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'Threat of dimagi naxals remains': PM Modi

WARNS AGAINST IDEOLOGICAL CHALLENGE AFTER ANTI-NAXAL GAINS





Ekta Nagar (Gujarat), Oct 31 (Way to News): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday warned that the threat of what he called "dimagi Naxal" (intellectual Naxalism) had not disappeared, even as he claimed that the country had broken the backbone of armed Naxalism and eliminated all Naxal-affected districts by March this year.

Addressing the 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' gathering at Ekta Nagar in Gujarat, PM Modi said the country had made significant progress in its campaign against Left-wing extremism, but citizens needed to remain alert to what he described as an ideological threat. "We have ended Naxalism in remote areas. But the threat of intellectual Naxalism has not yet passed from the country. The nation must always remain alert to these intellectual Naxalites," he said.

The warning came after the Prime Minister referred to his address at the same venue a year ago, when he had pledged that the country would not rest until it was free of Naxalism and Maoist violence. "That resolve had now been fulfilled," he said. PM Modi had earlier claimed that 126 districts were affected by Left-wing extremism in 2015, while no district remained affected by Naxalism by March this year.

"Regions that had endured decades of violence were now being connected to the mainstream development through roads, mobile networks, schools and healthcare facilities," he said. The Prime Minister also paid tribute to security personnel who had lost their lives in operations against Naxalism and welcomed families from affected regions who attended this year's National Unity Day celebrations. In the second part of his address, PM Modi warned against intellectual Naxalism within a broader appeal to protect national unity.

The Prime Minister alleged that some forces were attempting to divide Indians, spread rumours and damage the country's image through social media. He urged citizens to i entify such activities and confront them collectively, saying that the country could not afford to become divided at a time of global instability and external challenges. PM Modi also called for progress towards securing the country's borders, preventing infiltration and demographic changes, and moving towards what he described as a secular civil code. "The national resolve to build a developed India by 2047 must continue despite obstacles and challenges," he added.

'PUBLIC IMPEACHMENT'

Gyanesh Kumar won't survive as CEC

SAYS RAHUL AS INDIA BLOC LEVELS 'SIX CHARGES'



New Delhi, Oct 31 (Way to News): Warning Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar that he would "not survive" and accusing the Election Commission of deleting 13.3 crore voters, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Saturday that the Opposition had been left with "no other option" but to hold a symbolic public impeachment at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence. Addressing a mock Parliament at 10, Rajaji Marg, Rahul said the fact that Opposition MPs, civil society representatives and citizens had assembled in a garden to question the CEC reflected the closure of institutional avenues, including Parliament, the judiciary and the Election Commission.

"We are here because we have nowhere else to go. We have no other option. Every single institutional direction is closed to us," he said.

Rahul claimed that 13.3 crore voters, or 15 per cent of India's electorate, had been deleted from the electoral rolls. He argued that these voters had participated in the last Lok Sabha elections, which were decided by margins of around 3 per cent in several constituencies, and questioned the legitimacy of the results if such a large section of the electorate had subsequently been excluded.

"Mr Gyanesh Kumar is not going to survive. We have enough proof," Rahul said, warning that the CEC could not indefinitely take shelter behind the institution he had sworn to serve.

He said the Opposition would neither forgive nor forget the alleged electoral manipulation and warned the BJP that retaining Kumar would raise questions about what the ruling party stood to gain.

The proceedings, which began with the national anthem, "Jana Gana Mana", were presided over by former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar. The INDIA bloc moved a resolution seeking the CEC's removal, listing six charges, including alleged voter deletions through the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), changes to electoral rules and manipulation of electoral rolls through Election Commission software.

Opening the proceedings, Meira Kumar said crores of voters were allegedly being removed without transparency or accountability. "If even one voter is denied the right to cast their vote, the soul of our democracy is hurt," she said.

Moving the resolution, Kharge accused Kumar of acting at the behest of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. He said 193 Opposition MPs had submitted a notice seeking the CEC's removal seven months earlier, but it had been rejected.

CM Mann To Recontest From Dhuri

AAP Releases First List Of 40 Candidates For Punjab Polls



New Delhi, Oct 31 (Way to News): The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday sounded the election bugle in Punjab, releasing its first list of 40 candidates for the 2027 Assembly elections following a survey. The names were finalised after deliberations at the Political Affairs Committee (PAC) meeting chaired by AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal here.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann will again contest from Dhuri, with the early announcement giving candidates several months to reach out to voters and highlight the work of the AAP government and jailed minister Sanjeev Arora, who is facing money laundering charges, from Ludhiana West. Kejriwal congratulated all 40 candidates and called upon the party to surpass its 2022 performance in the 2027 elections, stating: "The party has given tickets to these candidates following a survey conducted among the people. I congratulate all 40 candidates and call upon everyone to break even the record set in 2022 in the 2027 elections."

Following the conclusion of the Political Affairs Committee (PAC) meeting, CM Mann also congratulated all the candidates and stated, "The Aam Aadmi Party has released its first list of 40 candidates for the upcoming 2027 Punjab Assembly elections. The early announcement of candidates reflects the party's strong preparations, transparency and unwavering confidence in the work done by our government."

Kumbh mela symbol of spiritual power: Prez Murmu



Nashik, Oct 31 (Way to News): President of India Droupadi Murmu, after the inauguration of the Nashik-Trimbakeshwar Simhastha Kumbh Mela 2026-28 on Saturday, said that she felt deeply happy and blessed to be present at the event. President Murmu hoisted the sacred flag and performed the ritualistic Ganga Pujan amidst the chanting of Vedic mantras at the holy Ramkund of the Godavari River.

The ceremony was attended by the Governor of Maharashtra Jishnu Dev Varma, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Pawar, along with other ministers, sadhus, and saints. Addressing the gathering on this occasion, President Droupadi Murmu said, "I feel deeply happy to be here. I consider myself fortunate to participate in this grand ceremony." President Murmu mentioned that she had darshan at Trimbakeshwar and at the holy Kushavarta Tirtha.

She highlighted that the Kumbh Mela is held at four places and is renowned worldwide as a symbol of cultural and spiritual strength. She noted that historical references show the Kumbh being celebrated as far back as 1,400 years ago. Describing the event, she said that the Kumbh Mela is a symbol of faith and social unity. "I offer millions of bows (koti koti pranam) to this holy land. This is a land of penance (tapo bhumi), blessed by the footprints of Lord Shri Ram. I offer my respects to Mother Godavari," she added. CM Fadnavis stated that development work in Nashik is progressing at a rapid pace and that the appearance of Nashik and Trimbakeshwar is set to transform. He noted that while some people initially doubted whether the works would be completed, and although citizens faced temporary inconvenience, the development projects are now coming to fruition.

Manipur Govt agrees to pay ex-gratia to 32 Kuki-Zo victims' kin



Imphal, Oct 31 (Way to News): The Manipur government has agreed to provide ex-gratia compensation to the next of kin of 32 Kuki-Zo civilians killed in violence attributed to the NSCN-IM and ZUF-K, the Kuki-Zo Council (KZC), the apex body of the Kuki-Zo tribal community in the state, said on Saturday.

A senior KZC leader said that an ex gratia amount of Rs 10 lakh is expected to be provided to each of the bereaved families. According to a KZC statement, a meeting between the council's leaders and government representatives was held at the District Magistrate's office in Churachandpur on Friday to discuss the concerns and demands raised by the council.

"During the meeting, KZC presented its concerns regarding the prevailing situation and the grievances of the Kuki-Zo people. Following extensive deliberations, the government agreed to provide ex-gratia compensation to the next of kin of 32 Kuki-Zo civilians who lost their lives in violence attributed to NSCN-IM and ZUF-K," the statement said.

The council said the decision reflects the need to honour the memory of the deceased and extend support to their bereaved families. The government also agreed to take responsibility for transporting the bodies of all the deceased to their respective villages for the final rites, the KZC said. According to the council, eight bodies of Kuki-Zo victims are currently lying in the morgue of Churachandpur District Hospital for a prolonged period, while some others have already been buried due to unavoidable circumstances.

Both arrangements payment of compensation and transportation of the bodies — are expected to be completed within seven days, the statement said. The KZC also raised several other pressing issues and demands concerning the security, welfare and political aspirations of the Kuki-Zo people. The government has taken these matters under consideration and assured the council that they would be reviewed and responded to in due course, the statement said.

While describing the commitments on ex-gratia compensation and transportation of the deceased as steps towards addressing the immediate concerns of the bereaved families, the KZC emphasised that the broader grievances and legitimate political aspirations of the Kuki-Zo people require concrete and time-bound action. The council said it would continue to pursue these matters with the government until meaningful outcomes are achieved.

Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit assumes charge as 29th Chief of air staff



New Delhi, Oct 31 (Way to News): Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit assumed charge as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff on Saturday, succeeding Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, who superannuated after 42 years of distinguished service to the nation.

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit was commissioned into the Fighter Stream of the Indian Air Force on December 6, 1986.

Over a career spanning four decades, the Air Chief has rich experience across diverse domains such as Operations, Flight Testing, Capability Development and Joint Staff assignments. "An accomplished Fighter Pilot, Qualified Flying Instructor and Experimental Test Pilot, he has over 3,300 hours of flying experience on a wide range of aircraft, including the Mirage-2000, various MiG variants, Jaguar and several transport aircraft," the Indian Air Force (IAF) said in a statement. The IAF said that Air Chief Marshal Dixit is widely recognised for his contribution to the modernisation of the Indian Air Force and was instrumental in finalising the Jaguar and MiG-27 upgrade projects and in the completion of the Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) and Final Operational Clearance (FOC) activities of the LCA Mk-I Tejas. "His operational command assignments include command of a Mirage-2000 Squadron, a Forward Base Support Unit in the Western Sector and Air Force Station Bidar, a premier fighter training base of the IAF," the force said.

Nepal, Bhutan seek Himalayan climate agenda at COP31



Kathmandu, Oct 31 (Way to News): Nepal and Bhutan have jointly proposed including a dedicated agenda item on temperature rise in the Himalayan region at the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31).

The move comes amid growing concerns over climate-related disasters, including devastating floods in Nepal's Bhotekoshi and Trishuli rivers on August 26, triggered by an avalanche damming a river, and a glacial lake outburst flood in Bhutan on Thursday night. In a press statement on Saturday, the secretariat of Nepal's Minister for Agriculture, Forests and Environment said the two countries had submitted a joint proposal seeking greater international attention to the mounting climate risks facing mountain ecosystems and communities.

The two countries have proposed an agenda item titled "1.5-Degree Temperature Rise in the Himalayan Region" at the conference, scheduled to be held in Antalya, Turkey, from November 9 to 20.

Minister for Agriculture, Forests and Environment Geeta Chaudhary submitted the proposal on behalf of the two countries under Rule 12 of the conference's draft rules of procedure, according to the minister's secretariat. The joint initiative comes amid growing concerns over the impacts of climate change in the Himalayas, where rising temperatures are accelerating glacier melt, increasing water insecurity and exposing communities to extreme weather events. The proposal states that these changes pose risks of irreversible damage to

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Chief Secretary Reviews Hyderabad Water Supply, Green Tankers Initiative from Nov 1



Hyderabad, Oct 31 (Way to News): Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju today reviewed the drinking water supply situation in the core urban region at the Secretariat and emphasised the need for coordinated water security measures to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply while conserving available freshwater and groundwater resources.

The Chief Secretary said that all necessary measures should be put in place to optimise water usage and ensure the sustainable management of available resources. He informed that the implementation of the Green Tankers initiative in the core urban region would commence from November 1.

He directed all government departments to utilise treated water for construction, landscaping, cleaning and other non-drinking purposes. He also instructed officials to regularly verify the quality of treated water supplied by Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) to ensure compliance with prescribed standards.

The Chief Secretary directed the Managing Director of HMWSSB to submit a daily report indicating the quantity of treated water transported and supplied, in million gallons per day (MGD).

During the meeting, HMWSSB Managing Director Ashok Reddy briefed the Chief Secretary on the contingency plan to ensure drinking water availability. He informed that the additional 40 MGD scheme under Mission Bhagiratha would be completed by November 15.

He further stated that Mission Bhagiratha would continue bulk water supply to all Urban Local Bodies merged into the municipal corporations until August next year.

The Water Board will also supply treated water through Green Tankers on demand, on the lines of its existing drinking water tanker service. The facility will also be made available through a dedicated mobile application, enabling consumers to access treated water conveniently.

Vivek Venkatswamy calls for 8% growth to achieve $3 trillion Telangana economy by 2047



Hyderabad, Oct 31 (Way to News): State Minister for Labour, Employment, Training, Mines, and Geology, Gaddam Vivek Venkatswamy, stated that an annual economic growth rate of 8% is required for India to evolve into a $5 trillion economy and for the state of Telangana to grow into a $3 trillion economy by 2047, transforming both the nation and the state into developed entities. He emphasized that, alongside economic growth, equal priority must be given to environmental conservation and sustainable development.

The Minister participated as the chief guest at the concluding session of a two-day national conference on "Economic Growth, Sustainable Development, and Public Policy," organized as part of the golden jubilee celebrations of the Dr. Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Institute (Dr. MCR HRDI).

The Minister noted that the skill development of human resources plays a pivotal role in economic growth. He pointed out that there is a gap between the skills possessed by youth graduating from educational institutions and the skills required by industries, and stressed the need to bridge this divide. It was suggested that educational institutions should go beyond their existing courses and training programs to equip youth with the specific skills actually required by industries. A call was made to strengthen coordination and partnerships between industries and educational institutions. The importance of providing training that combines practical knowledge with technical skills—thereby enhancing job prospects for students—was highlighted.

In this regard, it was noted that the state government is modernizing 65 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into 'Advanced Training Centers.' Plans are already in place to establish an additional 54 such centers, with the government's goal being to have a total of 122 Advanced Training Centers operational by next year. This initiative aims to provide youth with modern technical training tailored to industrial needs, ultimately improving their employment opportunities.

Furthermore, it was advised that youth should look to seize international employment opportunities.

Pointing to the growing global demand for skilled human resources, the Minister shared observations from recent visits to Japan and Germany. In these countries, millions of job vacancies remain unfilled each year—a situation driven by both a shortage of available human resources and an aging population, which makes it difficult to fill these roles. This situation presents a great opportunity for Indian youth to secure employment prospects on an international scale. It was suggested that young people should acquire the skills, technical knowledge, and qualifications tailored to the specific requirements of various countries. It was noted that Indians possess unique traits—such as the ability to easily integrate into foreign societies, adapt to changing circumstances, and a strong work ethic. By combining these inherent qualities with the right professional skills, individuals can unlock even better opportunities in the global job market.

Vakiti Srihari Seeks Stronger India-Germany Ties



Hyderabad, Oct 31 (Way to News): The State Minister for Sports and Youth Services Vakiti Srihari wished that the friendly relations between India and Germany, which have been going on for 75 years, will be further strengthened in the future.

He said that there is a need to expand the mutual cooperation between the two countries in the fields of trade, investment, technology, tourism and cultural exchange. The Minister participated in the German Unity Day celebrations held at a private hotel in Hyderabad. On this occasion, the Minister congratulated the German Consul General Michael Hasper, the German government and the people.

He said that the message of unity, mutual understanding and working together for a common future is conveyed to the world by the German Unity Day. He said that Germany is an important economic partner country for India, good cooperation between the two countries continues in the fields of engineering, automobile manufacturing, IT, research and renewable energy. In 2024, trade in goods and services between the two countries will exceed 50 billion US dollars. Telangana destination for global investments The minister said that with skilled human resources and strong technological systems, Hyderabad has become a major destination for international companies. The operation of Deutsche Börse in Hyderabad is a demonstration of the trust that international organizations have in the city.

He said that the goal of the state government is to attract global investments and develop international business partnerships. He said that through the Invest Telangana Global Summit to be held in December, the investment opportunities of the state will be introduced to global entrepreneurs.

German companies have been invited to Telangana to invest in advanced manufacturing, automobile engineering, IT, life sciences, renewable energy, advanced technology sectors. He explained that cooperation with the Thuringia state in Germany is increasing in the fields of skill development, technology, start-ups, and life sciences.

Telangana expands instant pension for women's financial security



Hyderabad, Oct 31 (Way to News): The Telangana government has extended the 'instant pension facility' to additional categories, ensuring that wives of deceased pensioners receive social security pensions immediately. The move benefits wives of persons with disabilities, toddy tappers, weavers, dialysis patients, and HIV and filariasis-affected individuals. Until now, the instant pension facility was only available to wives of old-age pensioners. The Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department, headed by Minister Danasari Anasuya, recently issued orders to expand the facility.

Under the new guidelines, if the wife of a deceased male pensioner is below 57 years of age, she will be eligible for a widow pension. If she is 57 years or older, she will be sanctioned an old-age pension. To avail the pension, the wife must submit her Aadhaar card, the first page of her bank passbook, the deceased pensioner's Aadhaar card and the death certificate. In rural areas, applications must be submitted to the panchayat secretary, while in urban areas, they should be submitted to the bill collector.

The concerned officials will verify the documents, enter the details in the Cheyutha portal and sanction the pension after confirming eligibility.

The expansion is expected to provide timely financial assistance to bereaved families and prevent eligible women from facing difficulties in accessing social security benefits following the death of their husbands.

Delimitation, quota to proceed despite SIR stir: Sanjay Kumar



Hyderabad, Oct 31 (Way to News): Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Saturday, October 31, said the NDA government would go ahead with delimitation, the NRC and 33 per cent reservation for women, despite the Opposition's agitation against the SIR of electoral rolls.

Alleging that the Congress was targeting constitutional institutions, he said the party had attacked the Election Commission, questioned Operation Mahadev, which was launched after the Pahalgam terror attack, and made critical remarks against the Supreme Court.

On the Congress's demand for elections using ballot papers, he said BJP MLAs and MPs from Telangana were ready to seek re-election on ballot papers in the next Assembly polls. He asked Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to say whether the Congress was ready to do the same in the state.

"I am saying this without the permission of our leadership. I will persuade our central leadership," he told reporters here.

He said the Congress's decline began long ago, even though it was now alleging that the BJP was trying to win elections through Special Intensive Revision.

Charging that the Congress, the Communists, the AAP and the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) were trying to create an environment similar to the recent unrest in European countries, he said such tricks would not succeed as long as Narendra Modi was Prime Minister.

"There is no question of getting scared. SIR will continue. The National Register of Citizens will be implemented. We will provide 33 per cent reservation to women and extend opportunities to them in legislatures. We will take up the delimitation process. The 'Indi' alliance under Rahul Gandhi's leadership will witness a great scene after these are implemented," the Union Minister of State (Home) said.

The Congress takes credit for securing independence, he said, but asked how it could join hands with people like AISA president Neha Bora and Abhijeet Dipke. He cited American singer Mary Millen's allegation that the CJP was "funded by donors" in the US and reports of Neha Bora praising the Gen Z movement in Bangladesh. Asserting that the Congress's electoral decline did not begin with the ongoing SIR, he said the party had been out of power for 60 years in Tamil Nadu, 50 years in West Bengal, 37 years in Uttar Pradesh, 36 years in Bihar, 34 years in Tripura, 26 years in Odisha and Jharkhand, 23 years in Madhya Pradesh and Nagaland, 14 years in Goa, and 12 years in Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Maharashtra, among other states.

It has not been in power in Sikkim since the state was formed, he said.

"The people of this country want a Congress-mukt Bharat. You (Congress) have not declined because of SIR. Its decline started much earlier. The Congress lost its address in many states," he said.

He added that the Congress and the TVK had won in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, respectively, after the present SIR began. Dismissing the Congress's allegations against EVMs, he said they were introduced by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and that the Congress had won elections when the machines were used.

Accusing the Congress of making the Election Commission its "pocket organisation" in the past, he said Ashok Kumar Sen, brother of the first Chief Election Commissioner Sukumar Sen, was made a minister in Jawaharlal Nehru's government. Former CEC T N Seshan contested Lok Sabha elections on a Congress ticket, and another former CEC, M S Gill, served as a minister in the UPA government, he said.

Hitting out at the Congress government in Telangana, he said CM Reddy, ministers and other leaders were camping in Delhi for the party's dharna at Ramlila Maidan on November 1, though the state was reeling under drought and acute water shortage.

TG SAFE Suspends Licences of 14 Hyderabad Eateries Over Food Safety Violations



Hyderabad, Oct 31 (Way to News): The Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG SAFE) conducted a massive food safety inspection drive across the Golconda and Charminar zones of Hyderabad on Saturday, suspending the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) licences of 14 restaurants and eating establishments over serious hygiene and food safety violations.

A total of 22 enforcement teams comprising Food Safety Officers and police personnel inspected 22 restaurants and food establishments as part of the drive. The inspections revealed several serious violations, including unhygienic kitchens, cockroach and housefly infestations, spoiled vegetables, expired food products, improper food storage and repeated use of cooking oil.

During the inspections, officials collected 21 food samples on suspicion of adulteration. As much as 544 kg of spoiled and contaminated vegetables, leftover food, expired food products and pest-infested food articles were discarded on the spot. Another 13 kg of used cooking oil was also discarded on suspicion of repeated use. The enforcement teams found several establishments operating under highly unhygienic conditions. Violations included damaged flooring, stagnant water, greasy walls and chimneys, poor drainage facilities, rodent droppings and the presence of cockroaches and flies. In some kitchens, raw meat was stored improperly, while vegetarian and non-vegetarian food items were kept together in refrigerators. Officials also found prepared and semi-prepared food items stored without proper labels, leftover food kept in refrigerators and food handlers working without essential protective equipment such as hairnets and gloves. Several establishments had failed to maintain mandatory records, including employee health certificates and pest-control documentation.

Show-cause notices were issued to eight establishments for serious violations. They include Taj Falaknuma Palace at Engine Bowli, Hotel Sabzi at Charminar, Pista House Restaurant at Shahalibanda, Sweekar Hotel at Santosh Nagar, Mandi at 36 Arabian Kitchen at Charminar, Golconda Hotel and Resorts at Masab Tank, Imperial Multicuisine Restaurant at Tolichowki and Taiba Bakery at Bazarghat, Lakdikapool.

KTR questions IDBI valuation rule change after bids short



Hyderabad, Oct 31 (Way to News): Amid the row over the IDBI Bank disinvestment, BRS working president K T Rama Rao on Saturday, October 31, said reports of the bank's undervaluation were "really concerning." He noted that IDBI owns valuable real estate, including prime land in Hyderabad, and asked whether its value had been properly accounted for.

"Reports about undervaluation of IDBI Bank are really concerning. Why were the rules and valuation methodology changed when bids fell below the reserve price?" he said in a post on X, responding to an appeal from the All India IDBI Officers' Association to raise the issue of the bank's privatisation.

He asked why the concerns raised by IDBI employees were not being addressed. "Before selling off a reputed public sector bank to a private player, the union government owes the country some straight answers. What's the hurry?" he said.

Public sector undertakings and public sector banks are national assets that must be safeguarded, he added.

Responding on Friday to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's criticism of the NDA government over the disinvestment, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said IDBI Bank "was handed over to us in poor shape, as IDBI itself was forced to lend to large business groups with close connections to @INCIndia leaders such as Videocon, Winsome, ABG Shipyard, and Kingfisher."

"These turned into bad loans, causing huge losses for IDBI Bank, which we recognised," she said in a social media post. "The NDA govt led by Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi revived the IDBI Bank through professionalism, prudence and recapitalisation of more than Rs 25,000 crore. The IDBI Bank is now poised for its next phase of growth," she said, adding that all due process had been followed in the bank's strategic restructuring. On Thursday, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) said the second round of bidding was conducted under a procedure determined by the Core Group of Secretaries on Disinvestment (CGD). The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) had empowered the CGD to address procedural issues and deviations. The first round of bidding was held in 2025-26, but the bids were not approved, after which that round became functus officio, or ceased to have further effect, DIPAM said in a statement.

The clarification followed questions from several quarters, including the bank's union, about IDBI Bank's valuation and the price quoted by the proposed bidder, Canada's Fairfax Financial Holdings.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

ED Arrests SP Leader Azam Khan In Jauhar University-Linked Money Laundering

Ghaziabad, Oct 31 (Way to News): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Samajwadi Party leader and former minister Mohammad Azam Khan in a money laundering case, an official said on Saturday. Azam Khan will soon be produced before the Special Court (PMLA), Ghaziabad, for custody proceedings, the official said in a statement.



The Samajwadi Party leader's arrest by the ED comes close to the provisional attachment of land and buildings belonging to Mohammad Ali Jauhar University in Uttar Pradesh's Rampur district, valued at Rs 426.46 crore, in connection with the money laundering probe involving the Maulana Mohammad Ali Jauhar Trust, Azam Khan, and others. The fresh trouble for the Azam Khan came in the backdrop of a short-lived relief offered to him and his son Abdullah Khan by the Allahabad High Court by suspending their sentence in the dual PAN card case and also granted them bail on Thursday. In the money laundering case, the ED attached assets of the University that have a current estimated market value of around Rs 1,170 crore.

The university campus, located at Jauhar Nagar in Rampur's Singhankhera village, is owned by the Maulana Mohammad Ali Jauhar Trust, which was founded and is controlled by Azam Khan, who also serves as the institution's honorary Chancellor, said the ED.

The investigation stems from 26 FIRs registered at Azeem Nagar police station in Rampur, alleging that agricultural land belonging to farmers was forcibly acquired for the university.

The ED said enquiries by the district administration also found that nearly 34 acres of enemy property at Singhankhera village had allegedly been occupied for the university despite the cancellation of the land lease. The land has since been recovered by the Custodian of Enemy Property through the district administration.

The agency claimed its investigation revealed that funds intended for public works were diverted to the university, government-funded projects were executed on the private campus, and money from contractors awarded government contracts was routed back to the trust as donations. The ED has also taken up the investigation of 28 additional FIRs registered against Azam Khan and others in Rampur. These cases include allegations that several houses were demolished in 2016 and that material and equipment linked to public projects were diverted for use at the university campus. The allegations are part of charge sheets filed by the police. According to the agency, contractors involved in government projects admitted to supplying construction material and funds for the university.

India Can Strengthen Regional Stability In Middle East Through Maritime Cooperation, Diplomacy

Washington, Oct 31 (Way to News): With key maritime routes through the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait facing growing threats, India has an opportunity to strengthen its role in maritime security and diplomacy in the Middle East, a report has stated. It noted that this could involve examining competing proposals for Gaza, opposing efforts to diplomatically isolate Israel, and revisiting the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) in line with available funding and concrete political commitments.



"Threats around Hormuz endanger the Gulf energy supplies that Indian refineries rely on. Houthi attacks around Bab el-Mandeb make Indian exports to Europe more expensive when shipping companies divert vessels around Africa. Insurance premiums and delivery delays reach manufacturers negotiating contracts with European buyers. Saudi Arabia can move oil west through its East-West Pipeline to Yanbu, but insecurity in the Red Sea also threatens shipping from that port. India cannot count on one threatened passage as a dependable alternative to the other," according to a report in 'Real Clear Defence'(RCD).

Education Ministry extends NMMSS application deadline to Nov 15

New Delhi, Oct 31 (Way to News): The Union Education Ministry has extended the last date for submission of applications under the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) for the academic year 2026-27 till November 15, an official said on Saturday. The extension would provide eligible students additional time to complete their applications on the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) and facilitate timely verification by the concerned authorities, the official said in a statement.



As of October 30, 90,483 fresh and 1,99,531 renewal applications had been submitted under the scheme, the statement said.

The scheme provides one lakh fresh scholarships every year to eligible Class IX students who qualify in the selection examination conducted by the respective State/UT Governments. The scholarship is subsequently continued from Classes X to XII through renewal, subject to the prescribed academic requirements. Eligible students studying in state government and government-aided schools and also schools managed by local self-governments receive Rs 12,000 per annum, which is transferred directly to their bank accounts through DBT.

As per the revised schedule for the scholarship scheme, students who have already submitted their applications should ensure that the applications are verified by the Institute Nodal Officer (L1) by November 30 and the District Nodal Officer (L2) by December 15, the statement said.

Nepal PM Balendra Shah's Expected India Visit Offers Chance To Reshape Bilateral Ties

Kathmandu/New Delhi, Oct 31 (Way to News): Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah's expected visit to India in the coming weeks could offer an opportunity for the two countries to establish a new bilateral framework, a report said. It noted that rather than treating it as another high-level interaction or a symbolic celebration of friendship, both sides should consider a phased five-year agenda built around six key priorities.



These included Himalayan disaster resilience; secure and humane border governance; youth skills, employment and educational exchanges; digital and financial connectivity; trade and transit facilitation; and faster implementation of existing agreements.

"The next chapter in India-Nepal relations should be built around a more practical question: can the two countries create institutions capable of protecting their citizens from insecurity, disasters, economic shocks and the pressures of a rapidly changing region? That question is particularly relevant as Nepal's Prime Minister is expected to visit India in the coming weeks," a report in India Narrative detailed. "The visit would follow recent engagements involving Nepal's Home Minister and Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal's emphasis on making bilateral economic relations more ambitious and implementation-oriented. The timing offers both countries an opportunity for a relationship facing new challenges," it added.

India and Nepal are often regarded as close neighbours due to their shared geography, cultural traditions, religious ties and strong people-to-people connections. However, the defining aspect of their relationship today extends beyond these historical and cultural bonds to the everyday interdependence between the two countries, the report mentioned.

"People cross the border for employment, education, healthcare, trade and family obligations. Nepal depends significantly on access to Indian transport networks, markets and ports. India, in turn, benefits from economic links with Nepal, hydropower potential, regional connectivity and a stable Himalayan neighbourhood," it stated.

Dipke apologises after Diljit slams critics at Delhi concert



New Delhi, Oct 31 (Way to News): Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Saturday said he was hurt by Diljit Dosanjh's decision to distance himself from the student protest but his admiration for the singer remained unchanged, hours after the Punjabi superstar hit back at critics during a concert in Delhi.

Addressing thousands of fans at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Friday evening, Dosanjh repeated his "I'm an artist, bro" remark, which was criticised by several people, including Dipke, in July.

Dipke said his disappointment with Diljit stemmed from the respect he had always had for the singer and his expectation that he would speak up for causes affecting people.

"Paaji, back in June, when we were protesting, I was a little hurt by your comment. Not because I had anything against you personally, but because I've always seen you as someone who speaks up for the cause, just like you said yourself," he wrote.

Praising Dosanjh for his courage, and authenticity, Dipke said the disagreement did not diminish his respect for the singer. "One disagreement or misunderstanding doesn't change the respect and admiration I have for you. Baaki paaji, chhota bhai samajh ke mitti pao (Consider me your younger brother and end this matter)," said Dipke.

India calls on UN human rights council to give 'Sustained Attention' to terrorism threat

New Delhi, Oct 31 (Way to News): United Nations: India has asked the Human Rights Council to continue giving "sustained attention" to the threat of terrorism, which poses one of "the gravest threats" to human rights. "Terrorism remains among the gravest threats to the enjoyment of human rights, above all, the right to life", Bhavika Mangalanandan, a first secretary in India's UN mission, told the General Assembly in New York on Friday,



She said the Human Rights Council has recognised this danger in its resolution on international cooperation this year, and India "would encourage the Council to give this threat the sustained attention it warrants on the basis of zero tolerance". The resolution, adopted by the Council in July in Geneva, where it is located, called on the international community to "take the steps necessary to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism".

The resolution "re-emphasises that acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations are activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threatening the territorial integrity and security of States and destabilising legitimately constituted governments". This resolution runs counter to attempts by some countries, especially Pakistan, to create tendentious distinctions between terrorist acts and justify some. Mangalanandan, who spoke at the General Assembly's debate on the Human Rights Council's report.

She criticised the Council's attempts to "weaponise" the issue of human rights and to follow double standards, which undermines its credibility.

"Human rights are best advanced through dialogue, capacity building and genuine partnerships, and not by politicisation, selectivity or double standards", she said. "This is critical if the Council is to speak in one voice and dispel the allegation of weaponisation of human rights". Stressing the importance of cooperation and dialogue, she said, "Country-specific mandates pursued without the engagement of the country concerned seldom improve the situation on the ground".

Pinarayi Vijayan sees political vendetta in vigilance probe into KIIFB land deals

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 31 (Way to News): Leader of the Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday accused the Kerala government of launching a "politically motivated" Vigilance investigation into land acquisition for industrial development in Kannur and Palakkad, warning that the move could derail development projects, particularly in his home district of Kannur and nearby districts. In his first detailed response after the government order authorising the probe became public on Friday night, Vijayan alleged that the Congress-led UDF government was manufacturing allegations and using the Vigilance Department to pursue a pre-written political script.



The probe relates to land acquisition through KINFRA for the development of Kannur airport and the Kochi-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor. The government has ordered an investigation into alleged irregularities in the acquisition process, land valuation, compensation, and financial decisions.

Vijayan questioned the decision to order a Vigilance inquiry without any preliminary departmental investigation or supporting report. He alleged that the government had raised allegations first and then ordered an inquiry with a preconceived notion.

Defending the acquisition, he said the process was not a sudden initiative but a continuation of procedures that began nearly two decades ago and continued during the previous UDF government's tenure.

India hosts first-ever BIMSTEC maritime security exercise at Andaman and Nicobar Islands

New Delhi, Oct 31 (Way to News): India is hosting for the first time, a maritime security exercise for the BIMSTEC bloc, bringing seven member nations together to bolster cooperation in the Bay of Bengal.



The event is being conducted at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC), India's first integrated tri-service command. Positioned astride key sea lanes of communication, the ANC has capabilities in maritime surveillance, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, search and rescue, in addition to regional engagement, which make it a key pillar of maritime security in the region.

The exercise, which began on October 30 and will continue till November 3, involves Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. It is being held under the banner of "Shared Seas, Shared Security and Shared Prosperity".

The drill builds on the outcomes of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit, held last year under the theme "BIMSTEC: Prosperous, Resilient and Open". The Ministry of Defence described it as a practical step towards "translating vision to action", giving member states a working framework to deepen maritime cooperation and operational linkages. The exercise seeks to improve interoperability among participating forces, sharpen maritime domain awareness, streamline coordination mechanisms and encourage the exchange of best practices.

The Bay of Bengal is a vital maritime corridor linking South and South-East Asia. It underpins regional trade, connectivity, energy security and economic growth, making its safety a shared concern for all littoral and neighbouring states.

As the participating nations come together for the inaugural edition, they have reaffirmed their commitment to a secure, open and inclusive maritime domain, and to regional solidarity in pursuit of peace, stability and sustainable development, the Ministry of Defence said.

Keep Rahul Gandhi as your 'mock Prime Minister' for life: BJP's swipe at Opposition

New Delhi, Oct 31 (Way to News): The BJP on Saturday accused the INDIA bloc of making a "mockery" of Parliament and democracy after the opposition alliance held a symbolic "public impeachment" of CEC Gyanesh Kumar, and said that the Congress will not succeed no matter how much it tries to "launch" its leader Rahul Gandhi."Go ahead and hold your mock parliament or take out your marches; the world has already understood that Rahul Gandhi simply lacks the fuel. This 'satellite' is never going to launch," BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said in a swipe at the Congress, adding that the opposition can have Gandhi as a "mock Prime Minister for life".



Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi, he accused the Congress of spreading lies about alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the functioning of the Election Commission.

The BJP leader termed the Congress allegations of 'vote chori' a "lie" and alleged that "it was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who became PM by 'vote chori'. He stole Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vote and became PM." The opposition INDIA bloc was "making a mockery of democracy by holding a mock parliament today", Patra said.

"And I have a humble request: please, do not dismantle this mock parliament you have created. Just seat Rahul Gandhi on the treasury benches. Leave the T-shirt, have him wear a 'kurta-pyjama' and let him sit there while you chant 'Prime Minister, Prime Minister' like a 'bhajan-kirtan' every single day. Keep him as your 'mock Prime Minister' for life; we have absolutely no objection," Patra added, in a dig at the opposition.

Describing the opposition's mock parliament as a "drama", Patra rejected the opposition's charge of changes in Form 6, which is filled by citizens to enrol as voters, and accused Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge of lying on the issue.

"Only a declaration has been added with Form 6," the BJP MP added.

The ruling party's attack on the Congress and its allies came as the opposition bloc held the symbolic "public impeachment" of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar in a mock Parliament session at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence here ahead of its Sunday rally on the issue.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Editorial

India must never forget scars of 1984

A little after nine on the morning of October 31, 1984, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated in the garden of her residence on Safdarjung Road by two of her bodyguards, Beant Singh and Satwant Singh. By the evening, the news had been turned into a verdict against an entire community. In the resettlement colonies of Delhi, men gathered with kerosene, iron rods and lists of the houses where Sikh families lived. Nothing that followed in the next three days was spontaneous in the way the word "riots" suggests. The mobs knew exactly where to go. In Trilokpuri, Sultanpuri and Mangolpuri, men were dragged into the lanes and burned alive. Women were raped. Children watched their fathers die and then went hungry in relief camps. Trains arriving in and around the capital were stopped, and passengers wearing turbans were pulled out and killed. The Army was not deployed in time, and police personnel stood aside or lent a hand to the mob in many localities. Within weeks the new Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, said during a rally that when a big tree falls, the earth shakes. It was as if he had already reconciled himself with the tragedy.

The official count was 2,733 dead in Delhi and 3,325 across the country. Citizens' lists put the Delhi toll alone at 3,870. When about 1,200 people were killed in the Hamas-led attacks in October 2023, the world turned its attention to the tragedy at once. The serious question to ask is: Why has the killing of more than twice that number, inside India, by Indian mobs under the eyes of the Indian police, never been given a comparable place in our collective conscience? Where were the leaders, the people, the justice delivery system, the law and order machinery?

The anger behind Indira's assassination has a history. In June 1984, the Army entered the Golden Temple complex to remove Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his armed followers. The Akal Takht was damaged and many pilgrims died alongside militants. Punishing a community of millions for what two of its members did is collective punishment, and a democracy that allows it has abandoned its own principles. Sikhs and Hindus in North India were never separate communities; families were joined by marriage, and Hindu households raised a son in the Sikh faith. The killings handed the extremists their strongest argument, and the insurgency that followed took the lives of thousands of Sikhs and Hindus.

The Preamble to the Constitution begins with the words, "We, the People of India", and promises justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. In November 1984, the people who had given themselves that Constitution were, for the most part, not heard. The neighbours watched from their windows, the officers sworn to uphold the law looked away and the country mourned a PM while Sikh homes burned in the capital. Within seven weeks, the country went to the polls and returned the ruling party with 414 seats, the largest majority in the history of the Lok Sabha — a result commonly attributed in part to a sympathy wave. The culprits behind the massacre were exonerated. The question is put hardest to the rest of the country, whose silence taught a minority that the Preamble's guarantees came with conditions.

Touchstones: All of us are to blame

IRA PANDE



There has to be an astrological explanation for the turmoil we see all around us currently. Individual lives, families and countries — it seems as if no one is safe from the roiling waves of uncertainty that are engulfing all of us. We have lost so many dear friends and relatives in these last few months that I am left shaken. True, many of them were old or suffering from incurable medical conditions, but at one point it seemed as if all we were doing was saying a silent goodbye to a comatose person, then attending a cremation followed by a prayer meeting. It wasn't just us, I discovered. I was really taken aback by how many others went through the same cycle. I sincerely hope we have crossed into a happier time.

To come to happier topics, let's begin with the stunning result in Brazil where 80-year-old Lula defied age and psephologists to scrape past Flavio Bolsonaro. As I write this, there is a good chance that Israel's Netanyahu may not make it too. The only one we should all pray for now is Trump. He looks quite shaken and if he loses the mid-terms, I sincerely pray that the Republicans and Democrats unite to press for his impeachment. As the old song went: 'O wouldn't that be lovely?'

I wrote a few weeks ago that there should be a law in all democracies that governments can only serve for two consecutive terms. There should then be a cooling-off period of 10 years before standing for re-election. The ugly exchanges between rival parties, the devious games played, the disintegration of the media and the planting of destructive lies — all these may become less vicious. Above all, the gradual transformation of political leaders into fascists and dictators may also abate. As a thought to share, imagine if Obama were to stand for the post of President in the US. Of course, there cannot be a complete reversal of the damage that has been done by one whimsical egomaniac, but even a partial return to a more equitable and saner political system is welcome.

In India again, we have to do something to loosen the stranglehold of the fundamentalist forces and allow for a freer political atmosphere before it is too late. The capture of power by a few political dynasties is also stifling the rise of genuinely talented members each party has. Naturally, there will be a period of confusion and perhaps even violence, but tampering with the diversity of India will never be an easy task. The Samudra Manthan that our epics describe was a similar exercise: it released both poison and amrit — that is, some destructive forces and some peace and harmony. Our young people are restless and often led astray by vested parties and individuals but ignoring the message that state after state is repeating will be a big mistake. We need the energy of the young almost as badly as we need the wise counsel of the older generation. If the young alone will lead the movement for change, then prepare yourselves for what we have seen in Egypt, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bangladesh and to some extent, in Nepal.

I am beginning to sound like my mother when she would warn us against allowing our children too much freedom, and not checking on them when they were not paying attention to the home. Those were different times but such concerns still remain at the back of every parent's mind, whether they have the courage to articulate these to their children or not. The time to be friends with your children comes later, not when they are staying in a family.

Let us not forget that the CJP movement began because many young students needed to say out loud what they feared — jobs, exams and a shrinking employment space. To treat this as a passing phase or to deal with it as an outbreak among the educated urban elite is not completely understanding the difference between those who have no access to even a half-way decent education. And yet, they all want to clear complicated exams and resort to fair means or foul to get into the system.

The next phase is falling behind in the courses they have somehow entered and discovering that even if they were toppers in their own class, the rest of their peers were toppers too. A lack of confidence, a fear of failure and the dread of having betrayed their parents' hopes may lead them to suicides, addiction or mental health issues. We have all seen this trajectory and thank god our children are not affected, but what of those parents who have lost their children because they never understood them in the first place?

As I said when I began this column, these are trying times and there is a lack of certainty that may last for another year, until all the elections are done and the wheat separated from the chaff.

Gandhi on festivals, pilgrimages, temples

GOPALKRISHNA GANDHI



The year Gandhi returned to India (1915) was a year of the great Kumbha. He attended it as a Hindu ('though by no means, eager'). But experienced it as a sensitive human being. His description: 'The journey from Calcutta to Hardwar was particularly trying. Sometimes the compartments had no lights. From Saharanpur we were huddled into carriages for goods or cattle. These had no roofs. And what with the blazing mid-day sun overhead and the scorching iron floor beneath, we were all but roasted. The pangs of thirst, caused by even such a journey as this, could not persuade orthodox Hindus to take water, if it was "Mussulmani".'

He records: 'Here I saw a cow with five feet! I was astonished, but knowing men soon disillusioned me. The poor five-footed cow was a sacrifice to the greed of the wicked. I learnt that the fifth foot was nothing else but a foot cut off from a live calf and grafted upon the shoulder of the cow! The result of this double cruelty was exploited to fleece the ignorant of their money. There was no Hindu but would be attracted by a five-footed cow, and no Hindu but would lavish his charity on such a miraculous cow.'

The temples to Rama and Krishna on the two sides of Mohandas' ancestral home were at the very base of his soul-scape. And from there, without any doubt, arose his passionate adherence to Rama. But Gandhi would not be the Gandhi that he became if his thinking heart and feeling mind had not made him see the physics, chemistry, and archaeology of temple-going and idol worship.

He writes: 'I do not disbelieve in idol worship… I think that idol worship is part of human nature… Images are an aid to worship... I do not consider idol worship a sin.' But in the same statement, coming to himself, he also says, 'An idol does not excite any feeling of veneration in me.' And, 'I have ceased to visit temples for years.' Adding, with characteristic self-correction, 'but I do not regard myself on that account as a better person than before.'

His position is doubtless complex. He concedes the value and sway of temples and of image worship. He sees the naturalness and even the inevitability of those. And, in a foray into human psychology, he says, 'Nor do I see any harm in all this. On the contrary, endowed as man is with a finite and limited understanding, he can hardly do otherwise.' But he would argue that temples did not exercise such a hold on the masses. This makes him 'both a supporter and an opponent of image worship'. He seeks to emerge from this dichotomy with the following: 'When image worship degenerates into idolatry and becomes encrusted with false beliefs and doctrines, it becomes a necessity to combat it as a gross social evil.' And then, widening the screen of his vision, says, 'Temples or mosques or churches… I make no distinction between these different abodes of God. They are what faith has made them. They are an answer to man's craving somehow to reach the Unseen.'

The critical reader might say here, 'Really? Is that what takes men and women with their children dragged in, to temples and churches and mosques? Or is to make heartfelt appeals for help in mundane distress, a fever to abate, a debt to deal with, a rogue to escape from, hoping that God's help will avail where human help has not come or has failed? Or to make vows?'

Gandhi was too aware of the human condition to not know this. He writes: 'The offering of vows and prayers for selfish ends, whether offered in churches, mosques, temples or before trees and shrines, is a thing not to be encouraged… A personal selfish prayer is bad whether made before an image or an unseen God.' His own form of worship or prayer was a combination of the personal and congregational, 'prayer meetings' being the standard vogue. 'Our bodies are the real temples rather than buildings of stone. The best place for congregational worship is in the open with the sky above as the canopy and mother earth below for the floor.'

On 22 February 1902, when he had taken a break from his work in South Africa and was visiting India, Gandhi was in Benares. He writes: 'I went near the jnana-vapi (well of knowledge). I searched for God but failed to find Him. I was not therefore in a particularly good mood. The surroundings of the jnana-vapi too I found to be dirty. I had no mind to give any dakshina. So I offered a pie. The panda in charge got angry and threw away the pie. He swore at me and said, "This insult will take you straight to hell." This did not perturb me. "Maharaj," said I, "whatever fate has in store for me, it does not behove one of your class to indulge in such language. You may take this pie if you like, or you will lose that too." "Go away," he replied, "I don't care for your pie." And then followed a further volley of abuse. I took up the pie and went my way, flattering myself that the Brahmin had lost a pie and I had saved one. But the Maharaj was hardly the man to let the pie go. He called me back and said, "All right, leave the pie here, I would rather not be as you are. If I refuse the pie it will be bad for you." I silently gave him the pie and with a sigh went away.'

Mapping the sweet and the bitter in longing

BINDU MENON



Can there be an absence in presence? Or bitterness in the sweetness of love and longing? Anne Carson, this year's Nobel Prize winner for literature, has long complicated this idea of desire.

In her first book of essays, 'Eros the Bittersweet', she explores the paradox at the heart of eros (in Greek, desire for that which is missing). Desire, she writes, is not simple: "In Greek, the act of love is a mingling and desire melts the limbs. Boundaries of body, category of thought, are confounded."

Carson observes that poets have represented eros as "an invasion, an illness, an insanity, a wild animal, a natural disaster". She finds a somewhat revealing expression of its contradictions in the poetry of Sappho, borrowing the Greek poet's word glukupikron. Literally meaning sweet-bitter, the word becomes bittersweet in Carson's rendering. This paradox captures the duality at the heart of desire: pleasure is inseparable from pain, intimacy from distance and the longing for union from an awareness of separation. Eros, she argues, requires a triangle: the lover, the beloved and the interval between them. Eros inhabits that interval or gap, or as Carson terms it "the lack".

Can this gap, which is the crucible for desire, then sustain itself in the physical absence of the beloved? The account of the legendary love of Layla and Majnun may offer some answers to this. In Nizami Ganjavi's celebrated Persian retelling, Layla and Qays grow up together and fall in love. Qays expresses his passion through his poetry. But Layla's father opposes their union and she is married to another man. Devastated, Qays retreats into the wilderness, living among animals and earning the name Majnun, or "madman". His love persists despite the impossibility of their union.

After Layla's husband dies, she comes to meet Majnun, only to find that he can no longer respond to her or even endure her physical presence. He has enshrined an immaculate image of Layla in his mind that can no longer be consummated by her physical presence. He states, "I have found the true Layla within myself; this outer form is no longer necessary." The episode invites us to wonder: is Majnun a narcissist of his own longing, or has his love moved beyond the desire for physical possession? Rumi elevates this account of the lovers to a mystical level, of a state where no duality persists. The Sufi concept of "fana", often translated as the annihilation of the self or ego, is central to this understanding. In one rendition attributed to Rumi, a caliph, who has heard about the lovers, summons Layla. Curious to see the woman who has driven a man to madness, he finds her appearance ordinary and loudly wonders what Majnun sees in her. Layla responds to him: "Be silent, for you are not Majnun! If you had Majnun's eyes, the two worlds would be within your view."

What Majnun's eyes see and the caliph's cannot, Mirabai's songs also insist upon: that the beloved is not elsewhere. She talks of the divine beloved as one who resides in her, who does not leave because "he does not need to arrive". A similar timbre of emotion can be seen in Kabir, when he says: "Prem gali ati saankri, taa-mein do na samaay (The lane of love is very narrow; two cannot fit in it)." Rumi echoes something close: "Once you become the beloved, you become existence…"

While the Bhakti and Sufi traditions talk of surrender and union with the beloved, Kahlil Gibran, in "On Love" from 'The Prophet', shifts the emphasis from perception to transformation. He writes:

"…if you love and must needs have desires, let these be your desires:

To melt and be like a running brook that sings its melody to the night;

To know the pain of too much tenderness; To be wounded by your own understanding of love;

And to bleed willingly and joyfully."

Gibran's imagery of melting and wounding suggests that love's fulfilment may lie not in possessing the beloved but in allowing oneself to be changed by the experience. Across these interpretations — from Carson's "lack" and Majnun's internalisation of Layla, to the concept of surrender and union within the Sufi and Bhakti traditions, to Gibran's transformation — desire remains suspended between presence and absence. The question is not whether desire can overcome that distance, but whether it can transform our experience of it.

This understand ng of love also challenges the conventional idea that fulfilment must necessarily come through togetherness. Sometimes, separation deepens the emotional experience, allowing the beloved to become an enduring presence in memory, imagination and inner consciousness. The distance between two people may cease to be merely an obstacle and become a space where love acquires its own meaning. In this sense, longing is not simply a response to loss but an experience that continually reshapes the lover's understanding of the self and the beloved.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Military Solutions Will Not Work, Give Diplomacy A Chance: EAM Jaishankar At G20 In Atlanta

Atlanta, Oct 31 (Way to News): External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar told the first plenary session of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Atlanta that military solutions would not resolve global challenges and that diplomacy must be given a chance, while warning that the Global South was paying a disproportionate price for attacks on shipping. "Pleased to participate in the 1st Plenary of @g20org Foreign Ministers' Meeting #Atlanta today. Emphasised that in the face of global challenges, military solutions will not work and diplomacy must be given a chance," EAM Jaishankar said on social media platform X on Friday after the session.

He said the "Global South is disproportionately bearing the consequences of attacks on civilian shipping and seafarers, jeopardising the availability and cost of fuel, food and fertilisers". EAM Jaishankar also pointed to the "urgent need to preserve the freedom of navigation and ensure cessation of attacks within the framework of international law, especially UNCLOS". "India and Liberia have launched a joint initiative to safeguard seafarers," he said. On trade, the Minister made a pointed case for developing economies.

"Right to industrialise is being denied through the flooding of markets, weaponising supply chains, constricting market access and encouraging market distortions. This must cease," he said in the post. He also stressed the "importance of building resilient and alternate connectivity, as the world de-risks and diversifies".



EAM Jaishankar raised terrorism as well. "Tactical calculations should not lead to overlooking the dangers of terrorism. It is a high-risk activity which has come back to bite even the practitioners," he wrote.

He did not name any country in the social media post. The session was hosted by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who said afterwards on X that he had "made clear that maritime and food security drive economic security". According to a preliminary transcript of his opening remarks, Rubio told Ministers the plenary would cover "freedom of navigation and food security". Earlier on Friday, EAM Jaishankar posted photographs with other Foreign Ministers, saying: "With colleagues at @g20org #Atlanta." The two-day meeting ends on Saturday. EAM Jaishankar is also expected to take part in a Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting and hold several bilateral meetings on the sidelines, as announced by Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

Jaishankar also underlined the importance of strengthening multilateral institutions and ensuring that international cooperation remains responsive to the concerns of developing countries. He called for a fair and predictable global economic environment in which emerging economies have adequate opportunities to expand their industrial capabilities, access markets and participate in global supply chains. He stressed that connectivity networks must remain open, reliable and resilient amid growing geopolitical uncertainties.

Iran's Supreme leader orders 'Immediate, Effective' response to any enemy threat

Tehran, Oct 31 (Way to News): Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei has ordered that any level and kind of threat from the "enemies" must be met with an "immediate and effective" response without geographical limitations, according to a statement published on the leader's website on Saturday.

He made the remarks at a meeting with the Iranian armed forces' senior commanders, including Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Ali Abdollahi, Army's Chief Commander Amir Hatami, Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps Ahmad Vahidi, the statement said.



He stressed that if the "enemies" resume military or terrorist attacks against Iran, the Iranian armed forces and people will determine the time and conditions for the war's end, Xinhua news agency reported. Khamenei also highlighted the necessity to "strengthen the country's military intelligence architecture, deepen home-grown defence in terms of doctrine and tactics, and advance modern defence and security capabilities using cutting-edge technologies."

The Supreme Leader emphasised that the country's bank of targets must be updated in such a way that "various tangible and intangible assets of the US-Israeli enemy are brought within the Iranian armed forces' reach." At the meeting, the senior military commanders presented reports on the armed forces' state of readiness, and briefed the Supreme Leader on the manifold rise in the country's production of various types of ammunition, as well as reconnaissance, support and combat weaponry.

The Iranian Supreme Leader's remarks came amid heightened US threats of military action against Iran.

The United States has told several Gulf countries to prepare for a brief but intense military campaign against Iran after the US midterm elections, The Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday, citing people briefed on the conversations. According to the report, the United States and Israel are preparing for another round of intense military operations against Iran. On February 28, Israel and the United States launched joint attacks on Tehran and other Iranian cities. Iran responded with waves of missile and drone attacks targeting Israel and US bases and assets in the region, and tightened its grip on the Strait of Hormuz.

India, Indonesia conduct simulated combat tracking drills during exercise garud shakti

Jakarta, Oct 31 (Way to News): In yet another step towards strengthening defence cooperation, the armies of India and Indonesia undertook simulated combat tracking exercises in jungle terrain on Saturday, as part of ongoing joint military exercise 'Garud Shakti 2026' in Banyuwangi. In a post on X, the Indian Embassy in Jakarta said the training focused on tracking and pursuing targets through specialised reading of the ground.



The exercise also familiarised the elite forces of the Indian Army and the Indonesian Army (TNI-AD) with the operational use of drones for surveillance, reconnaissance and situational awareness in dense jungle environments, combining traditional fieldcraft with specialised technologies. "The art of 'reading' the jungle and 'mastering' the skies. Following the gains of Day 5, Special Forces of the Indian Army and TNI-AD undertook simulated combat tracking training in jungle terrain, aimed at pursuing a target's trail by specialised reading of the ground. Troops also received training on operational employment of drones for surveillance, reconnaissance and situational awareness in dense jungles," the Indian Embassy said. "Effectively Day 6 exposed the elite forces to traditional fieldcraft and niche technologies, thus ensuring that no trail goes cold and no threat is left unaddressed," it added.

According to the Indian mission, the special forces of the Indian Army and TNI-AD also undertook patrolling drills in jungle terrain, building on the earlier slithering training.

"Troops rehearsed the full sequence of heli-borne operations, from rapid insertion to securing the landing zone, tactical patrolling and mission execution in a dense jungle terrain. These drills are aimed at building trust and confidence in each other's tactics, techniques and procedures, while providing an opportunity to exchange best practices," it posted on X. Earlier on Thursday, Special Forces personnel from India and Indonesia participated in live-fire training in Banyuwangi to hone their combat skills through marksmanship drills, sniper firing and rapid transition fire on the move, embodying the ethos of "One Shot. One Kill."

Indian-American Lawmakers Oppose Census Plan



Washington, Oct 31 (Way to News): Five Indian-American lawmakers joined more than 150 House Democrats in demanding that the Trump administration withdraw a proposed census rule that would exclude some non-citizens from the population used to allocate congressional seats.

Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Suhas Subramanyam and Shri Thanedar signed the public comment letter, according to the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

The effort was led by Robert Garcia, the top Democrat on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and the chairs of the Asian Pacific American, Hispanic, Black and Equality caucuses. "We will fight this rule in Congress and the courts," Garcia said.

The lawmakers argued that the proposal would violate the 14th Amendment's requirement that representation reflect the number of people in each state. They said restrictions on demographic questions would weaken enforcement of voting rights and other civil rights protections.

Grace Meng, who chairs the Asian Pacific American caucus, said the changes could cost minority communities representation and resources and weaken data needed to identify disparities. Under the bureau's proposal, lawful permanent residents, commonly known as green-card holders, would remain included in the apportionment population. Undocumented immigrants and non-citizens with legal status less permanent than a green card, including temporary visa holders, would be excluded.

The proposed rule would also bar questions about race, ethnicity and sexual orientation on census questionnaires used to enumerate the population. That restriction would not apply to the American Community Survey or other surveys that do not enumerate the population.

The bureau argues that lasting residence and allegiance to the United States should determine who is counted for apportionment.

The agency is considering administrative records to establish individuals' legal status and is seeking comments on whether to add a legal-status question to the census form. Separately, Republican Representative Mary Miller of Illinois announced a letter Friday supporting the proposal and urging the administration to go further by excluding all non-citizens, including green-card holders, from congressional apportionment.

China's Mega Hydropower Projects In Earthquake-Prone Tibet Spark Safety Concerns

Washington, Oct 31 (Way to News): China's efforts to harness immense natural power are unfolding in a region prone to considerable geological instability, a report has stated. It noted that the October 22 earthquake underscores that tectonic activity is not merely a feature of the region's geological past but remains an active threat, posing risks that must be factored into the design and operation of major infrastructure projects.



"On October 22, 2026, a powerful magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Baqing County in Nagqu, Tibet, killing at least 16 people, injuring dozens, and destroying hundreds of homes. According to the US Geological Survey (USGS), the earthquake resulted from movement along a normal fault within the Tibetan Plateau, where the continuing collision of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates creates enormous geological stresses. The plateau is still being pushed upward and stretched eastward and westward," according to a report in the American magazine 'The National Interest'. "This was no isolated event. Since 1900, the Tibetan Plateau and its surrounding regions have experienced 29 earthquakes of magnitude 7.0 or greater. The devastating 1950 Assam-Tibet earthquake reached magnitude 8.6 and killed 4,800 people, while the 2010 Yushu earthquake in neighbouring Qinghai claimed more than 2,500 lives. The latest earthquake is another reminder that the Himalayas and Tibetan Plateau remain among the world's most geologically unstable regions," it noted.

The latest earthquake struck less than two months after another major disaster in the Himalayas. On August 26, a massive mass of glacier ice and rock collapsed near the Nepal-Tibet border, triggering a destructive surge of water, mud and boulders, the report mentioned. It stated that the two disasters, one triggered by seismic activity and the other by the collapse of glacier ice and rock, highlight different aspects of the same underlying vulnerability.

They also raise serious concerns about the ability of China's massive hydropower complex under construction on the Yarlung Tsangpo River in southeastern Tibet to withstand such extreme natural events.

Rupee Should Be India's 'First Line Of Defense' Against Energy Shock: IMF

Washington: The International Monetary Fund has said the rupee should be India's "first line of defense" against the energy shock from the war in the Middle East, signalling a preference for exchange rate flexibility over heavy central bank intervention, even as it kept its 7 per cent growth forecast for the Indian economy.



Responding to a question at her regular press briefing in Washington on Thursday about the Reserve Bank of India's recent intervention to support the rupee, IMF Communications Director Julie Kozack said she was echoing the head of the Fund's Asia and Pacific Department, Krishna Srinivasan.

"Given the ongoing energy shocks that India is confronting, like all countries, our view is that the rupee should be the first line of defense in the face of these shocks," Kozack said.

"So, allowing the exchange rate to move freely to reflect the impact of these shocks is important to help the Indian economy adjust to these shocks," she said. Kozack said the Fund's advice would change if a weaker currency started to push up prices across the economy. "If significant rupee depreciation leads to broad-based increases in inflation, then our advice would be that monetary policy tightening could be considered to preserve price stability," she said. She did not rule out intervention altogether. "And more generally, foreign exchange intervention can be appropriate when market conditions become disorderly," Kozack said, adding that this would be consistent with the IMF's Integrated Policy Framework. "But in the case of India, our view is that exchange rate flexibility remains the preferable policy response," she said.

On growth, Kozack described India as "really an engine of growth in the world economy."

"We do project growth in India at 7 percent both for FY 2026-2027 and FY 2027-2028," she said, citing robust domestic demand and strong services activity. "So, India right now has quite a lot of growth momentum," she added.

Rubio Warns G20 Of Global Economic Threats



Atlanta, Oct 31 (Way to News): US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has warned G-20 Foreign Ministers that interconnected economic and geopolitical crisis were threatening global energy supplies, food markets, trade and freedom of navigation. Opening the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Atlanta, Rubio said the challenges confronting the international community were interconnected and required collective solutions.

"We are facing a series of interconnected economic and geopolitical crisis, many of which pose severe threats," Rubio told ministers gathered for the two-day meeting.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is leading the Indian delegation at the meeting. Rubio identified disruptions to global energy and food supplies, international trade, supply chains and freedom of navigation as major challenges facing the world's leading economies. He said the G20 had a responsibility to confront these threats, strengthen economic resilience and protect markets and the economies they support.

The US Secretary of State said the challenges addressed during President Donald Trump's G20 presidency were multifaceted and interconnected, requiring responses that recognised their wider economic and geopolitical implications. The meeting, he said, could help establish conditions for greater geopolitical stability and advance the economic prosperity agenda that G20 leaders would subsequently consider. Rubio placed particular emphasis on the responsibility of foreign ministers and diplomats to coordinate responses to emerging crisis.

"We are tasked, on behalf of the nations that we serve, to work together with one another to coordinate responses to emerging crisis and to protect our shared interests," he said. "By translating our shared interests into practical cooperation and real action, we can reinforce global stability," Rubio said.

He added that such cooperation could deliver meaningful results for citizens across G20 member countries. The opening plenary was structured around two issues that have become increasingly important to international economic security: freedom of navigation and food security.

"We're going to cover two issues in this plenary session, freedom of navigation and food security," Rubio told the gathering.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

District-Led Planning and Inter-Ministerial Coordination Key to Agricultural Growth: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

New Delhi, Oct 31 (Way to News): When policies are shaped by ground realities and all government departments work together in one direction, no district can be left behind in the race for development. This is the hallmark of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's model of good governance, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Monday. He was addressing the national conference on the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana at the Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Auditorium in the Pusa campus, New Delhi. Addressing district collectors, scientists and senior policymakers from more than 50 districts across the country, Shri Chouhan extended his greetings on the auspicious occasion of Navratri and felicitated districts that had demonstrated outstanding performance. He urged officials to devote their full energy to realising Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of a developed and prosperous India.

Emphasising the importance of localised planning, Chouhan said the framework for the PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana had been prepared by district collectors based on actual ground conditions rather than being drawn up in offices in Delhi. He stressed the need for regular monthly reviews, asking collectors to assess progress on their district agricultural action plans every month along with their teams. Where progress is slow, coordinated efforts across departments should be intensified to accelerate implementation. Highlighting the importance of inter-ministerial convergence, Shri Chouhan said farmers' incomes could be increased manifold by bringing together the efforts of different ministries and institutions. These include the Ministry of Jal Shakti for water management; the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for processing and value addition; the Ministry of Cooperation and Farmer Producer Organisations for strengthening collective efforts; and the sectors of animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries, MSMEs and skill development. He also emphasised the need to strengthen the direct connection between agricultural research and farmers. Research conducted by nearly 16,000 scientists associated with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, along with the work of Krishi Vigyan Kendras, the Agricultural Technology Management Agency and agricultural universities, should reach farmers' fields directly.



Shri Chouhan said PMDDKY prioritises 100 districts that have lagged in agricultural productivity, have low cropping intensity or face inadequate institutional credit flow. He directed officials to promote pulses and oilseeds in rice fallow areas, where fields remain uncultivated after paddy harvesting, through a mission-mode approach. Expanding cultivation in these areas would help improve land utilisation and agricultural output. He also called for wider coverage of the Kisan Credit Card scheme and a faster flow of institutional credit, particularly in eastern India and underdeveloped districts. Farmers need access to capital to adopt advanced agricultural technologies and use better seeds and fertilisers, he said.

The conference recognised the best-performing districts for their exemplary work. District collectors also presented case studies highlighting innovative approaches to improving agricultural productivity, strengthening resilience and increasing farmers' incomes. Gadchiroli, Maharashtra: Through water conservation and drought management, the district transformed drought-affected areas into greener landscapes and achieved new milestones in agricultural production. Alluri Sitharama Raju, Andhra Pradesh: In a low-rainfall region, the district promoted high-value horticultural crops requiring less water, resulting in a significant increase in farmers' incomes. Banka, Bihar: The district presented its Lilawaran Natural Farming Land Revival Model, which seeks to end dependence on chemical fertilisers and establish a new wave of natural farming.

Goyal Identifies Five Key Areas for India-UK Cooperation, Including Clean Energy and Advanced Manufacturing

New Delhi, Oct 31 (Way to News): Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal has called upon businesses in India and the United Kingdom to translate the opportunities created by the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) into expanded trade, investment, partnerships and job creation. Addressing the JETCO Business Plenary under the 16th Session of the India-UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO), he said the two countries should aim to double bilateral trade by 2030 and make the India-UK Vision 2035 a framework for greater economic ambition and cooperation.



Shri Goyal said CETA marks a major milestone in the economic partnership between the two countries, providing zero-duty access in the United Kingdom market for most Indian exports while opening up significant opportunities for UK exporters across sectors. The agreement has also opened up new opportunities in services. He added that the Social Security Double Contribution Convention could further benefit both economies through the supply of services at competitive prices and improved profitability.

Emphasising the need to convert the agreement into tangible business outcomes, the Minister said, "This agreement opens the doors businesses have to walk through." He called for businesses to make the most of the opportunities available under CETA and said that 2030 should not merely mark the end of the decade but the beginning of much greater ambition between the two countries. Referring to the approximately 1,500 days remaining until the end of 2030, he urged businesses to work towards achieving the shared ambition of doubling bilateral trade.

Continuing his address Shri Goyal said India and the UK were complementary economies with considerable potential to expand existing trade, develop new export opportunities and diversify the range of products exchanged.

Mizoram Records Over 5 Lakh Tourist Visits in First Half of 2026: Union Minister Scindia

New Delhi, Oct 31 (Way to News): Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, today inaugurated development projects and laid foundation stones of new initiatives worth 331 crore, in Mizoram.Shri Scindia is on two-day visit of Mizoram.

Upon his arrival in Aizwal, the Union Minister proceeded to Tuivamit and inaugurated five project worth 102 Crore. Union Minister also laid foundation stone of five projects of 228.54 crore. Projects cover critical sectors including road connectivity, power transmission, water supply, healthcare, education, sports and cultural infrastructure. Addressing the gathering in the presence of Mizoram Chief Minister Pu Lalduhoma and other dignitaries, Union Minister Scindia said that the development initiatives reflected the Government of India's commitment to transforming connectivity into economic opportunities and improving the quality of life across Mizoram.



Describing Mizoram as a land of majestic mountains and even greater aspirations, the Union Minister said, "Geography may shape the landscape. It must never shape the limits of the people." He emphasised that the occasion was not merely about inaugurating infrastructure or laying foundation stones, but about creating opportunities for farmers, entrepreneurs, young people and communities across the state.

Highlighting the growing economic significance of the North Eastern Region, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia said that while India is recording economic growth of around 7–7.5%, the Northeast is increasingly emerging as a major contributor to the country's growth trajectory. He observed that it would not be an exaggeration to describe the North Eastern Region as an engine driving India's development forward.

APARC General Assembly 2026 Begins at IITM Pune: Global Experts Gather to Shape the Future of Atmospheric and Climate Science

New Delhi, Oct 31 (Way to News): The inaugural function of the Atmospheric Processes and their Role in Climate (APARC) General Assembly 2026 took place today at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune by the Chief Guest, Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala (Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt of India) (virtually), Guest of Honor, Ms. Ko Barrett (Deputy Secretary-General of the UN WMO) (virtually), Dr. Hindumathi Palanisamy (Scientific Officer, WCRP, WMO), Dr Stephanie Evan (CNRS Research Scientist at The Laboratory of the Atmosphere and Cyclones (Laboratoire de l'Atmosphère et des Cyclones- LACy), Réunion Island, France & APARC Co-chair), Dr. Hella Garny (DLR Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Germany, & APARC LOC International), Dr Suryachandra Rao (Director, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology), and Dr Suvarna Fadnavis (Chair, Scientific Organizing Committee & Project Director CCCR, IITM).



Marking a historic moment, India is taking the lead in hosting this landmark quadrennial event, bringing together world-renowned scientists, researchers, students, and policymakers to discuss breakthrough scientific advances and foster collaborative initiatives in climate and atmospheric sciences.

The five-day assembly (October 12–16, 2026) convenes over 550 participants from across Europe, the Americas, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and beyond. This includes 380 in-person attendees—250 national and 130 international delegates—along with approximately 180 global researchers joining virtually.

The event commenced with an opening keynote address delivered by Dr. Suryachandra A. Rao, Director of IITM, Pune, titled: "Modeling the Monsoon: Avenues for bridging the gap between potential predictability and prediction skill." Key dignitaries and atmospheric scientists leading the assembly include, Dr. Stephanie Evan, CNRS Scientist, France (APARC Co-Chair), Dr. Olaf Morgenstern, Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD), Germany (APARC Co-Chair), Dr. Hindhumati Palanisamy, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Geneva, Prof. Paul Kushner, University of Toronto, Canada, Dr. Suryachandra A. Rao, Director, IITM, Pune and Dr. Suvarna Fadnavis, Project Director, Centre for Climate Change Research, IITM APARC is a core project of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP). Held once every four years, the General Assembly serves as a global platform to identify emerging research gaps, strengthen scientific partnerships, and develop actionable roadmaps to address pressing climate challenges for societal benefit. The discussions and connections established during the meeting are expected to contribute to future APARC activities and help shape new directions in atmospheric and climate research.

Bhupender Yadav Inaugurates IBCA's New Delhi Office



New Delhi, Oct 31 (Way to News): The new office premises of International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, at 55 Lodhi Estate, in New Delhi today. DG (IBCA), Dr. S.P. Yadav welcomed the Minister and other dignitaries in the inaugural ceremony and gave a brief overview of IBCA, its activities and programmes. The inaugural ceremony was attended by dignitaries including DG (Forest) and Special Secretary (MoEF-CC), Shri Santosh Tewari, and other senior officers from the Ministry.

The event also witnessed participation from the Union Minister of External Affairs; DG, Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA); DG, Coalition for Disaster Resilience Infrastructure (CDRI); DG, International Solar Alliance (ISA); and Heads/Representatives of various international/UN organisations in India, i.e. UN, UNDP, World Bank, UNICEF, ADB, WWF, IUCN, UNEP, FAO and UNDSS, inter alia.

The Government of India has pledged an initial contribution of Rs.150 crore for five years (2023-24 to 2027-28). As of now, 29 countries from across the globe, including India, have joined IBCA as members and 5 countries have opted to be Observers and 11 other countries have consented to become members of the Alliance.

During a short span span of two and half years of the establishment of IBCA, following are its important milestones:

Two Capacity building programmes organised under the ITEC programme sponsored by MEA, for the foreign participants from different countries. PRIME cat health programme organised for veterinary doctors from 20 countries. Extensive and meaningful participation achieved in International fora such as CITES COP, UNFCCC COP, CITES Standing Committee Meeting etc.

Awareness and Outreach activities such as International webinars, Global Photography Competitions held.

Dedicated research centre to strengthen preventive healthcare and address unique health challenges of Himalayan communities: Nadda

New Delhi, Oct 31 (Way to News): Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda today performed the Bhumi Pujan and laid the foundation stone of the ICMR Centre for High Altitude Medicine and Public Health Research at Keylong, Himachal Pradesh. He expressed confidence that the Centre would establish a strong institutional foundation for high-altitude health research and advance scientific understanding of the unique health challenges faced by people living in the Himalayan region and personnel serving in high-altitude areas.

Addressing on the occasion, Union Minister Shri Nadda emphasised the importance of dedicated scientific research to understand the health implications of low oxygen levels, extreme cold, changing climatic conditions and the distinctive lifestyles of tribal communities. He highlighted the need for systematic studies of these region-specific challenges to identify health risks, develop appropriate interventions and strengthen preventive healthcare.



Referring to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of strengthening healthcare infrastructure and ensuring access to quality healthcare, Shri Nadda said that the establishment of the Centre reflects the importance accorded to addressing the distinct healthcare needs of people living in remote Himalayan and border regions. He emphasised that research-based interventions would help improve health outcomes and enhance the well-being of local communities and Armed Forces personnel serving in these challenging environments.

Shri Nadda appreciated the collaboration between ICMR and the Armed Forces Medical Services in establishing the Centre. He also acknowledged the contribution of AIIMS Bilaspur, which would participate in studying the health impact of high-altitude conditions on patients visiting the region. The collaboration would bring together scientific expertise and clinical experience to deepen understanding of high-altitude health challenges and support evidence-based healthcare interventions.

Emphasising the long-term significance of the initiative, Shri Nadda said that the Centre would contribute to improving healthcare for tribal communities and Armed Forces personnel deployed in high-altitude areas. The research undertaken would support the development of appropriate preventive and promotive healthcare strategies, helping address the distinctive medical challenges associated with extreme environmental conditions and strengthening health services in the Himalayan region. Shri Nadda also appreciated ICMR's role in developing the COVID-19 vaccine, which helped fight the pandemic not only in India but also in other countries around the world.

Union Minister of State for Defence Shri Sanjay Seth, who graced the occasion as Guest of Honour, highlighted the significance of the collaboration between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Armed Forces Medical Services in establishing the High Altitude Research Centre at Keylong. Drawing on the Armed Forces' experience of operating in high-altitude environments, he expressed confidence that the joint research initiative would help deepen scientific understanding of the health challenges associated with extreme altitudes and contribute to the development of effective medical solutions.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

India Complete Grand Double With Commanding Win Over Sri Lanka In Men's Final

Ahmedabad, Oct 31 (Way to News): India became the first men's champions of the inaugural Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship 2026 with a commanding 54-20 win over Sri Lanka in the final in Ahmedabad on Saturday. The title completed a double for India, after India Women beat Uganda 35-15 in the women's final earlier in the evening.



Aditya Shinde top-scored for India with a Super 10, scoring 10 raid points from 14 raids, including four bonus points. Bharat Hooda added eight raid points, all in the second half. He was not tackled once in seven raids. Pankaj Mohite chipped in with six points, and vice-captain Naveen Kumar added five. Yogesh Dahiya led the defence with a High 5, making five successful tackles from five attempts, all in the first half.

Shubham Shinde, captain Surjeet Singh, Pravesh Malik and Deepak Sankar added two tackle points each. India scored 30 raid points and 14 tackle points, inflicted four All-Outs and did not concede one.

Maduwantha was Sri Lanka's top scorer with six tackle points, including two Super Tackles, while Ansaf and Viduranga added three points each. Sri Lanka's raiders struggled throughout.

Sabihan, Milinda Chathuranga and Viduranga had led the scoring in the semifinal win over Kenya, but managed just five raid points from 31 raids between them in the final. Sri Lanka also failed in seven of their nine do-or-die raids, finishing with 11 raid points and nine tackle points.

India led 15-8 with 10 minutes of the first half remaining, having already inflicted an All-Out. They then outscored Sri Lanka 15-2 to lead 30-10 at half-time, with a second All-Out coming in the closing five minutes of the half. Sri Lanka managed just two successful raids from 21 in the first half, while India's defenders made nine successful tackles from 10 attempts. India inflicted two more All-Outs after the break, the last of them in the final five minutes, and won the second half 24-10. Across the match, India made 24 successful raids from 40, compared with Sri Lanka's seven from 41.

Harmer's Six-For Powers S.Africa To Series Win Over Australia



Cape Town Oct 31 (Way to News): Simon Harmer produced a match-winning six-wicket haul while Kagiso Rabada claimed three scalps as South Africa bowled out Australia for a mere 111 runs in their second innings to register a memorable 176-run victory in the third and final Test of the series at Newlands in Cape Town on Saturday.

With this win, South Africa clinched the three-match series 2-1 and reclaimed the number one position in the ICC Test team rankings from Australia. Chasing a challenging target of 288 to win the series decider, Australia were expected to put up a strong fight, especially after the pitch offered relatively favourable batting conditions on the fourth day. However, the visitors' batting line-up collapsed under pressure as Rabada and Harmer dismantled their resistance.

Australia resumed on the final day, hoping to chase down the target or survive the remaining 90 overs to secure a draw. However, Rabada struck early blows to leave the visitors struggling at 60/7 at lunch, effectively putting South Africa in complete control of the contest.

Rabada set the tone with a devastating opening spell, claiming three wickets for just 14 runs in five overs. He first dismissed Matthew Renshaw for a golden duck before trapping Marnus Labuschagne lbw for two. The pacer then removed Travis Head for 16, completing his 350 Test wickets in the process. Josh Inglis, who had scored a century in Australia's first innings, was run out for four following a misunderstanding with Cameron Green, adding to the visitors' troubles.

Harmer then took charge of the proceedings, dismissing Alex Carey for 6 after the Australian wicketkeeper attempted an ill-judged reverse sweep. The spinner followed it up by removing Beau Webster for a duck, caught behind, as Australia continued to lose wickets. Green and Nathan Lyon attempted to delay the inevitable with a fighting partnership after the visitors had lost seven wickets in the first session. However, Harmer eventually broke their resistance by bowling Green for 27 off 110 deliveries. Australia captain Pat Cummins tried to extend the contest alongside Lyon, but Harmer ended his stay by trapping him lbw for 10 in the 54th over. The off-spinner then completed the victory in his next over by bowling Josh Hazlewood for a duck.

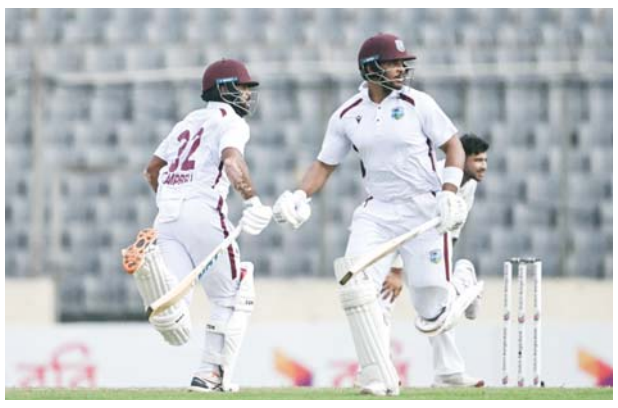
Harmer returned impressive figures of 6-16 in 21.1 overs, while Rabada finished with three wickets as South Africa completed a comprehensive victory.

Earlier, South Africa's remarkable recovery with the bat had laid the foundation for their victory. Resuming the fourth day at 140/4, the hosts rode on centuries from Ryan Rickelton and Wiaan Mulder to post 387 in their second innings and set Australia a target of 288 runs. Rickelton scored 101 off 219 deliveries, while Mulder made 115 off 221 balls.

Brief scores: South Africa 329 & 387 all out in 134.4 overs (Wiaan Mulder 115, Ryan Rickelton 101; Mitchell Starc 3-65, Pat Cummins 2-71) beat Australia 429 & 111 all out in 57.1 overs (Nathan Lyon 33*, Cameron Green 27; Simon Harmer 6-16, Kagiso Rabada 3-39) by 176 runs.

King, Chase Star As West Indies Beat Bangladesh By Eight Wickets To Take 1-0 Lead

Dhaka, Oct 31 (Way to News): West Indies rode on Roston Chase's five-wicket haul and an unbeaten half-century from Brandon King to defeat Bangladesh by eight wickets in the opening Test and take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series on Saturday.



Chasing 170 for victory, the hosts made light work of the target, reaching 170/2 at a scoring rate of nearly five runs per over, with King remaining unbeaten on 81 and Kavem Hodge providing support at the other end. The result also meant the West Indies wrapped up the contest with a day to spare.

Bangladesh, resuming their second innings at 79/6 on the fourth morning, had hoped to stretch their overall advantage beyond the 100-run mark. However, the West Indies bowlers ensured the visitors could not build a substantial total despite some resistance from Nayeem Hasan.

Jomel Warrican broke through early, having Jaker Ali caught by Chase at slip, before Chase and Warrican continued to trouble the lower order. Nayeem survived two dropped chances to keep Bangladesh in the contest and eventually brought up a maiden Test half-century, scoring 52.

Chase, however, ended his resistance by dismissing him shortly after a rain interruption, completing his five-wicket haul with figures of 5-36. Warrican claimed four wickets for 63 runs, taking his match tally to nine and earning the Player of the Match award. Bangladesh were dismissed for 142, setting the West Indies a target of 170.

The hosts began their chase positively, with King and John Campbell putting together a commanding 112-run opening partnership. Both batters took advantage of the conditions, regularly finding the boundary and preventing Bangladesh from building pressure.

Campbell narrowly missed out on a half-century, falling for 49 after edging Shoriful Islam onto his stumps. King, meanwhile, continued his aggressive approach and brought up his fifty with three successive boundaries.

Tagenarine Chanderpaul was dismissed for a brief score, offering Bangladesh a fleeting opportunity to fight back, but King remained in control. Hodge joined him and accelerated the scoring as the hosts moved closer to the target.

King finished unbeaten on 81, while Hodge remained at the crease as West Indies completed the chase comfortably.

For Bangladesh, Hasan Mahmud and Shoriful Islam picked up a wicket apiece, but their efforts were insufficient to prevent a comprehensive defeat.

Brief Scores: Bangladesh 272 & 142 (Nayeem Hasan 52, Jaker Ali 22; Roston Chase 5-36, Jomel Warrican 4-63) lost to West Indies 245 & 170/2 (Brandon King 81*, John Campbell 49; Hasan Mahmud 1-14, Shoriful Islam 1-20) by 8 wickets

India Win 20 Medals At World Armwrestling Championships In New Delhi

New Delhi, Oct 31 (Way to News): Indian armwrestlers clinched four gold, two silver and 14 bronze medals across the first two days of finals at the 47th World Armwrestling and 28th World Para Armwrestling Championships 2026, placing fourth in the overall medal standings behind Russia, Kazakhstan and Türkiye.



The championships, being held in India for the first time, are taking place with more than 1,700 athletes from over 60 countries participating in the competition. The event was inaugurated on Thursday in the presence of Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju and Hamirpur MP and former Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur. The championship is hosted by the People's Armwrestling Federation of India (PAFI) under the World Armwrestling Federation (WAF).

WAF president Assen Hadjitodorov, general secretary Mircea Simionescu-Simicel, Asian Armwrestling Federation president Jeenbek Mukambetov and Armwrestling Australia president Phil Rasmussen also attended the inauguration.

India's Masters contingent led the medal charge on October 29, collecting four gold, one silver and seven bronze medals. Jincymol Sebastian emerged as the standout performer, winning gold in both arms in the Grand Master Women's 80kg category.

Yogesh Choudhary secured gold in the Master Women's +80kg right-arm event and bronze in the left-arm competition, while Shoukath VT won gold in the Master Men's -60kg right-arm category and bronze in the left arm.

Minimol Jose claimed silver and Preetha C bronze in the Grand Master Women's +80kg right-arm event. Priya Payyan Kunhiveettil and Mini K added two bronze medals each in their respective categories.

The younger competitors contributed eight medals in the left-arm finals on October 30. Jimmison Marwein won silver in the Youth Men's 65kg category, while Aabhas Rana (Junior Boys +90kg), Laithansanga (Youth Men -55kg), Ajay Kumar (Youth Men 60kg) and Vishnupriya P (Youth Women 80kg) secured bronze.

Acosta Wins Chaotic Malaysian GP Sprint As Marquez Increases Title Gap

Sepang (Malaysia), Oct 31 (Way to News): Pedro Acosta won a chaotic dry-wet Sprint race at the Sepang International Circuit here, as title leader Marc Marquez increased the championship gap with a second-place finish.

Acosta overcame a four-way battle in a 10-lap Sprint that was threatened by rain late on, as he held Marquez by 0.578s. Marco Bezzecchi took the third place as Ai Ogura, who was once leading, fell behind and finished P4.

The result saw Marquez increase his title lead from the absent Jorge Martin to 19 points after he collected nine points for his second-place finish. Bezzecchi is now 52 points behind the seven-time MotoGP champion after he finished fourth and collected six points.

Alex Marquez began the Sprint in the lead after having outclassed his elder brother during the qualifying earlier. He was leading until four laps before he slid out at Turn 14. The lead was then inherited by Ogura, as the battle between the top four continued.

Due to spots of rain, the white flag came out as riders were allowed to change their bikes for tyres. Iker Lecuona, Joan Mir and Franco Morbidelli went to change their bikes, with Maverick Vinales opting for a change later.



Acosta attacked Ogura for the lead when three laps were left. He looked to fight back but could not and was later overtaken by Marquez and Bezzecchi as he struggled in the slightly wet conditions.

Earlier, Martin was ruled out of the remainder of the Malaysian GP weekend due to his fractured wrist. "He made a superhuman effort, but it's official: Jorge Martin (Aprilia Racing) will not be able to race in the Malaysian GP. Just six days after breaking his wrist in Australia, the 2024 Champion and 2026 title contender returned to the track on Friday at Sepang, doing 12 laps in the morning session and then a few more in the afternoon before ending his day early, intending to recharge for more on Saturday," MotoGP wrote in a statement.

"Unfortunately, after more time on track in FP2 ahead of qualifying, it was confirmed: Martin has withdrawn from the event. The #89 will remain on the sidelines, targeting next time out for another shot at his return," it added.

Asian Champions Trophy: Abhishek Scores Twice As India Beat Japan 4-1, Reach Semifinals

Jalandhar, Oct 31 (Way to News):Skipper Harmanpreet's penalty-corner strike turned the game while Abhishek scored twice in his 150th international appearance and Vishnu Kant added a superb solo goal as the Indian men's hockey team registered a 4-1 win over Japan in the Asian Champions Trophy at the Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar on Friday.

The win makes it three wins from as many matches in the first international hockey tournament in Punjab in a decade and books a spot in the semifinals for the defending champions.

Abhishek (11 , 51) scored twice, while captain Harmanpreet Singh (47) and Vishnu Kant Singh (56) also found the net. Shota Yamada (15) scored for Japan from a penalty stroke. It was the 150th international match for Abhishek, who marked the special occasion with the 'Player of the Match' award for his twin strikes. Earlier, India made two big changes to their line-up, with Vishnu Kant and Angad Bir Singh getting an opportunity, while Mandeep Singh and Nilakanta Sharma were rested.



Japan began the game with a high press and had the better of the opening exchanges, earning a penalty corner in the second minute. Their variations, however, did not produce a goal.

India scored the opening goal in the 11th minute when Vivek Sagar Prasad played the ball to Sukhjeet Singh on the left of the circle. Sukhjeet turned sharply and cut the ball back for Abhishek to finish. Japan pushed for an equaliser and earned a penalty corner in the closing seconds. After the first attempt was saved, a penalty stroke was awarded when the ball struck Sanjay's forearm on the goal line. Yamada converted from the spot to make it 1-1.

Japan maintained their tempo in the second quarter and enjoyed more possession, with their compact defence restricting India's space. Goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak came off his line to deny a Japanese attack after Haruki Ochiai found Tsubasa Tanaka on the left. India created an opening in the 24th minute, but Angad Bir Singh's backhand effort did not trouble the goalkeeper. A move involving Harmanpreet and Abhishek in the 27th minute also came to nothing, with India's referral for a possible foul unsuccessful. The teams went into half-time level at 1-1.

India looked sharper after the break and retained possession for longer spells. Sukhjeet had an opportunity in the 32nd minute but sent his shot high and wide. Japan won a penalty corner in the 36th minute, but captain Raiki Fujishima couldn't breach the Indian PC defence. India also created openings, one of which saw Shilanand Lakra's tomahawk being saved by the Japanese goalkeeper.

India took the lead in the 47th minute when Harmanpreet converted the first penalty corner of the night for the hosts with a powerful drag-flick. It was his fifth goal of the tournament, all from penalty corners.

India extended their lead in the 51st minute through a well-worked move. Dilpreet Singh played the ball to Sanjay on the left, and the defender cut it back for Abhishek to score his second goal. Vishnu Kant added the fourth in the 56th minute with a superb solo effort, bringing down Harmanpreet's diagonal aerial pass outside the circle before driving in and flicking the ball past the goalkeeper. India controlled the closing stages to secure the 4-1 win.

Abhishek, who was named 'Player of the Match', said the team had looked to take control in the final quarter. "Our strategy in the last quarter was to control the game and press higher. That is how we got the goals. At half-time, coach Craig Fulton told us to create pressure on Japan. We were trying to win penalty corners from the start, but it took time. When we got the first one, Harmanpreet scored on the first attempt," he said.

In the other matches on Friday, Malaysia beat Bangladesh 6-1 for their third win to book a place in the semi-finals, while South Korea edged China 2-1. India moved to the top of the standings with nine points from three matches and a goal difference of +19.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Director Sanjay Gupta Passes Away At 59

Filmmaker Sanjay Gupta, best known for directing films such as 'Kaante', 'Kaabil' and 'Shootout at Wadala', has passed away at the age of 59.

As per sources close to IANS, the filmmaker passed away on October 30 after slipping in the bathroom at night and injuring his head. Filmmaker Ashoke Pandit confirmed Sanjay Gupta's death and wrote on Instagram: "It's really shocking and sad. Just got the news that our dear friend an ace director @_sanjaygupta is no more. He passed due to a head injury at home." "Another talent gone too soon. He was a wonderful narrator, full of life persona & a passionate filmmaker. A great loss to our industry. Will miss you my friend. Condolences to his family & dear ones. Om Shaanti. Details of his last rites will be shared soon."

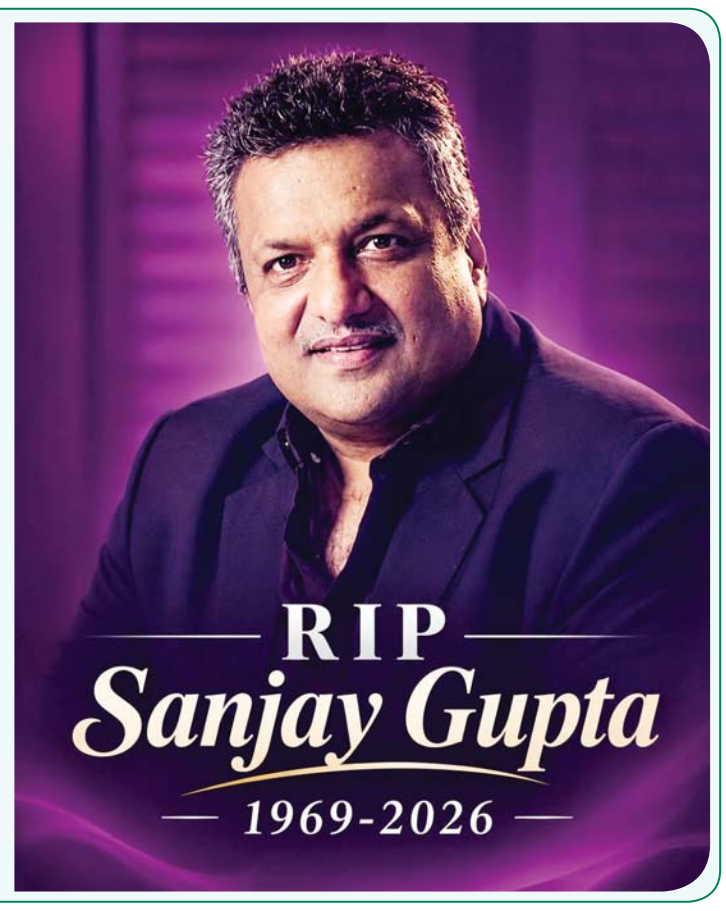
Sanjay Gupta stepped into the world of cinema in 1994 with Aatish: Feel the Fire starring Aditya Pancholi and Sanjay Dutt. He then went on to direct, produce and write movies such as Ram Shastra, Khauff and Jung. While filming Kaante in Los Angeles in 2001, the events of the 9/11 attack forced filming to relocate planned scenes from several areas that were then considered sensitive.

Over a career spanning decades, Gupta collaborated with actor Sanjay Dutt in numerous films such as Kaante, Musafir, Zinda and Shootout at Lokhandwala among others. Zinda was an unofficial remake of the South Korean film Oldboy. He also produced the films Shootout at Lokhandwala and Dus Kahaniyaan, and directed and co-produced Shootout at Wadala, the prequel to Shootout at Lokhandwala. His last work includes The Miranda Brothers, which was released in 2025. Sanjay Gupta directed and produced the film starring Harshvardhan Rane and Meezaan Jafri. The film followed an orphan rescued from trash becomes devoted to his elder brother, both growing to be star footballers, till the suspicious death of their mother threatens to tear them apart. He is survived by his wife Anu Lekhi. Sanjay Gupta was known for bringing a distinctive style of action, crime and gangster dramas to Hindi cinema. His films frequently explored themes of friendship, betrayal, revenge and the underworld, earning him recognition for his bold storytelling and stylised filmmaking. His ability to create intense narratives and memorable cinematic moments made him a familiar name among audiences who followed action-oriented Bollywood films.

Among his most recognised directorial ventures was Kaante, released in 2002, which featured an ensemble cast including Amitabh Bachchan, Sanjay Dutt, Suniel Shetty, Mahesh Manjrekar, Lucky Ali and Kumar Gaurav. The film, inspired by Quentin Tarantino's Reservoir Dogs, gained attention for its Hollywood-inspired treatment, stylish presentation and ensemble performances. It became one of the significant films in Gupta's career and helped establish his identity as a filmmaker with a distinct visual approach.

His association with Sanjay Dutt remained one of the defining professional partnerships of his career. The two worked together on several projects, including Aatish: Feel the Fire, Khauff, Kaante, Musafir, Zinda and Shootout at Lokhandwala. Their collaborations contributed to some of the actor's memorable action and crime-drama performances. Gupta also worked with several leading actors and technicians, building a network of creative associations across the Hindi film industry.

Beyond directing, Gupta made significant contributions as a writer and producer. Through his production banner, White Feather Films, he backed projects that explored unconventional subjects and distinctive storytelling styles. His production ventures included Plan, Rakta Charitra and Dus Kahaniyaan, among others. He was also associated with the development of the Shootout film franchise, which became a notable part of contemporary Hindi gangster cinema.



Shreya Joins The Recording Academy As A Voting Member For The Grammy Awards



Adding another feather to her cap, celebrated singer Shreya Ghoshal has joined the Recording Academy as an official voting member for the Grammy Awards.

Being one of the voting members, Shreya will now be able to contribute her perspective to this process. Further strengthening her foothold in the global music community, Shreya also recently took part in a South Asian panel organised by the Recording Academy. She was accompanied by Lara Raj of KATSEYE, Sameer Gadhia, and Raashi Kulkarni.

Speaking about constantly expanding her horizons, Shreya said, "Music has taken me to places I could have only dreamed of when I first started singing, and I feel incredibly grateful for the journey it has been. To now be part of the Recording Academy's voting community is a special moment for me. The Grammys celebrate music from across the world, and being part of a community that recognises the creativity and hard work behind it is truly meaningful." She also talked about the rich musical heritage of India.

"Coming from India, where music is so deeply woven into our lives and culture, I feel proud to bring that perspective to this platform. We have such a rich musical heritage and so many extraordinary artists telling stories through their music, and I hope to see more of these voices find recognition on the global stage," the singer continued. Meanwhile, Shreya is all set to return to South Africa with her 'Unstoppable Tour'. Spilling her excitement about returning to South Africa, Shreya said, "South Africa has always been a special place to return to, and I'm so happy to be bringing my Unstoppable Tour to Durban and Pretoria. Every time I perform for audiences around the world, I'm reminded of how music brings us together, regardless of where we come from or what language we speak."

Neha Sharma Warns Legal Action Against AI Content Without Consent: No Hiding Behind Fake Account

Actress Neha Sharma is the latest celebrity to raise her voice against the misuse of AI to created fake photos and videos. She shared a post on her official handle on Saturday and warned those creating AI-generated content using her face.

Neha took to her official X (Formerly known as Twitter) timeline, and wrote, "Anyone using my face or likeness to create AI-generated videos or images without my consent is hereby warned to STOP IMMEDIATELY (sic)."

The 'Crook' actress made it clear that she has not permitted anyone to use her face or likeness to generate AI content. She further asked all to take down any such content and refrain from doing anything like that in the future.

"Take down all such content already posted and refrain from creating, editing, or circulating any further AI-generated videos or images using my identity. Using my face in this manner to misrepresent me or malign my reputation is completely unacceptable. I DO NOT CONSENT TO THE UNAUTHORIZED USE OF MY FACE OR LIKENESS", she further penned.

Neha also warned of legal action against anyone creating, posting, or circulating such content.

"Consider this a formal warning: I WILL TAKE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST EVERY INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING, POSTING, OR CIRCULATING SUCH CONTENT. No one should assume that hiding behind a fake account or the use of AI will protect them from accountability. TAKE IT DOWN NOW. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED," concluded the post. In the recent past, many members of the film fraternity have expressed their concern about how AI can be used to manipulate content.

As a protective measure, many of them, including Akshay Kumar, Varun Dhawan, Anil Kapoor, Shilpa Shetty, Preity Zinta, Kartik Aaryan, Mrunal Thakur, and Suniel Shetty, have even approached the court to protect their identity, image, and personality rights from AI-generated misuse.

Meanwhile, recently, a morphed video of actress Janhvi Kapoor from the 'Devara' song 'Chuttamalle' surfaced on social media, raising some new concerns.

The growing misuse of artificial intelligence to create deepfake images and videos has become a major concern for actors and other public figures. Such manipulated content can damage reputations, violate personal privacy and create misleading impressions among social media users. Celebrities have increasingly urged digital platforms to strengthen safeguards and act swiftly against accounts sharing non-consensual material.



Ranbir Kapoor, Sai Pallavi, and Yash Headline Star-Studded World Premiere of 'Ramayana' at the Academy Museum in Los Angeles!

In what marks one of the most high-profile international launches for an Indian cinematic production, director Nitesh Tiwari's mythological epic Ramayana: Part One—presented internationally under the title Ramayana: Rise of a Legend—held its grand, invite-only world premiere at the prestigious Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles on Tuesday evening (October 27).

The headline trio—Ranbir Kapoor (Lord Rama), Sai Pallavi (Maa Sita), and Rocking Star Yash (Ravana, who also co-produces under Monster Mind Creations)—commanded the red carpet alongside director Nitesh Tiwari and producer Namit Malhotra (DNEG / Prime Focus). Screened in 3D at the museum's flagship David Geffen Theater before an audience of over 900 guests, including Hollywood visual-effects veterans, Academy members, and international studio executives, the event kicked off the global campaign leading into the film's November 5, 2026 worldwide theatrical bow Red Carpet Highlights: Traditional Elegance Meets Hollywood Glamour The Los Angeles premiere adopted a festive Diwali-themed red-carpet aesthetic, with attendees arriving in bespoke



Indian couture: Ranbir Kapoor: Channeling Lord Rama's quiet dignity, Ranbir opted for an ivory-and-silver textured bandhgala paired with structured formal trousers, taking time to interact with diaspora fans and international press along the press line.

Sai Pallavi: Stealing the spotlight in an understated classical look, Sai Pallavi wore a deep-crimson zardozi saree accented with heritage jewelry and minimal makeup, drawing widespread praise from fashion trackers. Yash & Radhika Pandit: Making a joint appearance, Yash wore a tailored all-black ensemble complemented by a bespoke golden Ravana brooch and sunglasses, accompanied by his wife, actor Radhika Pandit, in a traditional emerald-and-gold silk saree.

Fraternity Camaraderie: Videos of Ranbir and Yash sharing a warm embrace on the red carpet before posing with Namit Malhotra quickly dominated trending charts across domestic and global entertainment channels. Inside the David Geffen Theater: First Reactions to the 3D Cut

The premiere served as the first formal public test of Namit Malhotra and DNEG's visual effects pipeline: Visual Scale & World-Building: Attendees and industry insiders reported that the film received a sustained standing ovation inside the David Geffen Theater, with particular praise directed toward the photorealistic rendering of ancient Ayodhya, Lanka's architectural geometry, and Hans Zimmer alongside A.R. Rahman's cross-continental background score. Tiwari's Emotional Core: Early reactions highlighted that despite the high-budget Hollywood-level CGI, director Nitesh Tiwari anchored the first part deeply in emotional storytelling, character dynamics, and spiritual fidelity rather than relying purely on action spectacle.

From Sonam Kapoor to Ananya Panday, Sheena Chohan Actresses Who Are Nailing the Indo-Western Look!

With Diwali just around the corner, the hunt for the perfect festive outfit is officially on! While everyone wants to look their glamorous best, comfort remains just as important, whether it is a daytime brunch, a family get-together or a late-night festive bash. And what better way to find inspiration than looking at celebrities who effortlessly blend traditional Indian aesthetics with contemporary silhouettes?

From statement capes and colorful lehengas to dramatic coats and glamorous crimson ensembles, Sonam Kapoor, Ananya Panday, Sheena Chohan and Shobhita Dhulipala are serving major Indo-Western fashion inspiration. Here is a look at four celebrity-approved styles to add to your Diwali mood board.

1. Sonam Kapoor: Regal Elegance Meets Contempo-



rary ower Dressing Sonam Kapoor makes a statement in an intricately patterned long coat by AK|OK, styled with a crisp white shirt, a beautifully draped white stole and satin black trousers.

A jewelled brooch adds a vintage touch, while oxidised accessories, sleek open tresses, bold eyes and nude lips complete the look. Her ensemble is perfect for those who want to move beyond conventional ethnic wear and embrace a sophisticated, fashion-forward aesthetic for a Diwali cocktail party or an elegant evening celebration.

2. Ananya Panday: Blue Hues and Dramatic Cape Glamour

Ananya Panday brings contemporary glamour to festive dressing in a stunning blue ensemble by Manish Malhotra. Featuring an intricately embroidered crop top, matching palazzo pants and a flowing cape jacket, the outfit combines traditional detailing with a modern silhouette.

The rich blue hue and statement cape add just the right amount of drama, making it an ideal pick for a Diwali party, a cocktail evening or a glamorous night out. Her soft waves and understated styling further enhance the ensemble's effortless appeal.

3. Sheena Chohan: A Colourful Desi Twist for Daytime Celebrations

Sheena Chohan offers a refreshing take on Indo-Western fashion in a vibrant printed lehenga paired with a sleeveless blouse and a multicoloured dupatta. The playful mix of bright hues, intricate patterns and a flowing silhouette brings together traditional charm and contemporary styling.

With voluminous half-up hair, statement earrings, delicate bangles and soft, glowing makeup, Sheena's look is perfect for a festive lunch, brunch with friends or a relaxed family get-together. It is a reminder that festive fashion can be colourful, comfortable and effortlessly chic.

4. Shobhita Dhulipala: Crimson Glamour for Festive Nights

Shobhita Dhulipala turns up the glamour in the Crimson Glory Sheer Kurta, a bespoke creation crafted from semi-sheer tulle. Featuring a halter neckline, floral appliqués, lace detailing, three-dimensional skein work, and shimmering glass beads, the kurta is paired with matching flared palazzos for a striking monochromatic look.

Gold hoop earrings and stacked bracelets complete the ensemble. The rich crimson palette and intricate craftsmanship make it an ideal inspiration for a Diwali soirée or a late-night festive celebration.

From Sonam's regal layering to Ananya's dramatic cape, Sheena's colourful prints and Shobhita's crimson statement, these four actresses prove that Indo-Western fashion offers something for every mood and occasion. This Diwali, take inspiration from their wardrobes, embrace your personal style and celebrate in an outfit that makes you look fabulous while keeping you comfortable from day to night.

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