ministry.

UK police: 'claims' over Meghan Markle's dad not sent to other law enforcement

LONDON, Oct 24 (Way to News): London's Metropolitan Police confirmed Saturday it had received a letter in 2019 about a "number of claims" relating to the father of Prince Harry's wife Meghan Markle. The force said it passed on the information to the royal couple but did not share it with other law enforcement agencies.



Meghan said on Friday that she was "deeply distressed" by accusations that her father Thomas Markle had possessed images of child abuse, adding she had blocked contact between him and her children over previous "troubling and disturbing" allegations.

The Sun and Daily Mail newspapers reported that images had allegedly been found among Markle's belongings at his former home in the Philippines. He denies all the claims.

Meghan, 45, also revealed that in 2018 she had seen a letter sent to the Metropolitan Police and Royalty and Specialist Protection making similar accusations.

The Met said in a statement that it had in January 2019 "received a letter containing a number of claims about alleged offending outside the United Kingdom."

"The letter was reviewed and a decision was made that it should be passed to the office of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex for their awareness," said a spokesperson, using Harry and Meghan's official titles.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Economic progress means "stronger communities, wider opportunity and more resilient regions" – MoS Satish Chandra Dubey

New Delhi, Oct 24 (Way to News): Satish Chandra Dubey, Minister of State, Ministry of Coal and Mines, Government of India, inaugurated the Third National Conference and Exhibition on Corporate Social Responsibility (NCCSR 2026), organised by Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), under Ministry of Corporate Affairs, in New Delhi. The two-day Conference, scheduled on 6–7 October 2026, was organised around the theme "Re-envisioning the Spirit of CSR for Viksit Bharat: From Compliance to Commitment."In his Keynote Address, Shri Satish Chandra Dubey, Minister of State for Coal and Mines, emphasised the close relationship between national economic growth, regional development and the well-being of communities in resource-bearing areas. He observed that economic progress acquired its fullest meaning when its benefits were reflected in "stronger communities, wider opportunity and more resilient regions".

He underlined that, for sectors closely connected with natural resources and local communities, growth and social development could not be viewed as separate objectives. On the occasion, he formally released the Comprehensive CSR Framework for Indian Coal Companies, developed to provide sector-specific direction for more structured, need-based and outcome-oriented CSR interventions in the coal sector.



The inaugural session also witnessed the release of the India CSR Factbook 2024–25, providing a consolidated reference on the evolving CSR landscape in India. The session was graced by Dr. Pallavi Jain Govil, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India; Ms. Shoko Ishikawa, UN Women Country Representative in India; Shri Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh, Director General & CEO, IICA; and Prof. Garima Dadhich, Head, School of Business Environment, IICA. Delivering the Inaugural Address, Smt. Pallavi Jain Govil, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, placed CSR within India's larger corporate-governance and national-development framework. She stated that the theme of NCCSR 2026 called upon stakeholders to "look beyond the annual obligation" and consider the larger contribution that responsible enterprise could make to India's development journey. Referring to India's distinctive statutory CSR architecture, she emphasised that the framework combined statutory obligation with company-level responsibility, Board oversight, public disclosure and impact assessment, and that CSR represented an important expression of the collective effort required for Viksit Bharat. She also released the India CSR Factbook 2024–25.

In his Welcome Address, Shri Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh, Director General & CEO, IICA, highlighted the importance of keeping CSR discussions anchored in implementation and visible development outcomes. Noting that CSR brought together Government, industry, public sector enterprises, implementing organisations, development partners and academia, he observed that "decisions may be taken in Board rooms, but their value is ultimately seen in schools, health centres, livelihood programmes, villages, towns and districts where they affect the lives of people". He said that the National CSR Exhibition had been designed not merely to display projects but to make outcomes visible and to serve as a space for learning, replication and partnership.

The inaugural session was followed by a fireside chat on "Social Stock Exchange: Purpose, Capital & Impact", featuring Shri Shailesh K. Pathak, Senior Advisor – Policy, National Stock Exchange, and Prof. Garima Dadhich. The discussion examined the role of the Social Stock Exchange in connecting social purpose with capital and the importance of credible impact measurement, transparency and institutional trust in strengthening the social sector financing ecosystem.

In the post-lunch session, Shri Ansuman Pattnaik, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, delivered the keynote address. His address placed CSR in the wider context of corporate governance and emphasised the need for companies to approach CSR as an integral part of responsible corporate conduct and institutional decision-making. He also invited companies to register on the CSR Exchange Portal, highlighting its relevance as a mechanism for connecting CSR stakeholders and facilitating purposeful engagement.

NBA Disburses Rs 2.02 Crore for Biodiversity Conservation and Community Welfare

New Delhi, Oct 24 (Way to News): The National Biodiversity Authority has disbursed Rs 2.02 crore among 27 States and 3 Union Territories, representing their respective shares of Access and Benefit-Sharing contributions received from seed-sector companies for the utilisation of biological resources, to support biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and strengthening the livelihood of local communities.



The ABS contributions from the utilisation of agricultural biological resources, including rice, eggplant, cauliflower, cucumber, hot pepper, bottle gourd, bitter gourd, tomato and okra, cover multiple varieties and hybrids. The contributions were received from East West Seeds India Pvt. Ltd., Syngenta India Ltd., Devgen Seeds and Crop Technology Pvt. Ltd., Limagrain India Pvt. Ltd., Bayer Science & Innovation Pvt. Ltd., Nunhems India Pvt. Ltd. and Enza Zaden India Pvt. Ltd.

Where biological resources procured through markets or traders, and individual benefit claimers could not be identified, the NBA applied the distribution modalities recommended by an expert committee and approved by the Authority. Accordingly, the beneficiary share was apportioned among the concerned State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) based on the cultivation area of the respective biological resources, as reflected in the agricultural statistics published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. Of the total ABS amount of Rs 2.02 crore disbursed to 27 SBBs and 3 UTBCs, the top 10 States accounted for Rs 1.43 crore of the total ABS amount.

With this release, the cumulative ABS disbursement by the NBA has reached Rs 202.00 crore, demonstrating India's commitment to equitable benefit-sharing arising from the utilisation of biological resources and the reinvestment of such benefits in conservation and community welfare.

The ABS mechanism provides an important avenue for mobilising financial resources and channelling them towards biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and local development.

Fifth Kautilya Economic Conclave 2026 Concludes in New Delhi

New Delhi, Oct 24 (Way to News): The Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), in partnership with the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, successfully concluded the Fifth Kautilya Economic Conclave (KEC 2026), held from 3–5 October 2026 in New Delhi under the theme "Resilience in an Age of Flux." The three-day Conclave brought together more than 200 policymakers, economists, academics, financial experts and international thought leaders, including over 80 international participants from around 30 countries, for high-level discussions on contemporary economic and policy challenges.



The Conclave was inaugurated on 3rd October 2026 by the Vice-President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, who delivered the inaugural address. In his address, the Vice-President emphasised that economic resilience cannot be separated from social resilience, highlighting inclusion as a foundation of resilience in a rapidly changing world. He also underlined the importance of policymaking that remains grounded in ground realities and responsive to changing circumstances. Over three days, the Conclave featured plenary sessions, interactive discussions and focused roundtables examining the challenges and opportunities arising from global economic and geopolitical shifts. Discussions centred on building resilience while sustaining growth, openness and institutional credibility amid recurrent global shocks and uncertainty.

A key highlight of KEC 2026 was the Special Plenary on "Resilience in an Age of Flux: India's Economic Priorities," addressed by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, with Ms. Amélie de Montchalin, President of the Cour des Comptes, France, as discussant. The session examined how India can sustain growth, preserve macroeconomic stability and expand investment amid global fragmentation, technological disruption and recurrent shocks, while strengthening the foundations of long-term economic resilience.

India achieves 1,000 km of quantum-secure communication against an eight-year target of 2,000 km: Dr. Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, Oct 24 (Way to News): Industry must come forward to accelerate innovation, translate scientific research into commercial ventures and scale up India's technological capabilities to achieve the national objectives set for 2047 and strengthen the country's strategic sovereignty, said Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space.



Addressing the 121st Annual Session of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) in New Delhi today, the Minister emphasised the need to bring Government, industry, academia, research institutions and start-ups together to convert scientific capabilities into indigenous technologies, commercially viable enterprises and globally competitive solutions. Held at New Delhi, the session brought together industry leaders, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to discuss India's growth and innovation priorities.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said India's next phase of technological growth must move beyond the adoption of technologies developed elsewhere towards creating indigenous solutions with global relevance. The expansion of the space ecosystem following policy reforms, alongside greater private-sector participation in strategic technology areas, demonstrates the opportunities that emerge when scientific capabilities are supported by an enabling policy environment and entrepreneurial initiative.

Citing progress under the National Quantum Mission, the Minister said India had set an eight-year target of achieving 2,000 kilometres of quantum-secure communication and had achieved the 1,000-kilometre milestone in three years, according to his address. He emphasised the strategic and security significance of quantum communication and the importance of developing domestic capabilities in frontier technologies.

The Minister also referred to the growth of India's bioeconomy from around US10 billion in 2014 to approximately US196 billion, with an ambition to reach US$300 billion by 2030. He cited the expansion of the biotechnology start-up ecosystem as evidence of the opportunities emerging in life sciences and advanced research. These developments, he said, demonstrate the potential of scientific innovation to generate new enterprises, strengthen domestic capabilities and create economic value.

Dr. Jitendra Singh stressed that industry engagement should begin at the inception of research projects, enabling scientists to understand market requirements, identify technological needs and develop solutions with a clear pathway to commercial deployment. Industry bodies such as PHDCCI can play an important role in connecting researchers with businesses, facilitating investment and building partnerships that help innovations progress from laboratories to prototypes and market-ready products.

Referring to the Government's Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) initiative, the Minister said greater private-sector participation in research and development was essential to accelerate the translation of scientific discoveries into commercial applications. He encouraged industry to participate more actively in research-led innovation and help build an ecosystem in which scientific excellence leads to sustainable enterprises and globally competitive products.

Kolkata hosts forest rights act review conference



New Delhi, Oct 24 (Way to News): The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), Government of India, convened the Second Regional Review Conference on implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA) at Kolkata, West Bengal on 9th October 2026. The Conference brought together senior functionaries of the Tribal Welfare, Revenue and Forest Departments and Tribal Research Institutes of eight States, namely West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Additionally senior officials of Andhra Pradesh were invited to share the best practices the State has undertaken on digitization, integration of FRA titles into government records and taking up proactive measures on convergence of livelihood schemes with FRA titleholders and providing credit facilities to the right holders. Further, District officials- Collectors, Sub Collectors and ITDP/ ITDA Project Officers, where districts having a large pendency of FRA claims, also attended, to review the status of implementation and deliberate on a coordinated way forward. The Conference follows the First Regional Review Conference held in Bengaluru on 10 September 2026 for the Southern States.

Proceedings began with a Welcome Address by the Principal Secretary, Tribal Development Department, Government of West Bengal, who apprised the gathering of the objectives of the Conference and extended a formal welcome to the dignitaries and delegates which was followed by the Keynote Address of the Joint Secretary, MoTA, and the Special Address of the Secretary, MoTA.

In his Keynote Address, the Joint Secretary said that as on 31st August 2026, over 54 lakh claims had been received nationally, and about 25 lakh titles had been distributed. About 11 lakh claims still remain pending at different stages, while over 18 lakh claims have been rejected. He noted that Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Assam account for substantial pendency concentrated in particular districts. He highlighted that the Regional Conference focuses on the following key priorities such as timely disposal of pending claims and review of rejected claims in accordance with the Act and Rules, reconciliation of FRA data, digitization of FRA case records, incorporation of recognised rights into revenue and forest records, accelerate recognition of Community Forest Resource Rights and Habitat Rights recognition for PVTGs.

One year of agricultural development in 100 districts

New Delhi, Oct 24 (Way to News):India's agriculture sector has significant potential across diverse regions and farming communities. However, despite rich potential, many areas face challenges like low productivity, inadequate irrigation, limited access to credit, and lack of post-harvest infrastructure. As a result, these areas are not able to attain their full agricultural potential and lag behind in economic development.

PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) seeks to address these gaps, and develop 100 Aspirational Agricultural Districts through focused intervention. By addressing district-specific needs the scheme can help unlock opportunities in productivity, irrigation, credit access, and post-harvest infrastructure. PMDDKY was approved by the Union Cabinet on 16th July, 2025 for a period of six years, and was formally launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 11th October, 2025. It celebrates its first anniversary on 11th October this year.

The six-year initiative, beginning with 2025-26, focuses on transforming agriculture and allied activities across 100 Aspirational Agricultural Districts. These districts were identified using three key indicators: low productivity, low cropping intensity, and less agricultural credit disbursement. The selection also considered the share of net cropped area and operational holdings in each State and Union Territory.

Fourth All S&T Clusters' Meet Reaffirms the Power of Collaboration in Driving Innovation

New Delhi, Oct 24 (Way to News): The Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, chaired the Fourth All S&T Clusters' Meet held on 9–10 October 2026 at Panjab University, Chandigarh, hosted by PU-IIT Ropar Regional Accelerator for Holistic Innovations Foundation (PI-RAHI). He was joined by Dr (Mrs.) Parvinder Maini, Scientific Secretary and Dr Vishal Choudhary, Scientist-F, Office of the PSA. Prof. Meenakshi Goyal, Vice-Chancellor, Panjab University; Prof. Rajeev Ahuja, Director, IIT Ropar; Prof. Avinash Kumar Agarwal, Director, IIT Jodhpur; Prof. Rajat Sandhir, and Dr Pushpendra P. Singh, Director, PI-RAHI; and representatives of the eight S&T Clusters participated in the deliberations.



In his opening remarks, Prof. Sood noted that the Clusters have evolved into integrated ecosystems addressing regional, industrial, and societal challenges and increasingly functioning as "National Technology Accelerators." He emphasised the need to strengthen inter-Cluster collaboration, stakeholder participation, coordination with RuTAG and RSVCs, and technology visibility. He also highlighted the growing global engagement of the Clusters, including the 12 international MoUs emerging from the First International Conference on S&T Clusters and subsequent partnerships with the University of Western Australia, India–Australia Smart Farm Network and UK Catapult Network.

During the inaugural session, Prof. Sood launched an Automatic Weather Station, highlighting the role of technology-enabled solutions in strengthening climate-smart and data-driven agriculture. The Meet also highlighted key inter-Cluster initiatives in sustainable mobility and clean technologies, including the inauguration of an EV Charging Station in Himachal Pradesh and the EVChargex Battery Swapping Station in Panchkula. The Himachal Pradesh initiative brings together charging infrastructure, EV users, and digital services, leveraging collaboration between DRIIV and PI-RAHI to support.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

2nd T20I: Tilak comes clutch, Nitish puts hand as India beat NZ To Take 2-0 Lead

Christchurch, Oct 24 (Way to News): Tilak Varma came up with another clutch performance to headline India's come-from-behind win against New Zealand in the second T20I at the Hagley Oval here on Saturday.

With their backs against the wall at 70/5 in 10.5 overs, Tilak smashed a match-changing and unbeaten 51 from 26 balls to guide India to a much-impressive four-wicket win with a successful chase of a strong 181 in Christchurch with one ball remaining. Nitish Kumar Reddy also put up a crucial and unbeaten hand of 26 from 13 balls and hit the winning runs for India on the second-to-last ball off Jacob Duffy to help the visitors achieve a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

This overpowered Mitchell Santner and Glenn Phillips' efforts, who had put New Zealand in strong positions. Santner displayed a stellar effort of 4-21 as spinners received great help from the surface, and even the speedsters gained from the slowness of the surface, which was the same as the opening match of the series, which saw India chase down 226. This time, the used surface gripped, with batters finding it hard to score.

Earlier, Phillips had scored a crucial 70 from 43 balls, while Bevon Jacobs had made 58 from 46 deliveries to take the team to a strong total of 180/5 on a tricky surface.

India began the chase with eight straight dot balls as Matt Henry bowled a maiden first over to Sanju Samson, beating his bat thrice in the six balls. The visitors were off to a mark on the ninth ball when Abhishek Sharma miscued Jacob Duffy at deep point.



Abhishek could well have been dismissed for just one had Duffy not overstepped in the second over, as the Indian opener was caught out at deep square by Nathan Smith, only for the umpire to raise his hand for a no-ball. Abhishek hit a four on the next ball, and that kick-started India's chase as they raced to 37/0 from four overs after a maiden first over. However, the helpful conditions for the bowlers were soon on display when Duffy got Samson for 14 on a slower ball, caught at cover. Returnee Vaibhav Sooryavanshi could not make much of an impact as he fell on four from eight balls to Nathan Smith, with Daryl Mitchell taking a sharp catch at cover. New Zealand captain Santner came into his own and removed Abhishek in the first over he bowled, as the batter could not clear the long, deep mid-wicket. Santner put the visitors in further hole when he got Shreyas Iyer and Axar Patel in the same 11th over, as the Men in Blue were in big trouble at 71/5 after 11 overs.

In-form Naman Dhir put up a decent fight, and although he was dropped by Bevon Jacobs at point, which was a sitter, he gave hope to India for a chase. The all-rounder made 31 from 17 balls, and although most of the other batters struggled, he looked good, including against Michael Bracewell, whom he hit for a six and a four in the 14th over. However, Santner got Dhir in his final over to complete his four-wicket haul, and it became even more difficult for India. Nitish Kumar Reddy joined Tilak Varma in the middle, and the two did not give up.

With 46 needed off 18 balls, Nitish and Tilak took 17 runs from Duffy's third over to keep India alive. Tilak hit back-to-back fours on the first two balls of the 18th over, with Glenn Phillips misfielding one at deep mid-wicket.

The Indian vice-captain showed nerves of steel with a crucial pulled four and a six to end the over as the equation was brought to 11 off the final six balls.

Duffy came for the final over with the hosts penalised for a slow over rate and forced to bring one extra fielder inside the 30-yard circle. Tilak drilled the bowler for a four through covers on the second ball and completed his fifty on the next ball with a couple. Tilak was disappointed with Nitish for not running a close second run, but Nitish finished things with a double towards the deep backward square leg on the second-to-last ball to finish the game.

Earlier, Phillips and Bevon Jacobs put up impressive half-centuries to lead New Zealand to a decent total of 180/5. With New Zealand in trouble at 41/3 after 5.2 overs, Phillips (70 off 43 balls) and Jacobs (58 off 46 balls) put up a fighting 116-run partnership for the fourth wicket to lead the comeback for the hosts in the second match, which was played on the same venue and the same pitch as that run-scoring first T20I.

Brief Scores: New Zealand 180/5 in 20 overs (Glenn Phillips 70, Bevon Jacobs 58; Arshdeep Singh 2-33, Prince Yadav 1-30) lose to India (Tilak Varma 51, Naman Dhir 31; Mitchell Santner 4-21, Nathan Smith 1-34) by four wickets

Commonwealth Kabaddi C'ship: Indian teams stamp authority in opening games

Ahmedabad, Oct 24 (Way to News): The Indian men's and women's teams dished out clinical displays to thrash England and Malaysia, respectively, in their opening matches of the Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship 2026 at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Ahmedabad on Friday.

The women's team, led by Sakshi's 13 points and Renuka and Nidhi Sharma's nine and eight points, respectively, eased to a 73-13 triumph over Malaysia. India scored 40 raid points, 20 tackle points — a testament to their all-round game — and inflicted six all-outs on their opponent as they began their quest for the gold medal with an authoritative show. The men's team, though, were given a stern test by



England before India's superior all-round skills paved the way for a comfortable victory. After India led 23-9 at half-time, England came out all guns blazing in the second half to trim the deficit to 21-30. Thereafter, India's two consecutive successful raids and a tackle increased the gap before the hosts inflicted an all-out on England. Ultimately, India, led by Naveen Kumar's 12 points and Neeraj Narwal's 11 points, emerged victorious 46-26.

In the last match of the day, the Ugandan men's team led Malaysia 24-14 at half-time.

The Kenyan men's and women's teams commenced their respective campaigns at the Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship 2026 with contrasting victories at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex on Friday. While the men's team enjoyed a comprehensive 48-28 victory over Singapore, with James Kamweti leading the scoring charts with 19 points, the women's team held their nerves to defeat Bangladesh 34-25 in a tightly contested match. Sri Lankan men outplayed Tanzania 48-21, with Milinda Chathuranga and Adhan Viduranga contributing 11 and 10 points, respectively, in the team's victory. The island nation's aggression helped them score 25 raid points compared to Tanzania's nine points.

World Boxing U-19 C'ships: Megha Sheokand assured of Medal in women's 80+Kg

New Delhi, Oct 24 (Way to News): Megha Sheokand became the second Indian to be assured of a medal in the ongoing 2026 World Boxing U-19 Championships in Budva, Montenegro, on Friday, defeating Turkey's Melisa Eroglu 5:0 to reach the women's 80kg semifinals.

Prachi Tokas had assured India of its first medal in the women's 80+kg category.

Asian U-19 champion Prachi also kept her hopes of a medal alive as she registered a dominant win over Alie Chartier of Canada.

Prachi dominated both rounds against Chartier, who got one count in the first and two in the second before the Indian was awarded the bout by RSC. Earlier, Himanshi went down 1:4 against Ellen Joyce of Ireland in the women's 48kg pre-quarterfinals.



Last night, Anshika's challenge in the women's 75kg category ended in the pre-quarterfinals after she lost by RSC against China's Shengjie Gong. On Thursday, Asian U19 silver medallist Prachi Tokas secured the first medal for the Indian contingent when she outplayed Samoa's Kealey Perez to reach the women's 80+ kg category semifinals. In the quarterfinals, Tokas dominated all the three rounds against Perez, who had won the gold medal in the the 80kg at the U19 World Boxing Futures Cup in Bangkok, Thailand, earlier this year. In the semifinals, the Indian boxer will face Russia's Samira Itonieva.

Meanwhile, Harshika and Lakshu are now a win away from an assured medal after they registered contrasting wins in their pre-quarterfinals bout. Harshika defeated Tiana Rew of Australia 4:0 in the women's 65kg category, while Lakshu got the better of Buse Nur Yahan of Turkey 3:2 in the women's 70kg category. Later in the men's 90 kg category, Dhruv went down 0:3 against Aleksander Sikora of Poland.

India's Aman Dev came up with yet another clinical performance to beat Pavle Popovic of Serbia to reach the men's quarterfinals in the 50 kg category. Aman dominated all three rounds against Popovic to earn a 5:0 verdict and will now face Shalva Beridze of Georgia in the last eight.

Sumit Antil Wins Gold in Asian Para Games Javelin Sweep



Nagoya, Oct 24 (Way to News): India's Paralympic and World champion Sumit Antil added another feather to his cap as he defended his Asian Para Games gold medal by clinching the top prize in the Men's Javelin Throw F42–F44/F61–F64 at the Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium here on Friday.

Antil won his second gold at the continental showpiece with a huge 72.46m throw in the final, while India swept the podium places. Mahendra Gurjar (F42) and Sandip Sargar (F44) brought the silver and bronze medals.

Mahendra hurled the spear to 59.03m and collected 1066 Raza points, while Sandip achieved a distance of 64.48m and accumulated 1006 Raza points. Both the athletes broke the Games record in their categories.

The Raza point system is a mathematical way to compare and rank athletes from different disabilities on a fair and level playing field.

Meanwhile, Pranav Soorma also secured a gold medal in the Men's Club Throw F51 event with a Games record throw of 32.87m. Dharambir also bagged a bronze in the same event with a throw of 27.71m. Another podium sweep for India was missed as veteran Amit Kumar Saroha finished fifth with a throw of 27.26m to miss out on a medal.

Moreover, the Indian contingent has now marked its best-ever performance at the Asian Para Games. They have bagged 114 medals till now, going past their previous best haul of 111, which they achieved during the Hangzhou Para Games.

At the Aichi-Nagoya Games, India have 30 gold medals, 35 silvers and 49 bronze medals till now, which also surpassed the gold medal haul of 29 in Hangzhou.

Track para athlete Sandeep recently bagged a bronze medal in the 100m T64 event with a time of 11.67s. He had also won a gold in the 400m T64 event at the ongoing Games.

Earlier, India's Thulasimathi Murugesan and Manasi Joshi clinched the gold medal in the Women's Doubles SL3-SU5 category.

The Indian duo defeated reigning World Champions Qiuxia Yang and Zuxian Xiao of China in straight games, 21-16 and 21-13, to avenge their loss in the 2025 Asian Championships final and claim the coveted medal.

With this medal, Thulasimathi & Manasi upgrade their silver from the previous edition to gold.

Para Asian Games: Nitesh, Thulasimathi Win Silver In Badminton Mixed Doubles SL3-SU5

Nagoya, Oct 24 (Way to News): India's Nitesh Kumar and Thulasimathi Murugesan clinched silver in the Mixed Doubles SL3-SU5 category at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games here on Friday.

The Indian pair lost 21-11, 19-21, 14-21 to Indonesia's Leani Ratri Oktila and Hikmat Ramdani in the final to take the silver.

The Indian pair dominated the opening game 21-11 but narrowly lost the second 19-21 before going down 14-21 in the decider. Despite the defeat, Nitesh and Thulasimathi displayed tremendous fighting spirit, pushing their Indonesian opponents in a closely contested battle for gold.

Thulasimathi is still in contention for the gold medal, as she will be in action in the women's doubles SL3-SU5 final with Manasi Girishchandra Joshi to take on China's Yang Qiuxia and Xiao Zuxian.



Earlier in the day, Thulasi bagged a silver medal after losing the women's singles SU5 final to Yang of China 21-18, 21-21-11, while Nitesh defeated compatriot Pramod Bhagat, who had won gold in the 2018 and 2022 editions, 21-18, 21-16 in the all-India final between two Paralympic champions to win the gold medals in the men's singles SL4 category. In another match, Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan signed off with silver after losing 12-21, 13-21 to China's Li Fengmei in the women's singles SH6 final.

In para badminton, SL3 is for players with significant lower-limb impairments who compete on a half court, while SL4 is for athletes with lower-limb impairments who have better walking and running balance. SU5 is for players with upper-limb impairments, while SH6 is for athletes with short stature.

India arrived in Aichi-Nagoya after their best-ever Asian Para Games campaign at Hangzhou 2023, where Indian athletes won a record 111 medals – 29 gold, 31 silver and 51 bronze – to finish fifth overall. India are fourth in the Asian Para Games 2026 medals tally with 104 medals – 27 gold, 34 silver and 43 bronze.

Badminton: Sindhu Storms Into BWF French Open Semifinals

Paris, Oct 24 (Way to News): Indian badminton ace and two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu sailed into the semifinal of the BWF French Open, beating Chinese Taipei's Chiu Pin-Chian 21-13, 21-14 in Paris on Friday.

The Indian made a good start, winning the first game 21-13. She took that momentum into the second game and led 11-2 at the interval. Chiu showed signs of fightback, but Sindhu closed out the win, taking the game 21-14. Sindhu, who won a silver medal in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games followed by a bronze at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, will next meet either fifth seed Putri Wardani of Indonesia or Hina Akechi of Japan for a place in the final. Earlier, Sindhu comfortably saw off Japan's Riko Gunji 21-12, 21-16 in 44 minutes to advance. Notably, Gunji had knocked out Unnati Hooda in the opening round. Meanwhile, Ashmita Chaliha's dream run came to an end as the youngster fell 10-21, 21-17, 16-21 to Japan's Nozomi Okhuhara in the quarterfinals on Friday.

Chaliha was enjoying a memorable week as she claimed the biggest victory of her career, a 21-19, 21-18 win over world No.3 Akane Yamaguchi to reach her maiden Super 750 quarterfinal on Thursday. Having lost to Yamaguchi just a week earlier in Denmark, Chaliha had a different mindset in Paris. The world No. 36 Indian, who won her maiden BWF World Tour title at the Korea Masters Super 300 earlier this year, drew confidence from her previous encounter and was better prepared.

Odisha FC look to regain momentum in clash with northeast united

Bhubaneswar, Oct 24 (Way to News): With just one point from two games, Odisha FC will look to secure their first win of the Indian Super League (ISL)_2026-27 season when they host NorthEast United FC at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar on Saturday. The Highlanders have won both their opening matches to sit at the top of the standings, while Odisha have collected just one point from their first two games. The fixture brings back memories of their previous meeting in March, when Odisha registered a 4-1 victory, with Rahul K.P. scoring twice and Subham Bhattacharya finding the net on his debut.



However, head coach TG Purushothaman expects a different challenge against a NorthEast United side that has built strong combinations over the past few seasons. "It will be a tough match for us. They are a well-gelled team. They have been playing together for two to three years. Their understanding and combinations are good," Purushothaman said.

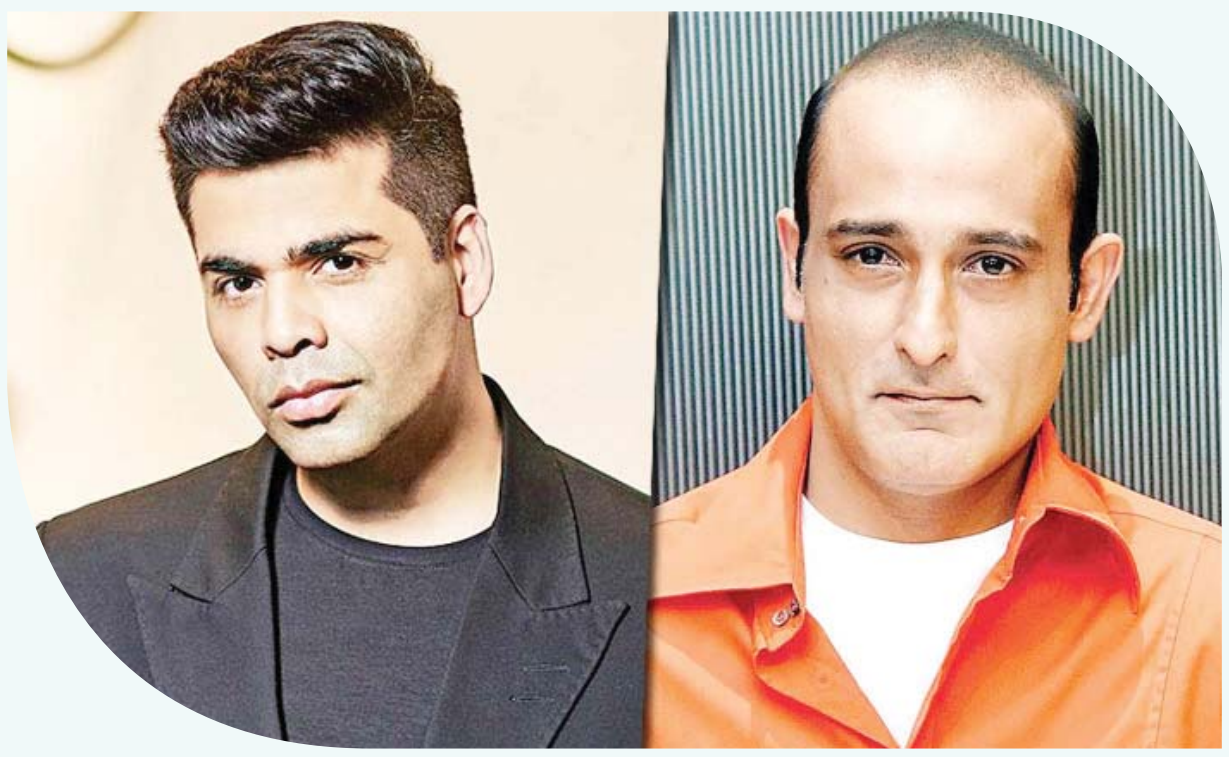
The Odisha coach stressed the importance of handling expectations and giving his team's best effort, saying, "We have to go without pressure; pressure won't give you anything, it will give you all the negative things. We have to overcome the pressure and we have to find a way on how we need to perform well in a positive way."

NorthEast United head coach Juan Pedro Benali played down the significance of his side's position at the top of the early standings, urging his players not to underestimate Odisha FC. Reflecting on last season's defeat in Guwahati, he said, "Last season, everybody underestimated Odisha, and they beat us here. We don't want to make the same mistake." He added, "Every game is a new story, new tactics, new everything. If you think the last game means you will win the next one, you're mistaken." Benali also praised forward Parthib Gogoi's team-first attitude after he featured for only a few minutes in his 100th appearance for the club, highlighting the importance of collective progress over individual milestones. North-East United will be without defender Asheer Akhtar, who is sidelined with a broken rib. Benali confirmed that Asheer could return to training next week.

Meanwhile, Odisha's new signing Stephen Eze remains unfazed by the growing home expectations. "The fans will be here; there are too many expectations. I am just focused on the game. No pressure. I will do what I can do best to help my team."

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Karan Johar recalls Akshaye Khanna bullying him: 'I was scarred'



It must be noted that while Akshaye has not starred in any movie directed by Karan Johar, the filmmaker has backed Akshaye's crime thriller 'Ittefaq', which was released in 2017 under his home banner, Dharma Productions.

The 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham' maker said, "I know, you've been very rude to me as a child. You don't remember. We've grown up in the same neighbourhood. We used to be neighbours, we were the South Bombay boys. And I used to play badminton, very badly, of course. And Akshaye was a great badminton player, and he used to just come and say, 'You, you, off the court'. And we were these little surviving badminton players, we used to just walk away, and he was this star badminton player, and we used to be thrown off the court."

The 'Dhurandhar' actor argued that he could not have done such a thing, claiming that KJo is making up stuff. However, Karan stressed that he was telling the truth and that he was extremely scared.

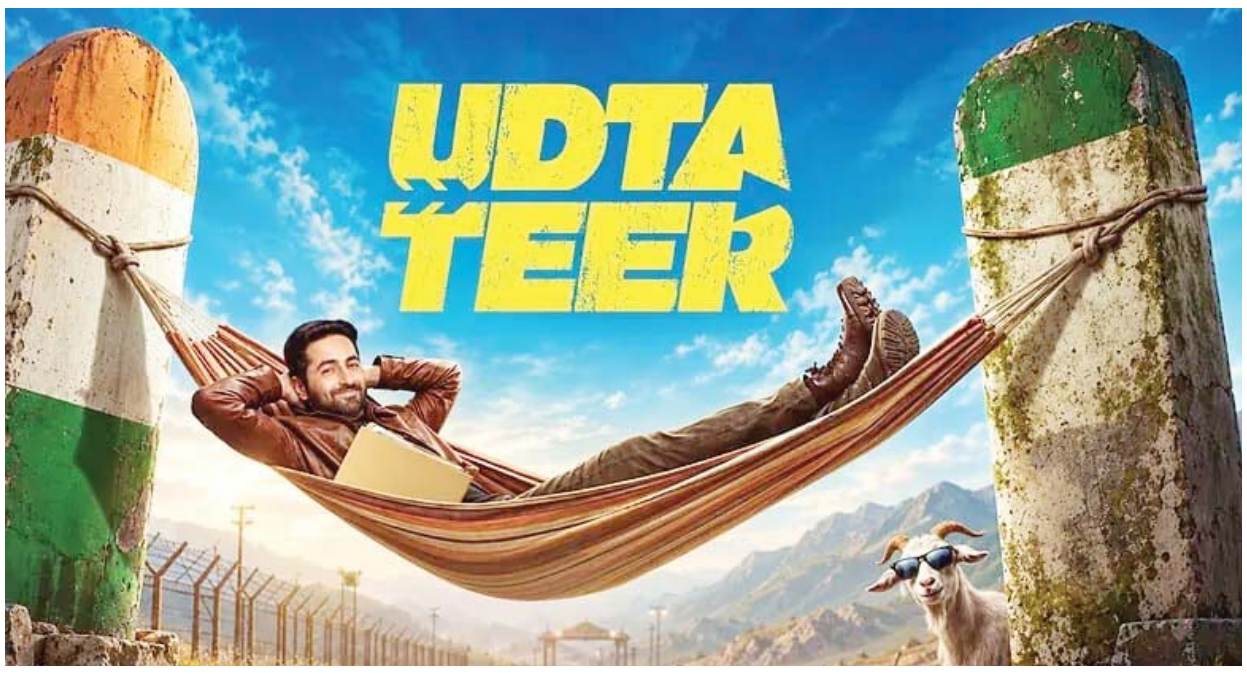
"I swear I'm not. I remember, I was scarred," said Karan. Akshaye even later on apologized to the director for the incident.

It must be noted that while Akshaye has not starred in any movie directed by Karan Johar, the filmmaker has backed Akshaye's crime thriller 'Ittefaq', which was released in 2017 under his home banner, Dharma Productions. Made under the direction of Abhay Chopra, the movie also featured Sonakshi Sinha in the lead.

Karan Johar's revelation about his childhood encounter with Akshaye Khanna has brought an interesting glimpse into their early days in South Bombay. The filmmaker's anecdote highlighted how their relationship dates back long before they became established names in the Hindi film industry.

Akshaye Khanna, known for his reserved personality and powerful screen presence, appeared surprised by Karan's account and denied behaving rudely towards him. The lighthearted exchange added a nostalgic touch to their conversation, with Karan insisting that the badminton-court incident had left a lasting impression on him. The incident also reflects the childhood experiences and neighbourhood connections that often remain memorable even after people achieve success in their respective careers. Although the two followed different paths in the film industry, their shared memories offered an unusual perspective on their personal connection. While Akshaye has not acted in a film directed by Karan Johar, their professional association includes Ittefaq, the 2017 mystery thriller backed by Dharma Productions.

Udta Teer review: Rahul Bose steals the show in a fun satire



Some films work best when they embrace their own madness. Udta Teer delivers precisely that kind of carefree entertainment, with an unusual plot, cheeky political humour and a surprise package in Rahul Bose. While its occasional shift towards serious drama interrupts the fun, there is enough here to make it worth a watch. Keeping Rahul Bose's track out of the trailer was a smart decision. His appearance brings some of the film's funniest moments, with his facial expressions doing much of the heavy lifting. There is a reason for that, but revealing it would spoil the fun. It is a track best discovered in the theatre.

The film also lands several sly digs at Pakistan's economic troubles and military establishment. One particularly funny scene sees Ram Kapoor's high-ranking officer smash an expensive plate in frustration, only to find himself being served on a thermocol plate later. It is a simple visual gag that lands without needing an explanation. The generals' dismissive attitude towards the prime minister adds to the satire, turning the imbalance of power into a running source of humour.

For all its comic strengths, Udta Teer does not quite trust itself to remain a parody. The shift towards seriousness slows down a film that is otherwise at its most entertaining when it lets loose. Sara's track feels like a speed breaker and brings to mind Yalina's storyline in Dhurandhar. The emotional detour does not work as well as the comedy surrounding it. The songs, too, feel unnecessary and interrupt the momentum. The final twist, however, is cleverly handled. Without giving anything away, it reframes what comes before it and appears designed to head off accusations of a n anti-India narrative. Whether the film needed that reassurance is debatable, but the reveal itself works. Udta Teer offers something that has felt rare lately: a chance to sit back and enjoy a film's sheer silliness. A stronger commitment to parody and fewer emotional interruptions would have made it sharper. Even so, Rahul Bose's surprise track, the cheeky humour and the unusual premise make this an entertaining watch.

Dhanush dating Vaani Kapoor? Fresh rumours get netizens talking

A new pairing has caught the internet's attention, and this time, it is Dhanush and Vaani Kapoor. Social media chatter linking the two actors romantically has sparked a discussion, with users wondering whether there is any truth to the unexpected dating buzz.

The speculation surfaced in a Reddit discussion where users reacted to claims about the actors' alleged relationship. However, the posts do not establish that Dhanush and Vaani are dating, and the claim remains unverified.

The discussion drew mixed reactions. While some users expressed surprise at the pairing, others questioned the credibility of the claim and cautioned against taking social media gossip at face value. A few also criticised the way the rumour framed Vaani's personal life.

Dhanush's name had earlier come up in dating speculation involving Mrunal Thakur. Mrunal subsequently clarified that she admired him as an actor and hoped to work with him, describing herself as a fan of his work.

As for the latest chatter involving Vaani, there is no verified confirmation available. For now, the internet has a new celebrity pairing to discuss, but whether the speculation has any substance remains an unanswered question.



Daniel Craig's 'Skyfall' suit, Omega watches up for auction



Daniel Craig's Tom Ford suit in "Skyfall", Omega watches, movie posters and other memorabilia from the long-running 007 franchise are up for an online global auction, allowing Bond fans to own a piece of movie history.

Propstore's online 'The James Bond Auction' features 400 lots spanning every film in the long-running series and highlighting the franchise's evolution, from 1962's "Dr. No" through 2021's "No Time to Die". The auction is now available for worldwide bids, which can be placed through the auction link, and it runs until October 27, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Craig's suit, shirt and cufflinks from the 2012 movie are expected to sell for as much as USD 53,000. The Omega watch, Tom Ford sunglasses as well as other costumes that he wore in the movie are also up for sale.

A dress and sandals that Ana de Armas wore in "No Time to Die" are expected to fetch around USD 53,000.

The auction includes a set of 14 first-edition books by Bond author Ian Fleming that is expected to sell over USD 50,000. A linen-backed British quad poster for "Dr. No", a clapperboard from 1983's "Octopussy" is also up for bidding. "James Bond has a unique place in popular culture, and interest remains strong to this day," Propstore director of consignments Alastair McCrea told The Hollywood Reporter.

"Bond has been part of cinema for over 60 years, with each generation having its own Bond, its own favorite film and memorable moments. One person grew up with Sean Connery, another with Pierce Brosnan, another with Daniel Craig, so you can still have three generations of the same family debating over who the best 007 is. That's what makes collecting Bond so appealing; there's something for everyone, whether it's the films, the actors, the gadgets, posters, costumes or the original artwork. Very few film franchises can claim that, and it's a big part of why the collecting market remains so strong."

Diljit's Delhi concert not cancelled, gets police nod



Singer-actor Diljit Dosanjh's Aura India Tour concert in Delhi, scheduled for October 30, has received permission following security review.

Organizer BookMyShow Live clarified that reports of its cancellation were inaccurate. In a statement to IANS, BookMyShow Live said permission for the event had been temporarily withheld and that it should not be confused with a cancellation. The organizer explained that, in view of the festive season and the need for heightened caution, Delhi Police had asked it to put additional safety, traffic, and crowd-management measures in place.

BookMyShow Live said it had held a cordial meeting with Delhi Police, presented a detailed plan, and assured the authorities of full compliance with all security and traffic requirements. Following this, permission for the event was reconsidered and issued. "We, with Delhi Police, are committed to ensuring a good experience for attendees as well as local commuters," the statement said.

Earlier, it was reported that Delhi Police had denied permission for Diljit Dosanjh's concert at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, citing security concerns. In an official letter dated October 21, the Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South District, had informed organizer BookMyShow Live Private Limited that its request to host the musical event featuring Dosanjh could not be approved.

The letter read, "In view of the specific threat-related inputs, coupled with the multifarious security and law & order commitments arising out of the ongoing festive season and other important law & order concerns, the same cannot be acceded to."

The police letter cited security threats and law-and-order concerns as reasons for withholding permission. However, it did not specify the nature of the threats or provide further details.

The Delhi concert is set to mark the beginning of Dosanjh's 'Aura India Tour', a six-week musical tour spanning several cities across the country. The tour is scheduled to include performances in Indore, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Lucknow, among other cities.

When Deepika Padukone had to sew Ranveer Singh's pants mid-party



One of the most adored couples in B town, Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone, are known for their electrifying chemistry both on and off the screen. Once, Deepika revealed that she had to stitch Ranveer's pants, that to, in the middle of a party. Speaking during her appearance on 'The Kapil Sharma Show', Deepika shared a hilarious incident while they were attending a music festival in Barcelona.

The 'Piku' actor shared that Ranveer was wearing a pair of loose pants, which gave way as he was dancing during the festival with his usual energy.

Recalling the funny incident, Deepika said, "Usne kuch loose sa ek pant pehna tha aur woh kuch ajeeb step kar raha tha. Beech mein woh pharr karke phat gaya pant (He was wearing these loose pants and was doing some weird step. Suddenly, his pants tore)". However, coming to his rescue, Deepika took out the sewing supplies from her bag and stitched the pants.

"So I was like, 'Wait.' Maine apne bag se sui nikaala, dhaaga nikaala. Sab log aise dance kar rahe hai aur party ke beech mein main uska pant sila rahi thi (I took out a thread and needle from my bag. Everyone was dancing around us and I was stitching up his pants in the middle of the party)," she recalled. Following a long courtship, Ranveer and Deepika finally tied the knot in Italy in 2018. They got married in two ceremonies – a traditional Konkani-style wedding followed by an Anand Karaj. Deepika and Ranveer welcomed their first child, daughter Dua, on September 8, 2024. They became parents for the second time on 19 September 2026 as they were blessed with another daughter.

Over the years, Ranveer and Deepika have worked together in many projects, including 'Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela' (2013), 'Bajiroa Mastani' (2015), 'Padmaavat' (2018), and '83' (2021). Deepika's anecdote highlights the couple's comfortable bond and their ability to handle unexpected situations with humour. Their relationship, which blossomed during their film collaborations, has often attracted attention for their mutual support and affection. Fans continue to enjoy such personal stories, which offer a glimpse into their lives beyond the glamour of the film industry and show how even a wardrobe mishap can turn into a memorable experience.

Printed by Published by Owned by Lingala Narender Published at H.No:10-1/-1-1/A, Thrimurthy Colony, Saroor Nagar, Ranga Reddy, Telangana and Printed at Rachakonda Publications H. NO. 5-2-396/P-21, VENKATESHWARA COLONY, SAHEBNAGAR KALAN, RANGA REDDY, TELANGANA- 500035 EDITOR: Lingala Narender, PRGI NO: TGENG/26/A6521, Ph:9010110808