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Rahul Gandhi says CEC Gyanesh Kumar will go to 'jail' over 'vote chori'

New Delhi, Nov 1 (Way to News): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday headlined the INDIA bloc's rally here to demand the removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, vowing to save democracy and the Constitution by ensuring that the poll panel Chief faces trial and goes to jail for "vote chori".

Addressing the bloc's 'Dilli Chalo' rally, Rahul Gandhi said the "theft" by Gyanesh Kumar is not a normal theft. "The vote chori carried out by him (CEC Gyanesh Kumar) is of the 'rarest of rare' category in legal terms," he added. Accusing the CEC of executing vote theft using EVMs and removal of 13.5 crore names from electoral rolls, Rahul Gandhi said, "What Gyanesh Kumar has done for PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah tantamounts to treason and theft of the voice of every citizen." He added that apart from the CEC, PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah will also have to face consequences for attacking the Constitution and democracy. "While Home Minister Shah announces that PM Modi is not going anywhere, we want to tell them that we will not let them)PM Modi and Home



Minister Amit Shah) go anywhere till they face the consequences of their acts," Rahul Gandhi said while making insinuations about rigging in 2024 Lok Sabha and several Assembly polls.

He said the large gathering at Ramlila Maidan represents the voice of youth, farmers and workers who have sent a strong message to those doing "Vote chori" that they will fight and defeat them. "The people who have gathered here are sending the message that no matter who you are or how powerful and wealthy you are, you are not bigger than the Constitution.

The Constitution is supreme," Rahul Gandhi said, describing the gathering as a collective show of strength to save democracy. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said that CEC Gyanesh Kumar, PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah are experiencing sleepless nights due to their collective sin of "vote chori" and the imminent consequences that they will face.

Kharge targets CEC at INDIA Bloc rally, demands resignation

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday launched a scathing attack on Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, saying that the citizens will "find" him even if he "tries to hide underground". Kharge made the remarks while speaking at the INDIA bloc's 'Dilli Chalo' rally, held to demand the resignation of the CEC over alleged electoral irregularities, at the Ramlila Maidan



here. Addressing a gathering, the Congress chief called it a "historic meeting". He accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah of "attempting to snatch" the votes of the youth, women, and minorities. "We have gathered here to ensure the resignation of Gyanesh Kumar. We won't settle down until he resigns and will keep on fighting," he said while accusing the Prime Minister and Home Minister of "attempting to protect" the CEC. "Even if he tries to hide underground, we will bring him out from there. Our youth and women possess that strength," the Congress chief remarked.

Directly addressing PM Modi, Kharge said: "Don't be under the assumption that all work is done by your police. We are not going to be afraid of ED, CBI and other government agencies used by you; instead, all of us at INDIA bloc will keep on fighting."

Tejashwi invokes Mahabharata, left slams crackdown

With Opposition parties putting up a united front at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan on Sunday to protest against the 'illegal' Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and CEC Gyanesh Kumar, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav invoked Mahabharata and the battle of Kurukshetra to hit out at the Centre while the Left parties slammed the government for the thrashing and imprisonment of the "fighters of democracy".



Addressing the INDIA Bloc rally, RJD Working President Tejashwi Yadav drew a parallel between the protest and the 'Mahabharata' and invoked characters from the Hindu epic, including Shakuni, to state that the Opposition was compelled to fight this battle.

Akhilesh Yadav hits back at Amit Shah's remark

Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday took a jibe at Union Home Minister Amit Shah's 'Angad's leg' remark, saying that there is "no ground left beneath your feet, so where will you place Angad's leg?" In his address at the INDIA bloc's 'Dilli Chalo' rally at Ramlila Maidan, organised to demand the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged electoral irregularities, Akhilesh Yadav said: "Those who once came from UP will be driven out of UP itself. The people of the state know how to welcome and even know it better how to bid farewell. In 2027, their farewell will be of such a kind that the Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies will not be able to return again."



Commercial LPG rises by Rs 10, aviation fuel costlier



New Delhi, Nov 1 (Way to News): The price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder has been increased by Rs 10 to Rs 2,820 with effect from Sunday, while aviation turbine fuel (ATF) has become costlier by Rs 1.37 per litre, taking its price to Rs 138.50, according to state-owned oil marketing companies.

This is the third consecutive monthly increase in commercial LPG prices, following hikes of Rs 9.50 on September 1 and Rs 62.50 on October 1. The latest revision comes after two monthly reductions of Rs 183.50 in July and Rs 192 in August. Commercial LPG prices had surged by Rs 1,373 per cylinder between February and June, rising from Rs 1,740.50 to a record Rs 3,113.50, before the subsequent cuts.

ATF prices have now increased for the fourth consecutive month. Jet fuel rates were raised by Rs 5 per litre in August, Rs 6.28 in September and Rs 16 in October. ATF accounts for up to 40 per cent of an airline's operating costs, adding to the financial burden on carriers.

Gyanesh Kumar 'Vanished' votes in Bengal by centrally hijacking system: Mamata

New Delhi, Nov 1 (Way to News): Trinamool Congress-Mamata chief and former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday alleged that Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar had "vanished" votes during the counting of the state's Assembly polls by "centrally hijacking" the system. In her address at the INDIA bloc's 'Dilli Chalo' rally at Ramlila Maidan, organised to demand the resignation of the CEC over alleged electoral irregularities, Banerjee expressed her solidarity with the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), which staged multiple protests earlier this month against the CEC and said that she was also grateful to the civil society members, students, and Gen Zs for their support.

"Bengal is the victim of the circumstances resulting from



the SIR. We will keep fighting (for our rights) even if we have to sacrifice our lives for this." "They looted Bengal but we will save and restore the democracy," she said while remarking that for the BJP, the SIR stands for "Special Intensive Relief". "They have looted EVMs, democracy, Constitution, people's rights, and counting of votes. Gyanesh Kumar has not only 'vanished' votes but rather 'vanished' the entire counting (of votes in the Bengal polls) by centrally hijacking the system," she alleged.

"More than one crore voters were removed from electoral rolls in Bengal even before the Assembly polls were conducted. We (Trinamool) did not lose but were defeated, and we will take our revenge politically. We will keep on fighting," she added.

BJP hits back at INDIA bloc rally; Shah, Fadnavis announce counter-protests

New Delhi, Nov 1 (Way to News): The BJP on Sunday launched a sharp attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi following the INDIA bloc's 'Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao' rally in Delhi, accusing him of making baseless allegations against the government and the Election Commission. Addressing a press conference, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra described the Ramlila Maidan gathering as a "chaotic, unruly spectacle" and claimed that the turnout fell far short of the 10 lakh people projected by Congress leaders. He dismissed Gandhi's claim that the 2024 Lok Sabha election was "illegal", arguing that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar was not in office during those polls.

Patra said Prime Minister Narendra Modi would remain in office as long



as Gandhi continued to manufacture "non-issues". He also accused the Congress leader of undermining democratic institutions and described the Opposition's "vote chori" allegations as a "bundle of lies".

Patra further alleged that Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was being sidelined within the Congress, claiming she was not given an opportunity to speak at either the party's mock Parliament or the Ramlila Maidan rally. BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari also questioned whether separate Rahul and Priyanka camps were emerging within the party. These claims were not independently substantiated. Meanwhile, Rashtriya Lok Morcha president Upendra Kushwaha termed the Opposition's electoral irregularity allegations baseless and urged political parties to focus on public issues rather than undermine democratic institutions.

In Maharashtra, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari will lead a 'Save Democracy, Remove Anarchy' march in Nagpur on November 5. The BJP expects 15,000 to 20,000 participants at the march, which will run from Yashwant Stadium to Samvidhan Chowk and conclude a four-day campaign.

From tech to self-reliance, new IAF Chief lays out future roadmap

New Delhi, Nov 1 (Way to News): In his first address after taking over as the 29th Chief of the Indian Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit on Sunday laid out an ambitious vision focused on technology-driven warfare, indigenous defence production and greater jointness among the armed forces.

With the IAF operating just 29 fighter squadrons against the sanctioned strength of 42 needed to tackle a two-front threat from China and Pakistan, the new Air Chief said restoring combat strength to authorised levels would be his top priority. He also summed up his command priorities using an acronym VAYU. Acknowledging his predecessor, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, the new chief lauded the IAF's performance during Operation Sindoor and thanked



him for handing over a force in a high state of combat readiness.

Highlighting the complex security landscape, Air Chief Marshal Dixit emphasised that modern warfare is being reshaped by drones, long-range precision strikes, space-based capabilities, cyber operations, artificial intelligence and the electromagnetic spectrum. "The Air Force, while transforming into the force that India will need in the next decade, must always be ready to fight and win," he stressed.

V – Vigilance and Readiness: Maintaining round-the-clock operational readiness across every squadron, radar unit and air warrior, while restoring combat strength to sanctioned levels. A – Aatmanirbharta (Self-Reliance): Accelerating indigenous defence projects.

EC Suspends two UP poll officials over Pilibhit voter irregularities

Lucknow, Nov 1 (Way to News): The Election Commission (EC) has directed the Uttar Pradesh government to immediately suspend two electoral registration officers (EROs) over alleged irregularities involving 10,470 voter entries in Pilibhit Assembly constituency. In a letter to Uttar Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer Navdeep Rinwa and the state's Chief Secretary, the poll panel named EROs Mayank Goswami and Hemant Chaudhary and directed that their chargesheets be submitted for its scrutiny. The officers must not be reinstated without the EC's approval, it said.

The Commission also directed authorities to add Section 198 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which deals with a public servant disobeying the law with intent to cause injury, to the FIR already registered



against the two officers and Anil Kumar, a computer operator at the voter registration centre. It asked the state to pursue the cases rigorously in court.

The EC has sought a report within a week from the Pilibhit District Election Officer on the scrutiny of electoral rolls in all four Assembly constituencies in the district, along with the CEO's comments. It has also asked for an action-taken report on the computer operator and details of the role of five assistant electoral registration officers within three days. In a statewide directive, the Commission asked all district election officers and EROs to re-examine voter rolls, paying particular attention to entries involving additions, deletions and modifications through Forms 6, 7 and 8.

GST mop-up grows 23% to over Rs 2.31 lakh crore in October

New Delhi, Nov 1 (Way to News): Gross GST collections increased 23 per cent to over Rs 2.31 lakh crore in October, driven by strong mop-up from domestic activities and imports, according to government data released on Sunday.

Gross GST collections from domestic sales rose 16 per cent to over Rs 1.59 lakh crore, and revenues from imports climbed 42 per cent to Rs 72,246 crore. The Rs 2.31 lakh crore collection includes Central GST mop-up of 42,935 crore, State GST of Rs 51,340 crore and Integrated GST of over Rs 1.37 lakh crore, data showed.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) refunds increased 6.5 per cent year-on-year to Rs 27,934 crore in October. After adjusting for refunds, net GST collections rose 26 per cent to over Rs 2.03 lakh crore in October.



During April-October, gross GST collection grew 13.2 per cent to over Rs 14.77 lakh crore. Net collections rose 13 per cent to over Rs 12.69 lakh crore. The October figures indicate sustained momentum in tax revenues, supported by increased economic activity and higher import-related collections. The growth in domestic GST receipts also points to continued strength in consumption and business transactions.

Governor highlights india's unity in diversity at State Formation Day Celebrations

Hyderabad, Nov 1 (Way to News): The Hon'ble Governor of Telangana, Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, has said that India's linguistic, cultural and regional diversity constitutes the very foundation of its national unity and strength. He observed that celebrating the Formation Days of several States and Union Territories on a common platform exemplifies the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' and reflects the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to strengthen the bonds of national integration.



The Formation Day celebrations of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Tamil Nadu, along with the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Delhi, Lakshadweep and Puducherry, were held with great enthusiasm at the Sanskriti Community Hall, Lok Bhavan, Hyderabad, on Sunday evening.

The Hon'ble Governor, Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, accompanied by his spouse, Smt. Janaki Shukla, inaugurated the celebrations by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Addressing the gathering, the Governor described Hyderabad as a 'Mini India', reflecting the country's rich cultural diversity and inclusive ethos. He said Telangana had always welcomed people from every corner of the country with warmth and openness, while fostering an environment of mutual respect, harmony and inclusive development.

BJP leaders inspect Amit Shah's padyatra route

Hyderabad, Nov 1 (Way to News): Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy and BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao on Sunday night inspected the arrangements for a massive padyatra to be led by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah in Hyderabad on November 2. The padyatra is scheduled to begin at 3:00 PM from the Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram statue at Basheerbagh and conclude at M.J. Market (Mozamjahi Market).



As part of the preparations, Kishan Reddy and Ramchander Rao jointly inspected the proposed route, covering the areas around Taj Mahal Hotel and Fatima Hotel in Abids up to M.J. Market. They reviewed the arrangements and security measures to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the padyatra.

Several senior BJP leaders and party workers were also present during the inspection. Party leaders said elaborate arrangements were being made to ensure the participation of a large number of party workers and supporters. They also reviewed crowd management, traffic regulation and coordination with police and other departments along the route to facilitate the smooth conduct of the programme.

KTR Demands Rs 60,000 Per Acre for Telangana Farmers

BRS leader blames Congress for agrarian distress, seeks release of pending Rythu Bandhu dues and fulfilment of poll promises



Adilabad, Nov 1 (Way to News): BRS Working President KTR demanded that the Congress government immediately release all pending Rythu Bandhu dues, taking responsibility for the drought-like conditions prevailing across Telangana. He demanded that every farmer be paid 60,000 per acre, comprising the three installments of Rythu Bandhu withheld by the Congress government and the investment assistance due for the current Yasangi season. He also demanded that the government fulfil its promises to tenant farmers and agricultural labourers.

Addressing the Rythu Garjana public meeting in Adilabad, KTR said, "This is not a drought caused by nature; this is a drought created by Congress." Despite having adequate irrigation resources, Telangana farmers were facing severe distress due to the failures of the Revanth Reddy government, he alleged. Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, despite experiencing nearly twice the rainfall deficit compared to Telangana, were not facing similar drought conditions, he pointed out. The Congress government could not escape responsibility by citing El Nino, he said.

KTR recalled that while the BRS government provided 10,000 per acre annually under Rythu Bandhu, Revanth Reddy promised to increase the assistance to 15,000. However, after coming to power, Congress failed to honour its commitment. He demanded payment of three pending installments and the current Yasangi assistance, amounting to 60,000 per acre. He questioned the status of the 2 lakh loan waiver, tenant farmer assistance, Rythu Bharosa, Indiramma Atmeeya Bharosa for 36,000 beneficiaries and other electoral promises. He said farmers were being forced to submit self-declarations and were even being discouraged from cultivating their own lands.

KTR alleged that the government had failed to utilise Godavari waters despite their availability. Nearly one lakh cusecs of water was flowing downstream from the Kannepalli pump house without being lifted, he said. He criticised the government for allowing 750 TMC of water to go unused and questioned its refusal to act on retired engineers' suggestions.

Had the Kaleshwaram and Palamuru-Rangareddy projects been properly utilised, not even one acre would have dried up, he said. He also criticised the government for neglecting the Chanaka-Korata project's canal works.

KTR accused the Congress government of weakening the power sector, damaging Singareni through alleged coal irregularities and failing to protect industries. He questioned the closure and dismantling of the CCI factory in Adilabad and the alleged shifting of Telangana industries to Gujarat.

He criticised the BJP-led Union Government for failing to provide national projects, medical and nursing colleges and major educational institutions to Adilabad. Calling Congress and BJP "partners in neglect", he questioned BJP leaders for not holding Revanth Reddy accountable.

BJP MP DK Aruna Backs NHM Employees' Strike, Demands Regularisation

Hyderabad, Nov 1 (Way to News): BJP MP DK Aruna has demanded that the Telangana government immediately address the legitimate demands of National Health Mission (NHM) contract employees, who have been staging an indefinite strike across the state for the past 20 days. DK Aruna visited the ongoing indefinite strike camp organised by the NHM Joint Action Committee (JAC) at the Narayanpet district headquarters and expressed solidarity with the protesting employees. She announced the Bharatiya Janata Party's full support for their agitation.



Speaking on the occasion, she criticised the Congress government for failing to fulfil its election manifesto promise of regularising NHM contract employees, despite being in power for nearly three years. She urged the Chief Minister to respond positively and regularise their services without further delay. She also pointed out that NHM contract employees had already been regularised in seven states.

The BJP MP highlighted the crucial role played by NHM employees in safeguarding public health, stating that they continue to provide essential medical services despite facing several challenges.

She said their efforts had contributed to reducing the maternal mortality rate from 25 per cent to 19 per cent and the neonatal mortality rate from 15 per cent to 5 per cent. Their services had also played a significant role in increasing institutional deliveries to 70 per cent, she added. DK Aruna appreciated the efforts of NHM employees in creating public awareness and preventing tuberculosis under the TB Mukt Bharat programme.

Expressing concern over the lack of basic employment rights for these workers, she said it was unfortunate that employees providing such essential services were being denied their legitimate benefits.

She specifically demanded that the government address issues such as the denial of maternity leave to NHM contract employees and delays in salary payments. DK Aruna urged the state government to consider all the legitimate demands of the employees and take immediate action to ensure they receive proper recognition, dignity and respect for their services.

Sacred stone installation celebrations held in grand style at Pirzadiguda

Medchal MLA Chamakur Malla Reddy Attends as Chief Guest
Former Deputy Mayor Kurra Shiva Kumar Goud Performs Special Prayers

Medipally, Nov 1 (Way to News): The Sacred Stone installation celebrations, organised under the aegis of the Sacred Stone Committee and village elders, are being held with great religious fervour and grandeur at Pirzadiguda under the Boduppal Circle limits.



Medchal MLA and former minister Chamakur Malla Reddy, along with former Pirzadiguda Deputy Mayor Kurra Shiva Kumar Goud, attended the celebrations and performed special prayers at the Bodrayee. They offered prayers with devotion and received theertha prasadam. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA described the Bodrayee as a protective symbol for the village and expressed his wish that the blessings of the village deities bring happiness, prosperity, good health and well-being to all the people of the constituency.

He said prayers were offered to the Goddess for the welfare of the villagers, protection from natural calamities, a bountiful harvest and the continued happiness of the community. The MLA congratulated the village elders, Bodrayee Committee members and public representatives for organising the spiritual celebrations on a grand scale while promoting unity and community participation.

Sacred Stone Committee representatives, village elders, local leaders, women, residents and a large number of devotees participated in the celebrations.

The celebrations featured traditional rituals and devotional activities, reflecting the village's rich cultural and religious traditions. The organisers thanked the MLA and other dignitaries for participating and extending their support to the community event.

TELANGANA ENHANCES RETIREMENT AGE FOR JUDGES TO 62

Hyderabad, Nov 1 (Way to News): The Telangana government on Saturday, October 31, issued an ordinance amending the Telangana Public Employment (Regulation of Age of Superannuation) Act, 1984, and raised the retirement age for state judicial officers from 61 to 62 years, effective retrospectively from March 31, 2026. The move was prompted by Supreme Court directives and High Court recommendations to retain experienced legal minds. It allows judicial officers who retired this March to rejoin service with full continuity, pay, and seniority, subject to certain conditions.

The benefit of enhancement of the age of superannuation will extend to members of the Telangana State Higher Judicial Service and the Telangana State Judicial Service who superannuated on or after March 31, 2026, but before the date of publication of the ordinance in the Telangana Gazette.

The officers will be given an option to rejoin the judicial office if they have not obtained subsequent employment or been appointed to any other office of profit under the Union Government or any state government.

An officer who rejoins judicial office will have to surrender post-retirement benefits, if any, already received.

The ordinance is expected to help address vacancies in the subordinate judiciary and ensure continuity in the disposal of pending cases. Retaining experienced judicial officers is also expected to strengthen the functioning of courts and ease the workload on serving judges.

The amendment provides eligible retired officers an opportunity to resume judicial duties, subject to the prescribed conditions.

A WAR-FREE SOCIETY IS THE PATH TO WORLD PEACE

Speakers Call for Unity at All India Peace and Solidarity Association Meeting

Rangareddy, Nov 1 (Way to News) At a time when the world is gripped by the fear of war, growing tensions and widespread uncertainty, speakers at the Rangareddy district conference of the All India Peace and Solidarity Association called upon everyone to work towards building a society free from wars.

The speakers stressed the need for people to unite and work towards world peace, the protection of human rights, respect for the sovereignty of all nations, and the preservation of democratic and secular values. The Rangareddy district conference of the All India Peace and Solidarity Association was held on Sunday at the TNGO Bhavan under the chairmanship of Tipparti Mahesh and Palle Vinay.





Addressing the gathering, K.V.L., State Coordination General Secretary of the association, who inaugurated the conference, said that people in several countries across the world were living under the shadow of war. He expressed concern over the uncertainty surrounding when wars could disrupt nations and human society. He stated that building a war-free society was the primary objective of the All India Peace and Solidarity Association. He pointed out that millions of people across European countries were organising demonstrations for world peace and raising their voices against war-mongering and imperialist policies.

He further said that the welfare of the people and the progress of the nation could be achieved only by protecting democracy, the Constitution and secular values. He called upon leaders and activists to raise public awareness and work towards establishing a peaceful society.

Association presidium member Bommagani Prabhakar said history had demonstrated that authoritarian and war-mongering forces could not withstand the collective consciousness of the people. He stated that peace activists were fighting to protect human rights across the world, uphold the sovereignty of all nations and ensure adherence to the principles and framework of the United Nations.

He appealed to people from all sections of society to participate in the peace movement to achieve peace, welfare and development across the world.

On the occasion, presidium member Tipparti Yadaiah unveiled the conference agenda. Speaking later, he said that although people might differ in their political affiliations and views on various issues, they should stand united when it came to peace.

He alleged that those in power sometimes attempted to create divisions, unrest and insecurity within society to prevent people from questioning policies that were against their interests. He urged the public to understand these developments and unite in the struggle for justice, peace and development.

Telangana State Vice-President Dr. Samatha said that several people were striving to build a society free from caste and religious discrimination and to oppose divisive practices. She urged people to remain vigilant against forces that sought to create divisions in society in the name of caste and religion.

She emphasised the need to strengthen humanitarian values and encouraged people to develop a broader outlook that transcended caste and religious differences. She also observed that the growing humanitarian practice of donating bodies to hospitals for medical education and research, irrespective of caste and religious customs, was a positive development.

Several Telangana State leaders and representatives participated in the conference, including Palle Vinay, Tipparti Mahesh, Polagani Ravikishore, Praja Natya Mandali leader Palle Narasimha, V. Ganesh, Agricultural Workers' Union leader Kalakonda Kanthaiah, Telangana State Workers Party president Rayabanti Pandurangachari, organisers Irugu Sridhar, Venkanna, Chitram Saidulu, Srisailam Goud, Jeenukuntla Lingaiah, Anjaneyulu, Paramesh, Nageshappa, Narasimha, Kranthi, Srinivas, Arun Goud and Mani Kumar, among others.

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Vande Bharat sleeper train to be game changer for Bengaluru-Mumbai connectivity: PM Modi



Bengaluru, Nov 1 (Way to News): Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that the Vande Bharat Sleeper train service between Bengaluru and Mumbai would be a game changer in improving rail connectivity between the two major cities. In a statement following the flagging off of the Vande Bharat Sleeper train service in Bengaluru, Prime Minister Modi noted that the new service marked another step towards improving railway connectivity from Bengaluru, the country's technology and innovation hub.

He said the train would benefit Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, particularly youngsters, IT professionals and students.

The Prime Minister said the new service would provide better connectivity between Bengaluru and Mumbai, facilitating travel for people across the three states. PM Modi also shared the video of the event with a social media post.

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday flagged off the Vande Bharat Sleeper Express connecting Bengaluru and Mumbai from Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal (SMVT) here on the occasion of Kannada Rajyotsava.

Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna, Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi and H.D. Kumaraswamy, Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MPs Tejasvi Surya, P.C. Mohan and C.N. Manjunath, and BJP Rajya Sabha members Lahar Singh Siroya and Jaggesh were present and also waved green flag at the inaugural event.

The Vande Bharat Sleeper Express will have a total capacity of 823 passengers. It will comprise 11 AC three-tier coaches accommodating 611 passengers, four AC two-tier coaches with a capacity of 188 passengers and one first AC coach accommodating 24 passengers.

The overnight service is expected to improve connectivity between the two major cities and reduce travel time. The South Western Railway (SWR) zone will operate and maintain the service. According to SWR, the train will operate under two numbers: 27652 (SMVT Bengaluru-CSMT Mumbai) and 27651 (CSMT Mumbai-SMVT Bengaluru).

The service will operate six days a week, except Mondays for the Bengaluru-Mumbai journey and Tuesdays for the return journey.

Train No. 27652 will depart from SMVT Bengaluru at 7:45 p.m. and reach Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in Mumbai at 11:55 a.m. the following day, covering the journey in around 16 hours.

On the return journey, Train No. 27651 will leave CSMT Mumbai at 8:10 p.m. and arrive at SMVT Bengaluru at noon the next day.

Manipur: Bodies of two missing Kuki youths found



Imphal, Nov 1 (Way to News): The bodies of two Kuki youths, who went missing on October 28, were recovered on Sunday following multiple search operations conducted by joint teams of the Manipur Police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Assam Rifles, officials said.

A Manipur Police official said that following the disappearance of the two persons from Taphou Kuki village in Kangpokpi district on October 28, multiple search operations were launched by joint teams comprising the Manipur Police, CRPF, CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action), Rapid Action Force (RAF) and Assam Rifles. As part of the ongoing operations, an extensive joint search operation was conducted on Sunday by teams of the Manipur Police and central security forces in the general area east of Imphal-Dimapur National Highway (NH-2), along SP Road.

During the extensive search operation, the joint teams recovered two bodies from the area, the official said. The police are carrying out the necessary legal formalities and other procedures following the recovery of the bodies.

BJP holds 'Loktantra Bachao' marches across India



New Delhi, Nov 1 (Way to News): The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday organised 'Loktantra Bachao, Arajakta Hatao' marches in several states across the country to take on INDIA bloc's Ramlila Maidan rally against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged electoral irregularities. In Shimla, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma led the protest march that witnessed massive participation from BJP workers. The march was set to culminate in a rally at the district's Chaura Maidan.

Speaking to reporters, Sarma targeted the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, saying: "Should the Himachal Pradesh election be cancelled or not? Should the Kerala election be cancelled or not? Should his own election from Rae Bareli be cancelled or not? Let the Congress governments (in states where the party is in power) resign first; then they should come to us (to demand resignation)."

"Let them boycott elections in Uttar Pradesh saying that vote theft has taken place…states where they (Opposition) win elections, the process is good for them, but they seem to find irregularities wherever the BJP wins polls," he said.

Sarma further told that Gandhi should first resign as an MP. "He was also elected in 2024, wasn't he? He too was elected through EVMs. He should also resign," he said.

'"The 'Loktantra Bachao, Arajakta Hatao' rallies are being held across the country today, with lakhs of people taking to the streets. The public is telling Rahul Gandhi not to work to protect infiltrators, saying that infiltrators must leave the country."

Taking part in the 'padyatra' in Shimla, BJP MP Anurag Thakur told IANS: "Congress is spreading anarchy to hinder India's progress. The same Congress, whose leaders were responsible for the massacre of Sikhs on November 1, 1984, has chosen this date for murdering democracy and the Constitution." He accused Rahul Gandhi of taking the support of foreign forces, saying: "His intention to bring in a regime change will never be successful as people of the country are watching his drama."

A similar march was taken out in Haryana's Rohtak under the leadership of BJP National President Nitin Nabin. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy CM Eknath Shinde took part in the protest rally in Thane.

Azam Khan sent to 14-day judicial custody

Ghaziabad, Nov 1 (Way to News): Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Mohammad Azam Khan was on Sunday sent to 14 days of judicial custody a day after being arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a Jauhar University-linked money laundering case. The order was passed by the Ghaziabad MP-MLA Court, which directed that Khan will remain in judicial custody until November 13.

Speaking to reporters, the SP leaders' lawyer, Danish Ali, said: "Today, Azam Khan has been remanded to judicial custody. We argued that since this is a 2019 case, the authorities could have taken action through a B-Warrant when he was already in custody. There has also been a violation of Section 19."

"The ED has sought his custody to further interrogate him," he added. The Samajwadi Party leader's arrest by the ED on Saturday came 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 Azam Khan came in the backdrop of a short-lived relief offered to him and his son Abdullah Khan by the Allahabad High Court, which suspended 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.

'Cong sponsored 1984 sikh massacre, Rahul now rubbing salt into their wounds': Amit Shah



Chandigarh, Nov 1 (Way to News): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday alleged that the Congress' "politics" had led to the "brutal killing" of Sikhs in 1984 and that the Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi was now "rubbing salt into the victims' wounds" by holding a major rally in Delhi on the same date. Union Minister Shah made the remarks while referring to the INDIA bloc's 'Dilli Chalo' rally at the national capital's Ramlila Maidan.

Addressing a public gathering at Tiranga Park in Chandigarh, the Union Home Minister recalled that on November 1, 1984, thousands of Sikhs were burned alive, many were forced to flee their homes, countless children were orphaned, women lost their husbands, and thousands of families were devastated, in riots "instigated" by the Congress in Delhi. Referring to then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's controversial remark "when a big tree falls, the earth shakes", Amit Shah said: "People still remember his (Rajiv Gandhi's) statement, only Congress leaders could have the audacity to describe the massacre of thousands of Sikhs in such a manner." He highlighted that after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government came to power, riot-related cases were reopened, victims were provided financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh each, and prominent Congress leaders implicated in the riots were sent to jail.

"The country had never before witnessed riots sponsored by a political party on such a scale," Union Minister Shah alleged. Questioning the INDIA bloc's rally in Delhi, Amit Shah said: "I had initially believed Rahul Gandhi was too young at the time of the riots and perhaps had not studied history, and therefore might not know the significance of the dates."

He noted that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had appealed through a press conference that Congress should avoid holding the rally on November 1, 2, or 3, as these were the dates when the 1984 anti-Sikh riots took place and such an event would hurt the sentiments of the Sikh community.

Nara Lokesh personally reviews critical condition of girl injured in School attack



Amaravati, Nov 1 (Way to News): The condition of a Class 10 girl student injured in the chainsaw attack by her relative at a school in Andhra Pradesh's Anantapur district on Saturday remained critical, doctors said. According to doctors, the next 48 hours will be crucial for the victim undergoing treatment at a hospital in Bengaluru.

Andhra Pradesh Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh on Sunday visited Bengaluru and spoke with doctors at Manipal Hospital to review the health condition of the girl and ongoing treatment. The girl was injured in the attack at Zilla Parishad High School in Rapthadu in Anantapur district. The accused, who was later identified as Hemanth, is a close relative of the victim. He is reported to be still at large. According to an official release here, Lokesh said the incident occurred around 10 a.m. when an individual entered the school premises carrying a chainsaw and attacked the student. Upon receiving information, he immediately alerted the police and district health authorities.

The girl was initially shifted to a government hospital, where doctors worked for nearly eight hours to stabilise her condition. Once she was fit to be transferred, she was moved to Manipal Hospital in Bengaluru. Doctors immediately initiated treatment and performed surgery lasting nearly 12 hours before shifting her to the ICU. Lokesh said the next 48 hours would be critical and appealed to people across Andhra Pradesh to pray for the girl's recovery.

Calling her "our daughter", he said she needed everyone's support and prayers during this difficult time. Assuring the family of complete government support, Lokesh said the incident was extremely unfortunate and should not be politicised.

He emphasised that ensuring the girl's healthcare, continued treatment and subsequent rehabilitation was both the collective responsibility of the government and his personal responsibility. He acknowledged that the incident had highlighted the need to further strengthen existing safety systems and processes. Stating that the government was taking the matter very seriously and would not shy away from its responsibility, Lokesh assured that stronger preventive measures would be put in place to ensure that such incidents never recur in Andhra Pradesh.

AP CM reviews cyclone impact, cancels delhi visit



Amaravati, Nov 1 (Way to News): With the threat of another cyclone looming over Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu on Sunday reviewed its potential impact. At a meeting with senior officials, the Chief Minister reviewed the expected impact of the cyclone on the state, including rainfall and wind forecasts, as well as the status of water reservoirs.

According to an official release, in view of the looming cyclone threat, the Chief Minister cancelled his Delhi visit scheduled for Monday. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Sunday issued a cyclone alert for Andhra Pradesh and adjoining north Tamil Nadu coasts as the deep depression in the Bay of Bengal has intensified into a cyclonic storm. The cyclone, which has been given the name 'Murasu', is likely to intensify into a severe cyclone and cross the Andhra Pradesh coast on November 2-3. The cyclone is likely to intensify further into a severe cyclonic storm over west-central Bay of Bengal on November 2 morning.

It is likely to cross the south Andhra Pradesh coast as a severe cyclonic storm with wind speed of 100 to 110 kmph, gusting to 120kmph, between Nellore and Narsapur during midnight of November 2 and early morning of November 3. The Chief Minister reviewed the precautionary measures to be taken in the regions likely to be impacted.

On November 2, moderate to heavy rainfall -- with isolated instances of very heavy rainfall -- is expected across the southern and central coastal districts.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall is expected in several locations on November 3 and 4 Officials said out of the 20 mandals where extremely heavy rainfall is anticipated, 9 are in Eluru district, 5 in Krishna, 5 in NTR, and 1 in Bapatla district. On November 3, the average district-wise rainfall is projected to be approximately 179 mm in Eluru, 163 mm in Krishna, 161 mm in NTR, 147 mm in West Godavari, 119 mm in Guntur, and 104 mm in Bapatla.

An inflow of approximately 32,500 cusecs is expected at Budameru on November 3. Significant flooding is also possible in water bodies such as Errakalva, Gonelavagu, Jalleru, and Pampa. Preliminary estimates suggest that strong winds could damage between 12,102 and 15,128 electricity poles across 12 districts.

Officials also briefed the Chief Minister on the damage caused by Cyclone Arnab on October 28 and the progress of relief operations.

Jagan: Democracy Murdered in Andhra Municipal Polls



Vijayawada, Nov 1 (Way to News): YSR Congress Party president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Sunday alleged that democracy was murdered in broad daylight during the Municipal elections in Andhra Pradesh as TDP workers occupied polling booths, drove out YSRCP agents and resorted to widespread rigging with police support.

He told IANS that YSRCP agents were not allowed in 70 out of the 80 polling booths in Pulivendula. "In a democracy, if opposition party agents are not allowed to sit inside polling booths, who will identify the voters? No one will be there to identify them because YSRCP polling agents have either been forcibly removed from the booths or denied entry into the polling stations," he said. YS Jagan, who arrived in his home town of Pulivendula in YSR Kadapa district to cast his vote in municipal elections, sat on protest in front of the Returning Officer's office, demanding a repoll. "Is this democracy? Are we even functioning in a democratic system?" asked Jagan, who was accompanied by the displaced agents of the party. He alleged that TDP workers occupied booths from as early as 4 a.m., intimidated voters and prevented YSRCP agents from entering polling stations.

Chairperson candidate Prameelamma was attacked, polling agent Sunanda suffered a fractured hand, and voters arriving at polling centres were stopped, threatened and sent back after their voter slips were forcibly taken away. Bogus votes were cast even before genuine voters arrived, while police assisted TDP workers and carried out lathi-charges at several places. A YSRCP councillor candidate was forcibly taken away in a police jeep. The YSRCP chief said some journalists and cameramen, who were recording electoral irregularities, were attacked, while cameras and mobile phones were damaged. Even voters staging protests after being denied their right to vote were ignored. Similar conditions were prevailing in Kadapa, Jammalamadugu, Chittoor, Macherla, Chilakaluripet, Tadipatri, Madanapalle, Chimakurthy and Kuppam, he said.

YS Jagan questioned Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, the State Election Commission, Collectors and SPs over the dangerous precedent being created.

Police Shoot Chainsaw Attack Accused

Hyderabad, Nov 1 (Way to News): A major development has taken place in the sensational case of the brutal attack on a Class 10 schoolgirl in Raptadu. Police opened fire on the absconding accused, Hemanth, near a forest area close to Atmakur. According to the police version, when teams tried to apprehend him, he allegedly attempted to attack them with stones. Officers opened fire in self-defence. The critically injured Hemanth has been shifted to a hospital in Anantapur, where his condition is reported to be serious.

The case relates to a shocking assault in which Hemanth, a relative of the victim, stormed into a classroom at the Raptadu Zilla Parishad High School in Ayyavaripalli village carrying an electric chainsaw. He allegedly attacked the girl indiscriminately on her head, face and back. Another student who tried to protect her also sustained serious injuries to her legs. The accused then fled, leaving the chainsaw behind.

The severely injured girl was first taken to a hospital in Anantapur and later shifted to a private hospital in Bengaluru for advanced treatment. She is currently receiving care in the PICU at Manipal Hospital.

Police treated the case as a high priority and intensified the manhunt. After receiving information that Hemanth was hiding in the forests near Atmakur, special teams surrounded the area. Despite calls to surrender, he allegedly pelted stones at the officers in an attempt to escape.

Editorial

Space for Women Lawyers

That the Supreme Court has had to direct States and UTs to build ladies' bar rooms and washrooms for women advocates is a sorry commentary on the institutions that exist to guard the rights of citizens. The SC bench has rightly declined to treat the matter as one of convenience. Facilities, it said, must be provided to women lawyers wherever they practise, regardless of their numbers. The Court's language was unambiguous. An exclusive women's bar room with all necessary facilities is a "mandate", and whatever funds or land are required must be found. This leaves little room for the usual bureaucratic excuses of budgetary constraint, want of space or low headcount.

The shortcoming is all the more glaring because the legal fraternity prides itself on being the custodian of dignity, equality and fairness. Courts routinely adjudicate on workplace safety, gender justice and the right to a dignified existence. Yet in many district and taluk courts, women advocates still have no space to rest, change, or attend to personal needs. Women have particular requirements, from hygiene and privacy to safety, and ignoring them amounts to quiet exclusion. A profession that makes its women members endure long hours without even basic amenities cannot claim to be inclusive.

The consequences are real. Poor infrastructure discourages young women from entering the profession and pushes some out after a few years of struggle. India has made progress in bringing women into law schools and the Bar, but numbers at the entry level mean little if working conditions are hostile. Accessibility and long-term sustainability, the very concerns raised in the petition by a group of women advocates, determine whether women can build careers and rise to the Bench. The onus lies squarely with State and UT Governments. Infrastructure for the subordinate judiciary is funded and maintained by local Governments, and it is they who must now allocate money, identify land and ensure timely construction. High courts have a supervisory duty as well and must monitor compliance rather than await another round of litigation. Equally, bar associations have a part to play. Existing rooms must be maintained, and women members are consulted on what they need rather than being handed token arrangements. One hopes the States will respond with action, not affidavits. Basic rights should never have required a judicial order, but now that one has been issued, it must be implemented everywhere, and without delay.

The issue also highlights the wider need to make judicial workplaces more accessible and responsive to the needs of women. Beyond dedicated bar rooms and washrooms, court complexes must provide adequate lighting, drinking water, seating arrangements, proper maintenance and secure access. Such facilities should be incorporated into the planning of new court buildings rather than treated as additional requirements after construction. Ensuring these basic amenities is essential to creating an environment where women advocates can discharge their professional responsibilities with dignity.

The Supreme Court's directive should also serve as an opportunity to examine the broader representation of women in the legal profession. While more women are entering law schools and joining the Bar, their presence in senior positions and leadership roles remains an important concern. Supportive workplace infrastructure, fair professional opportunities and institutional backing are necessary to help women sustain their careers and progress towards higher judicial responsibilities. Without these measures, the goal of gender equality in the justice delivery system will remain incomplete.

Importance of domestic production of munitions in future conflicts

HARSHA KAKAR



Nature of warfare is changing as seen from ongoing conflicts. In the Indian context, despite both its adversaries being nuclear powers, there is ample scope for prolonged conflicts under a nuclear umbrella. It is also true that future wars will be dominated by drones and missiles, necessitating the need to ensure sufficient stocks of munitions essential to meet this challenge as also availability of drones. This has been aptly proved in ongoing conflicts. Artillery and amour will still operate, with change in tactics and operational concepts, as seen in the latest Ukrainian offensive. Thus, the need for sufficient munitions.

In the Iran war, Trump was forced to admit that the US is running short of critical missiles, after claiming on multiple occasions that inputs on this were fake. He recently acknowledged that supplies of some munitions 'are a little bit lower' as a result of the Iran war but vowed to replenish them to 'levels we've never done before.' The Pentagon was compelled to transfer munitions stored in Asia and Europe to the Middle East.

The US manufactures almost all its munitions within but there have been two shortcomings in its strategy. The first is that its advanced weapon systems are dependent on rare earths from China. The second, as per Micheal Horowitz, is shift in US policy from quantity in munitions to quality for which the US has almost no global competitors. This led to the US utilizing multi-million-dollar interceptors, which are produced in limited numbers, against cheap drones, resulting in shortages which would take years to recover. It has been compelled to reconsider its strategy of employing costly missiles against cheap drones. Ukraine is also short of critical missiles. Almost half its F 16 fleet is grounded due to shortfalls in AIM-9 Sidewinder and AIM-120 AMRAAM missiles and maintenance issues. The missiles are manufactured by the US which is facing its own production shortfalls. Ukrainian pilots have been forced to rely on F16 cannon munitions against Russian drones as missiles run out.

Ukraine has ordered large quantities of cannon rounds from European manufacturers. For maintenance it is dependent on Sabena Aerospace in Belgium. F16s need an inspection every 300 hours. The inspection which could be done in 2-4 weeks currently takes upto 40 weeks, forcing a number of planes to be grounded, in the midst of the ongoing conflict.

It is also running short of its PAC-3 interceptors for its Patriot missiles. It is forced to consider alternatives including importing the Franco-Italian SAMP/T systems, which employ Aster missiles, which come at half the cost of Patriot missiles. Germany, which manufactures Patriot missiles, is looking at ramping production to meet Ukrainian needs.

Russia has been able to sustain its munition needs by enhancing domestic production as also importing munitions from allies like North Korea. It currently manufactures 100 ballistic missiles per month. It also outsources its jet engines for its Geran series of drones from China. Russia however needs to import few strategic minerals, which it obtains from China, Central Asian nations and the global south.

India, dependent on the Russian S 400 missile systems has placed orders for additional 288 missiles, comprising of both, short and long-range variants, post their utilization in Operation Sindoor. It has also ordered 216 Excalibur artillery rounds from the US at a cost of USD 47.1 Million. It is also seeking co-production of Javelin anti-tank missiles in India.

India was largely dependent for its munitions till a decade ago on either PSUs (Public Sector Undertakings) or on imports. Dependence on imported weapons and munitions has major disadvantages. Supplies may be delayed as has been happening with Russia or at critical moments, supplies of ammunition will not be forthcoming. Further, foreign exchange is spent, impacts strategic autonomy as also technology remains a shortcoming.

In 1999, during the Kargil war, India was short of artillery ammunition after expending thousands of rounds in the initial phases of the operation. It was compelled to import 50,000 rounds from South Africa as also mortar ammunition from Israel. Still, it did not take requisite steps to rectify the system. The same changed only post 2014.

Realizing the need to reduce dependency on imports for munitions, India shifted towards Aatmanirbharta. In its initial stages it also changed its policies on PSUs. India corporatized its loss-making PSUs by converting them into profit making enterprises, a bold reform. It met initial resistance but settled soon after. It also opened this sector to private industry and shifted procurement from imports to domestic.

It also began involving the academia to collaborate in development of smart munitions. The impact has been satisfactory. India today produces over 150 of the 175 munitions used by the army, which is roughly 90-91% of its needs. This is a vast change from just 32% production needs met in 2014. There was a time when India's holding of its war reserves of ammunition were low and adversely commented upon by the Comptroller and Auditor general.

With future conflicts being dominated by drones, Indian industry has begun concentrating on building drones as also anti-drone systems. It is producing its own multi-layer micro-missile counter-drone systems, anti-drone EW systems and direct energy systems. It is also producing drones needed for various operations. Amongst those under development are long-range attack and loitering systems with upto a thousand km range, jet-powered loitering munitions, logistics and interceptor drones as also surveillance drones amongst others. The problem is the use of Chinese parts in them, for which stringent testing is in progress. In another major decision the government has approved sharing of technology for manufacture of conventional missile systems with the private sector.

Preserving PoJK's Socio-Cultural Heritage

S K SHARMA



Socio-cultural dynamics exert a profound influence on the happiness quotient of the population in Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), revealing a striking dichotomy between deep-seated community resilience and systemic structural alienation. While close-knit communal bonds act as a critical cushion against economic hardship, enduring political and economic disenfranchisement continues to diminish collective well-being.

The foundational Biradari (clan) structure fosters an exceptional degree of social cohesion. During episodes of bereavement, financial distress, or personal adversity, these extended kinship networks provide immediate material and emotional safety nets, preventing alienation and underpinning baseline life satisfaction. Compounding this, a formidable diaspora network-principally established in the United Kingdom-serves as an engine of collective pride and shared elevation. Remittances sustain more than basic subsistence; they finance essential community infrastructure, including schools and healthcare facilities, infusing local residents with a tangible sense of upward mobility. Complementing these networks is a rich Pahari heritage steeped in regional Sufi traditions, which nurtures spiritual resilience, moral contentment, and a deeply grounded sense of belonging that bolsters psychological well-being. Yet, it is a painful reality that displaced persons from this region faced prolonged alienation upon relocation, struggling for acceptance across seven decades of independence. Often marginalizingly designated as "refugees" rather than fully integrated kin, they have endured a persistent rupture in the social fabric that ought to have united them with the host population. Having lost ancestral hearths and heritage-an ordeal intimately known to those who lived through the trauma of partition and forced migration-their culture and mother tongue suffered a severe jolt.

The indigenous linguistic identity, anchored in Pothwari and Pahari, bore distinct regional nuances that faced steady erosion. Despite the passage of substantial time, neither adequate efforts have been made to address the legitimate grievances of the displaced persons of 1947, nor has meaningful support matched the gravity of their material and cultural loss. Beyond the absence of comprehensive economic rehabilitation, concrete initiatives to safeguard and institutionalize this distinctive heritage have remained visibly lacking, even as the territory is universally affirmed as an integral part of India.

The geographical entity comprising parts of the historic Mirpur, Muzaffarabad, and Poonch divisions of undivided Jammu and Kashmir retains an ethnolinguistic and social landscape distinct from the Kashmir Valley. Ethnolinguistically, Kashmiri (Koshur) is spoken by barely five percent of the PoJK populace; rather, the living idiom belongs to Pahari- Pothwari and Gojri, binding the people culturally and linguistically closer to the Jammu plains, the Dogras, and northern Punjab. Structurally, society remains organized around traditional lineages-such as the Gujjars, Sudhans, Jats, and Rajputs-which govern kinship, matrimonial alliances, and local leadership. Furthermore, whereas undivided Jammu and Kashmir before 1947 was multi-religious with flourishing Hindu and Sikh communities, modern PoJK has become predominantly homogenous.

A community's socio-cultural life fundamentally dictates its collective health across several foundational pillars. It establishes the relational architecture of kinship, extended family solidarity, and institutional governance. It provides a moral and spiritual compass rooted in shared faith and historical ethics, anchoring standards of justice and common decency. It defines the unspoken norms, mutual expectations, and cultural virtues-from elder reverence to reciprocal communal aid-that preserve civil harmony. Crucially, language acts as the living repository of that communal soul, safeguarding oral literature, idiomatic wisdom, and ancestral worldviews. Alongside material modes of production, agrarian customs, and artisan craftsmanship, artistic traditions-such as seasonal rites, folklore, music, and communal mourning-allow a displaced population to preserve its collective memory and dignity.

A population exceeding twelve lakhs originally hailing from these territories remains settled on this side of the border. Preserving and celebrating their socio-cultural identity is vital to elevating their overall happiness quotient and healing the intergenerational wounds of displacement alongside any economic redress. To this end, the establishment of a dedicated statutory board or institutional authority is urgently warranted to document, revitalize, and safeguard the rich, endangered socio-cultural heritage of this displaced population, fully honoring their status as an inseparable part of India's national fabric.

The Myth of Gen Z 'Regime Change'

K B JANDIAL



At times, an authoritarian family head bends to resolve discord and protect unity and harmony. While the family views this compromise as wise, neighbours might see it as a weakening of parental authority and the beginning of family division. Regardless of perceptions, the immediate crisis is averted. A nation is no different-a larger family where state authority occasionally bends before friction escalates out of hand. This is what has happened in India recently.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi yielded to the little-known Cockroach Janta Party (CJP). Led by one, Abhijeet Dipke, a former AAP communication strategist, the Gen Z movement emerged from nowhere. Despite its satirical moniker, the movement achieved monumental success within 36 days-a swift triumph that eluded even Anna Hazare's historic India Against Corruption movement. This concession stands in stark contrast to the Modi Government's previous major climbdown: the repeal of the three farm laws. That rollback required a gruelling 420-day sit-in at Delhi's borders by farmers from Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh. Tragically, that prolonged struggle cost nearly 700 lives due to extreme weather, chronic illnesses, accidents, and suicides. That a satirical student movement forced a retreat so quickly underscores a major shift in the political landscape.

Had Modi not defused the flashpoint last July, could this unrest have caused a "regime change," as witnessed in neighbouring Bangladesh and Nepal? While a serious crisis, total collapse was never highly probable. Political scientists emphasize that India's democratic, independent judiciary and institutional architecture make street anarchy leading to regime change highly unlikely.

In Bangladesh and Nepal, highly centralized power structures and a weak opposition left the streets as the single avenue for dissent. Armies historically stepped in, refused to fire on the unruly mob and instead forced rulers to exit and take refuge in India. Furthermore, choking centralized capitals like Dhaka or Kathmandu freezes the entire state apparatus. Conversely, India possesses robust institutional buffers: an independent judiciary, an active opposition coalition, regular state elections, and a strictly apolitical military. India's vastness, diversity and geographically fragmented population mean a protest in New Delhi cannot paralyze the entire nation; history confirms regime change occurs exclusively through the ballot. However, PM Modi should have deployed political wisdom earlier to prevent escalation. Anarchy solves nothing. The ignition point for the Gen Z onslaught was the widespread anger of students over a paper leak during the NEET-UG 2026 examination on May 3, which was cancelled on May 12 following credible reports. The National Testing Agency (NTA) ordered an unprecedented nationwide re-test.

Paper leaks have plagued public exams before, but modern agitators under the "Gen Z" banner challenged the regime's invincible aura, forcing Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to resign within 36 days. While the acute phase ended after a compromise, the underlying issues remain unresolved. Emboldened by victory, the CJP had called for a march from India Gate to Jantar Mantar on September 5, which was later called off after Supreme Court verdict. Public anger was understandable given the NTA's delinquency. Evaluating the 2024 NEET controversies alongside the 2026 crisis highlights a shift in state reactions. While past scandals involved prolonged Supreme Court interventions, the 2026 crisis led to immediate cancellation. Furthermore, the 2024 scandal was a localized theft in Hazaribagh, whereas the 2026 leak involved instantaneous, mass digital circulation. Investigators discovered a digital "Guess Paper" matching 140 exam questions.

Faced with this digital contagion, the Modi Government found itself on the back foot and succumbed to the core diktats of the CJP to avoid a protracted standoff-especially as Rahul Gandhi opened a parallel front. This youth activism quickly spread beyond Delhi. Later, similar protests arose regarding the alleged paper scams in Jharkhand, Punjab, and Bihar. The paper leak was the spark, but the administration's remedy proved equally volatile. While ordered with good intentions, the June 21 re-test proved deeply traumatizing for students who had performed well initially. This secondary trauma caused by the cancellation of the test led to the tragic suicides of nearly 20 aspirants, (no official figures available), generating public anger far exceeding the initial outrage over the leak. Abhijeet Dipke packaged this frustration over unemployment and exam scams, wrapping it in the symbolism of B.R. Ambedkar, constitutional values, and internet-first messaging.

Iran army says any new war with US could be 'longer than previous conflict'

TEHRAN, Nov 1 (Way to News): Iran warned on Sunday that any new war with the United States could last longer than the previous conflict and that US President Donald Trump would not be the one to determine its duration. "A potential future war could last longer than previous conflict, and the American president would not be in a position to dictate the timing or the conditions of its conclusion," said army spokesman Mohammad Akraminia, according to Iranian state television.



He was referring to the most intense phase of the fighting in the war that began on February 28 with US-Israeli strikes on Iran, killing the Islamic republic's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Iran responded by launching missiles and drones across the region, while the militant groups it backs also entered the fray in Lebanon and Yemen.

Iran's Defense Minister Mehrdad Akhlaghi on Sunday warned of a "proportionate, decisive, and impactful response" to any attack on the country, according to state TV. "Those who pose threats will not dictate the scope, timing, or consequences of Iran's defensive response," he added.

Also on Sunday, Hossein Mohebbi, the spokesperson of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the ideological arm of Iran's military, echoed the remarks made by the country's new supreme leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei in a written message the day before. "In a conflict with America, there are no geographical limitations; a vast theater has been defined for inflicting damage upon the enemy," Mohebbi said, according to state TV. Meanwhile, Iranian negotiators were in Doha on Sunday for a third consecutive day of talks with Qatari mediators aimed at pushing for a deal to end the US-Israeli war on Iran, an official briefed on the discussions told Reuters.

The talks come amid concerns that the conflict could escalate again after the November 3 US midterm elections. President Donald Trump has said the United States will not launch new attacks on Iran before the vote and that talks with Tehran have been productive, though he has not ruled out further military action afterwards. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Sunday that the purpose of the "ongoing and progressing" talks was to continue consultations with the Qatari mediators, adding Tehran is prepared for "both defense and diplomacy." Speaking to state media, Araghchi said discussions on a "two-day proposal" were continuing, but that no final conclusion had been reached.

Dozens injured, at least 6 dead in Halloween weekend gun violence at nightlife districts across US



US, Nov 1 (Way to News): Dozens of people were injured and at least six people died in mass shootings as gun violence broke out at nightlife districts in half a dozen cities across the country over the Halloween weekend. Police in Dallas, the site of the deadliest violence, said four people are dead and 15 others were injured following a handful of shootings in the city's Deep Ellum neighborhood, a center of music, restaurants and nightlife in the city. Police in college towns like Fayetteville, Arkansas; Birmingham, Alabama; and Newark, Delaware, also reported shootings in their nightlife districts this weekend. Dallas Police Chief Daniel Comeaux said investigators are still trying to determine if the shootings Saturday night over the span of about an hour and 15 minutes were related.

Comeaux said three separate shootings occurred, and it wasn't immediately known why they started. Comeaux said some arrests were made but he didn't specify how many or what charges were involved.

"This is a really big scene. It's spread out," Comeaux said. "We are interviewing some individuals right now that we have arrested, still trying to figure out exactly how it ties into all the shootings out here." The department had increased police presence in the district before the shootings. No police officers were injured. Separately, one person was killed and eight others were wounded in a mass shooting just outside Legion Field in Birmingham, Alabama, after the annual 'Magic City Classic' football game on Saturday night, police said.

Michael Pickett, chief of the Birmingham Police Department, said most spectators and families had left the stadium property after the game, but the shooting happened nearby, where vendors were set up along Graymont Avenue. He said he was "very grateful that more people weren't injured." The circumstances of the shooting were unclear. Authorities in the affected cities have launched investigations to identify those responsible and establish the circumstances behind the attacks. Police have urged witnesses and members of the public with information to come forward, while officials are reviewing security arrangements in entertainment districts and public gathering areas.

Yemen Coalition Launches Operation Against Houthis

LONDON, Nov 1 (Way to News): The Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen said it carried out a military operation on Sunday morning targeting resources used by the Houthis to support attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure. Coalition spokesperson Turki Al-Maliki said the operation sought to counter threats to Yemen, Saudi Arabia and shipping lanes in the southern Red Sea. In a statement Sunday, Al-Maliki said the Iran-backed Houthis were "exploiting vital resources to bolster their military capabilities, particularly ballistic missiles and drones," while continuing their "deliberate and systematic attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure in Yemen and Saudi Arabia."

He said the coalition's Joint Forces Command launched the operation in response to those attacks and the threat they posed to civilian lives and infrastructure.

Al-Maliki said the coalition would continue taking military measures to deter further attacks and prevent the Houthis from using vital resources to support their war effort. He warned that the group would face consequences unless it halted attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure.

Later on Sunday, Al-Maliki announced that air defenses had intercepted a drone and a ballistic missile launched by the Houthis toward the Kingdom's southern region.

The latest developments come amid continuing regional tensions and repeated attacks target ing commercial shipping and critical infrastructure in the Red Sea region.

France launches 'attempted murder' probe after petrol bomb attack on security forces

PARIS, Nov 1 (Way to News): France has launched an attempted murder investigation after a petrol bomb was thrown at security forces during a weekend protest in Paris, prosecutors tol. On Saturday, clashes erupted in Paris and some other cities after hundreds of thousands of people staged a third weekend of protests against soaring living costs. The Paris police prefecture said that several hundred rioters had attacked security forces with projectiles, including a Molotov cocktail.



"Explosive devices were thrown at around fifteen gendarmes as well as police officers," the prosecutor's office said on Sunday. Gendarmes are military police officers who are part of the French armed forces.

Prosecutors said an investigation had been opened for "attempted murder of persons vested with public authority." Dramatic images, including AFP photos and video, showed a homemade incendiary device exploding at the feet of a security officer in eastern Paris.

An assessment of the injured was ongoing, prosecutors said, adding the reported injuries include second-degree burns.

No suspects "have been arrested at this stage in connection with the incident," the prosecutor's office said, adding that investigators were working to identify those responsible.

Interior Minister Laurent Nunez on Saturday decried an "extraordinary" level of violence from some rioters.

The protests were organised amid growing public frustration over rising prices and the increasing cost of living, with demonstrators demanding government action to ease the financial burden on households. The demonstrations, which entered their third consecutive weekend, witnessed large gatherings in several major cities, prompting authorities to deploy additional security personnel to maintain order.

Police officials said security forces faced repeated attacks from groups of rioters who used stones, fireworks and other projectiles during confrontations. Officers responded by attempting to disperse the crowds, while several areas in the capital witnessed heightened security measures. Authorities continued to monitor the situation to prevent further violence and damage to public property.

Somali pirates seize Iranian fishing vessel, raising fears of attacks on cargo ships

MOGADISHU, Nov 1 (Way to News): Somali pirates have seized an Iranian fishing vessel carrying 23 people, the Maritime Security Center Indian Ocean said, warning that the ship was approaching a commercial shipping lane and could become a floating base for further attacks. The Azini was hijacked on Thursday between the coastal towns of Bandar Bayla and Hafun in northeastern Somalia, a maritime security officer with the Puntland Maritime Police Force said Sunday.



The officer told The Associated Press that 12 pirates seized the vessel, which was carrying 21 Iranian crew members and two Somali security guards. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak with the media.

The crew's safety was unknown, the center said in an alert dated Saturday. In an updated warning, it said that pirates could use the vessel as a "mother ship" to support attacks on commercial vessels.

The European Union's naval Operation Atalanta was investigating. The center urged ships in the area to remain vigilant and report suspicious activity.

The seizure follows a resurgence of Somali piracy across the Gulf of Aden and western Indian Ocean. By August, pirates had hijacked six commercial vessels since April, with some attacks taking place far from Somalia's coastline. The captures included the oil products tanker Sibu 1, seized about 136 nautical miles (252 kilometers) east of Al-Mukalla, Yemen. In September, Puntland authorities said pirates killed five crew members of the tanker MT Honour 25 before security forces recovered the vessel. The tanker had been held since April. Authorities said that 16 suspected pirates were detained.

The renewed piracy adds another danger for shipping in a region already disrupted by the Iran war. Attacks in the Strait of Hormuz and threats by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels against Saudi-linked shipping through Bab Al-Mandab have complicated routes used to move oil to world markets.

UK police say 325 people were arrested at Palestine Action demo

LONDON, Nov 1 (Way to News): British police said Sunday they had arrested 325 people at a London protest in support of Palestine Action the previous day, ahead of a court appeal over the government's contentious ban of the group.



Demonstrators staged a "mass action" outside the US embassy ahead of the Supreme Court holding a two-day hearing from Wednesday on the UK government's July 2025 decision to outlaw Palestine Action under anti-terror legislation. The United States also designated Palestine Action as "terrorist" in August, as the administration of President Donald Trump intensifies its campaign against left-wing movements.

The British designation puts the group on a blacklist that also includes entities like Palestinian militants Hamas, and made membership of, or support for, Palestine Action a crime punishable by up to 14 years in prison. It has resulted in more than 4,000 people, including many senior citizens and Holocaust survivors, being arrested for showing their support for the group, according to campaigners and police tallies. "In total, 325 people were arrested yesterday," London's Metropolitan Police said in an update Sunday. "The vast majority of arrests — 320 — were for expressing support for a proscribed organization under the Terrorism Act."

A smaller number of protesters also rallied outside the US consulate in the Scottish capital Edinburgh on Saturday, but no arrests were made there at the time.

"Enquiries are ongoing to identify people seen wearing t-shirts and holding banners showing support for a proscribed organization," Police Scotland said in a statement shared with on Sunday. "Evidence is being reviewed and further action will be taken as appropriate." The upcoming Supreme Court hearing is expected to examine the legality of the government's decision to proscribe Palestine Action under anti-terrorism laws. The appeal has drawn considerable attention from civil liberties groups, human rights campaigners and supporters of the organisation, who have questioned whether the ban places excessive restrictions on freedom of expression and peaceful protest.

Spewing US election falsehoods, AI chatbots face scrutiny

Washington, Nov 1 (Way to News): Dispensing misleading voter information, misidentifying candidates, and regurgitating Russian propaganda, AI chatbots are sowing information chaos ahead of the US midterm elections, researchers say. The November 3 vote marks the first federal election in which millions of voters are actively relying on AI tools for political information, a trend that experts say is playing a key role in shaping the information ecosystem ahead of the polls.

But while chatbots can help debunk conspiracies and educate voters, multiple studies show they frequently draw on unreliable sources on the open web, eroding public trust and further polluting an Internet already plagued by election misinformation.



One recent study by Forum AI, a start-up that evaluates AI models, found that almost 40 percent of chatbots' answers to election-related queries contained at least one factual error. When its researchers asked Anthropic's Claude why voters should elect Representative Don Davis from North Carolina, the chatbot listed "former school superintendent" among his credentials, confusing him with a different person.

The study, which examined eight models, also found that chatbots answered questions about voting logistics incorrectly more often than questions about candidates. When Google's Gemini 3.6 Flash was asked about voting in Pennsylvania, the chatbot gave November 3 as the deadline to request a mail-in ballot. The actual deadline was a week earlier. "A voter who followed the answer would have asked for a ballot too late to use it," the study said. 'Risk of being fooled' Chatbots also "put the wrong words in the mouths of candidates, officials, and observers hundreds of times" and frequently cited "poor quality" sources, such as Reddit threads, Forum AI said.

Anthropic did not respond to AFP's request for comment. "We're focused on helping voters find reliable information across our platforms," Google said in a statement, adding that it had "strict quality and policy protections" across its AI products on election topics. Another concern among researchers was that chatbots were susceptible to foreign influence operations, sometimes repeating falsehoods that were widely debunked.

In late October, AFP's fact-checkers debunked a likely AI-altered clip that purported to show a former student of Texas Senate candidate James Talarico accusing him of sexual misconduct. The unfounded allegation bore the hallmarks of a Russian disinformation campaign.

Google's AI Overview regurgitated the allegation when it was prompted by the disinformation watchdog NewsGuard. Two other leading AI tools it prompted, Google's Gemini and Microsoft's Copilot, also repeated the false claim.

"AI chatbot users are at risk of being fooled by foreign influence operations and other bad actors," NewsGuard said in a separate study of 10 AI tools.

Rubio says US not directly involved in Flavio Bolsonaro's flight from Brazil

ATLANTA, Nov 1 (Way to News): US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Saturday that Washington was not directly involved in Flavio Bolsonaro's arrangements to leave Brazil after his election loss. President Donald Trump said that Bolsonaro could, however, stay in the United States "as long as he wants." Bolsonaro, who lost his bid to be president in Sunday's run-off vote, arrived with his family in the US on Wednesday after a court ordered his passports to be seized amid multiple investigations against him.



"He had previously held a visa, and the president made a decision to allow him to enter the country," Rubio told a press conference in Atlanta, Georgia, where he hosted G20 foreign ministers for a two-day meeting. Rubio added that "the US government was not involved directly" in arrangements Bolsonaro made to leave his country.

Following the vote, the 45-year-old bolted from Brazil via Argentina and Ecuador in a plane that some US media, including and The Wall Street Journal, reported was chartered by Jason Miller, an adviser to Trump. The plane that whisked the Bolsonaro family to the US was paid for by an intermediary from a US bank account, the head of the airline has told. The White House has not commented on the flight, but Trump has called the Brazilian election "disgraceful." Speaking to reporters at his Florida residence on Saturday, Trump said he had no plans to meet Bolsonaro but voiced sympathy for the rightist senator.

"I think he got treated very shabbily. Very shabbily, so he can stay here as long as he wants," the president said. A Brazilian diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP that Argentina's diplomatic representative had been summoned for a "routine meeting" to "provide explanations" on the flight.

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Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Inaugurates 'Takshanam' Art Exhibition at NGMA



New Delhi, Nov 1 (Way to News): Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurated TAKSHANAM, a major exhibition featuring over 250 sculptures by 150 participating artists representing diverse generations, artistic backgrounds and approaches to sculptural expression, at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi. Shri Vivek Aggarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, was also present on the occasion. Conceived as a shared platform for artistic encounter and exchange, the exhibition explores the continuities, transitions and new possibilities shaping the evolving landscape of Indian sculpture.

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, said, "Art is an important expression of India's cultural identity and creative spirit. Initiatives such as TAKSHANAM bring artists and audiences closer while encouraging greater appreciation of our artistic traditions and contemporary expressions. By creating space for both established and emerging talent, the exhibition reinforces the importance of nurturing creativity and expanding public engagement with art."

Vivek Aggarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, said, "The Ministry of Culture remains committed to encouraging artistic excellence and creating meaningful opportunities for artists across the country. TAKSHANAM brings together diverse artistic voices and provides a platform for their work to reach wider audiences. The initiative to offer artworks for sale is also a noteworthy step towards strengthening engagement between artists, collectors and art enthusiasts."

Speaking about the exhibition, Dr. Sanjeev Kishor Goutam, Director General, National Gallery of Modern Art, highlighted India's longstanding sculptural tradition and the need to recognise and support contemporary practitioners.

He said, "India has an extraordinary sculptural heritage that reflects its history, cultural achievements and artistic vision.

SEBI Chief says focus remains on facilitating capital formation, investor protection

New Delhi, Nov 1 (Way to News): The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman, Tuhin Kanta Pandey, said on Saturday that the capital markets regulator continuously works towards making India's capital markets more accessible, efficient and resilient, focusing on facilitating capital formation, improving ease of doing business and strengthening investor protection.

Speaking at the 'Bharat Chamber of Commerce Investors Forum' in Kolkata, Pandey noted strong expansion of market capitalisation in India over the past decade, with companies raising on average more than Rs 10 lakh crore annually through equity and debt issuances.

"While we continue to strengthen markets for businesses, an equally important priority is investor protection. World-class markets must be not only efficient during normal times, but also resilient during periods of stress," he added. Highlighting West Bengal's growing participation in capital markets, Pandey said the number of investors in the securities



market rose from around 12 lakh in the FY15 to over 90 lakh, approximately 36 per cent of whom are young investors below 30 years of age. Further, 379 listed companies have registered offices in West Bengal, and over 40 MSMEs from the state have accessed capital markets to raise over Rs 1,400 crore through SME IPOs. Pandey said that SEBI has taken several steps to make fundraising simpler and more cost-effective to reduce unnecessary compliance burdens and improve operational efficiency.

These include streamlining IPO processes, shortening timelines for rights issues, rationalising listing requirements for large issuers, permitting certain employee stock options after listing under prescribed conditions and reducing listing timelines for public issues.

Further, enabling debt securities with lower face values, and relaxing mandatory merchant banking requirements for eligible issuers undertaking private placements. Pandey emphasised that financial education and protection for investors remain paramount as informed investor serves are the first line of defence. "Building world-class capital markets is not merely about achieving higher market capitalisation, larger trading volumes, or faster transactions. The real measure is how effectively markets connect savings with productive investment, support businesses in raising capital, and create opportunities for investors to participate in economic growth," he said.

Pandey also stressed the need to build investor confidence through greater transparency, responsible market practices and effective grievance redressal mechanisms. He said SEBI would continue engaging with market participants, businesses and investors to address emerging challenges and ensure that the country's securities market remains inclusive, trustworthy and capable of supporting India's long-term economic growth.

BHASHINI RAJYAM WORKSHOP

Manipur Chapter explores language technology, local language data and citizen-centric digital services

New Delhi, Nov 1 (Way to News): The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), under Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, in collaboration with the Department of Information Technology, Government of Manipur, organised the BHASHINI Rajyam Workshop, Manipur Chapter, in Imphal on 14 October 2026. The workshop explored opportunities to advance multilingual artificial intelligence, strengthen language technology and integrate Indian language solutions into government and citizen-facing digital



services. The programme was graced by Shri Yumnam Khemchand Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur, and brought together government representatives and other stakeholders to discuss the role of language technology in making digital services more accessible and inclusive.

A key outcome of the workshop was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between DIBD and the Government of Manipur, represented by Shri Amitabh Nag, CEO, DIBD, and Shri Somorjit Salam, IAS, Secretary, Information Technology, Government of Manipur. The MoU aims to strengthen cooperation in language technology, improve language resources and explore solutions for multilingual digital services across the state.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Yumnam Khemchand Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur, highlighted the potential of artificial intelligence and language technology to promote India's linguistic diversity and expand opportunities for the state's communities.

Govt scraps petrol export duty, hikes diesel and ATF levies



New Delhi, Nov 1 (Way to News): The government on Saturday withdrew the special additional excise duty on petrol exports while increasing export levies on diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF). According to notifications issued by the Finance Ministry, petrol exports will no longer attract any export duty, compared with the earlier levy of Rs 2.50 per litre. At the same time, the duty on diesel exports has been increased to Rs 11.50 per litre from Rs 8.50 per litre, while the export levy on ATF has been raised to Rs 11 per litre from Rs 10.50 per litre.

The revised rates come as the government continues its fortnightly review of fuel export duties in response to fluctuations in international crude oil and refined product prices.

The latest revision reverses part of the October adjustment, when the government raised the levy on petrol exports to Rs 2.50 per litre from Rs 0.50 per litre while simultaneously reducing the duty on diesel exports to Rs 8.50 per litre from Rs 16 per litre.

Fuel export duties have undergone multiple revisions in recent months as authorities sought to balance domestic supply requirements with changing global market conditions.

The export levies were reintroduced in March this year after geopolitical tensions in the Middle East triggered a sharp rise in global crude prices and disrupted established energy supply routes.

The government had said the measures were aimed at ensuring adequate domestic fuel availability by discouraging refiners from diverting supplies to overseas markets when export margins were more attractive. India's energy security concerns intensified following disruptions to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical transit corridor through which a significant share of the country's crude oil imports traditionally moved. The supply uncertainty prompted refiners to diversify sourcing arrangements and monitor export commitments more closely.

The changes are expected to influence the export economics of domestic oil refiners, particularly those supplying petroleum products to international markets. While the removal of the petrol export levy provides relief to exporters, the higher duties on diesel and ATF are intended to prioritise domestic availability and ensure that sufficient supplies remain accessible to Indian consumers amid continuing uncertainty in global energy markets.

CCI Okays Adani Energy Solutions' Rs 3,050-cr Acquisition Of IntelliSmart Infrastructure

New Delhi, Nov 1 (Way to News): The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of equity share capital of IntelliSmart Infrastructure Private Ltd by Adani Energy Solutions Ltd.

"The proposed combination envisages the acquisition of 100 per cent of the equity share capital of the target (IntelliSmart Infrastructure Pvt Ltd) by the acquirer (Adani Energy Solutions Ltd) from National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) and Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL)," the regulator said in a statement on Saturday.

IntelliSmart Infrastructure is involved in providing advanced metering infrastructure for electricity in the country. It is also engaged in deploying smart gas meters. The CCI said it has cleared the proposed



deal. "The Commission approves the acquisition of 100 per cent of the share capital of IntelliSmart Infrastructure Pvt Ltd by Adani Energy Solutions Ltd," the regulator said.

Earlier in June, Adani Energy Solutions announced that it had executed a binding securities purchase and subscription agreement to acquire a 100 per cent equity stake in IntelliSmart Infrastructure. The Rs 3,050-crore transaction includes the acquisition of 100 per cent equity share capital of IntelliSmart and redemption of optionally convertible debentures held by NIIF.

NIIF is India's sovereign-anchored alternative asset manager, while EESL is a joint venture of leading public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Power. The Acquirer is part of the Adani Group and is a public listed company incorporated in India, listed on the BSE and the National Stock Exchange of India.

Centre Extends Customs Duty Exemption On Cotton Imports Till December 31

New Delhi, Nov 1 (Way to News): In a bid to augment the availability of cotton for the domestic textile sector, the government on Saturday extended the existing customs duty exemption on cotton imports till December 31, 2026.

Through the amendment, the existing exemption, which was available until October 31, 2026, has now been extended by two months. The aim is to address specialised cotton requirements and support value addition across the textile and apparel value chain, the Ministry of Textiles said in a statement.

"The measure is expected to provide greater flexibility to textile and apparel manufacturers in meeting their raw material requirements, help ease input cost pressures, support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and



strengthen the competitiveness of Indian textiles in domestic and international markets," the statement said. According to the government, this move is expected to facilitate uninterrupted availability of raw materials, improve operational flexibility for the textile industry, and promote greater value addition across the cotton-based textile and apparel sector. Meanwhile, India's textile sector recorded strong export growth in August 2026, with total exports up 16.1 per cent year-on-year to Rs 29,776 crore. The cumulative textile exports during April–August 2026 reached Rs 1.43 lakh crore, registering growth of 10.3 per cent over the corresponding period of the previous year.

The exports of cotton yarn, fabrics, made-ups and handloom products grew by 24.1 per cent in August, while man-made yarn, fabrics and made-ups increased by 19.9 per cent. The ministry said it remains committed to promoting a competitive.

EPFO To Launch Key Initiatives Like Automatic Settlement Of Eligible Inoperative Accounts, WhatsApp Services

New Delhi, Nov 1 (Way to News): The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is set to celebrate its 74th Foundation Day here on Sunday, which will see key initiative being launched by Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya. Dr. Mandaviya will launch key EPFO initiatives, including the Automatic Settlement of Eligible Inoperative EPF Accounts with balances up to Rs 1,000 and EPFO Services through WhatsApp, among others.

The minister will also review exhibition stalls at the venue and release a series of publications reflecting EPFO's commitment to knowledge creation, institutional learning, legal awareness and compassionate



governance, according to an official statement.

The event will also see Dr. Mandaviya presenting 'Bhavishya Nidhi Awards 2026' to recognise outstanding contributions by Regional Offices, Zonal Offices, individual officers and employees. "The 74th Foundation Day celebration seeks to reaffirm that the journey of EPFO is not merely a story of institutional growth; it is a continuing commitment to ensure that the fruits of a worker's years of labour translate into security, dignity and peac e of mind for the worker and the family," according to a statement.

The celebration will be attended by senior officials of the Ministry, Members of the Central Board of Trustees, officers and employees of EPFO, employers, workers and other stakeholders.

India has significantly expanded the reach of social protection in recent years, and social protection coverage increased from 19 per cent in 2015 to 68.4 per cent in 2026, bringing more than one billion people within the social protection framework. EPFO's contributing membership has increased significantly over the period. Contributing members rose from 3.49 crore in 2014-15 to approximately 7.98 crore (as on September 16, 2026). This represents an increase of approximately 4.49 crore contributing members over the period.

Gold, Silver decline up to 2 pc on Hawkish fed signals ahead of festive buying

New Delhi, Nov 1 (Way to News): Gold and silver traded up to 2 per cent lower on Friday amid rising expectations of a further rate hike by the US Federal Reserve. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), precious metals fell sharply with the white metal losing over Rs 4,000 per kg during the session. Gold futures (December) fell as much as 0.63 per cent or Rs 911 to hit an intraday low of Rs 1,41,685 per 10 grams. At around 12:20 pm, the yellow metal was trading at Rs 1,41,800, down Rs 796 or 0.56 per cent from its previous close.

Meanwhile, silver witnessed steeper losses, dropping Rs 4,282 or 2.26 per cent to touch an intraday low of Rs 1,85,171 per kg. At last count, the white metal



was at Rs 1,85,500, down Rs 3,953 or about 2 per cent.

The sharp correction comes at a time when consumers are gearing up for Dhanteras and Diwali purchases, offering some relief to festive buyers.

In the international market, spot gold slipped 0.7 per cent to around $3,991 per ounce, while spot silver declined 1.6 per cent to $51.27 per ounce.

According to market experts, precious metals remain under pressure following a hawkish pause by the Federal Reserve. The US central bank kept interest rates unchanged at 3.75-4 per cent in a 10-2 vote, with policymakers continuing to express concerns over elevated inflation. Fed Chair Kevin Warsh indicated inflation remains stubbornly high, while two policymakers reportedly dissented in favour of a rate hike.

Since the announcement, a series of strong economic indicators have reinforced expectations that borrowing costs could remain higher for longer.

"Gold is currently approaching a crucial support zone between Rs 1.40 lakh and Rs 1.41 lakh per 10 grams. A decisive break below this range could drag prices towards Rs 1.37-1.38 lakh," commodity experts said. For silver, the next major support is seen in the Rs 1.83-1.85 lakh per kg range. Silver has now corrected significantly from its historic peak, they added.

Badminton: PV Sindhu Clinches Second Title Of Season With Hylo Open Triumph

New Delhi, Nov 1 (Way to News): Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu clinched her second title of the season after defeating Denmark's Line Hojmark Kjærsfeldt in straight games to win the Hylo Open Super 500 badminton tournament in Saarbrücken, Germany, on Sunday. The former world champion, who had won the Japan Open in July and finished runner-up at the French Open last week, produced a commanding performance to register a 21-12, 21-14 victory over the eighth-seeded Dane in the 39-minute summit clash of the USD 500,000 tournament. The second-seeded Indian, currently ranked world No. 8, dominated proceedings with her sharp stroke-play, deceptive shots and effective net game to secure the title against her world No. 25 opponent.



With the victory, Sindhu collected 9,200 ranking points, strengthening her bid to qualify for the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals. Sindhu entered the final with a dominant 6-1 head-to-head record against Kjærsfeldt, whose only victory over the Indian had come at the 2025 Sudirman Cup Finals.

The Indian made a confident start, opening the contest with a cross-court winner, though a couple of unforced errors allowed the Dane to stay in contention at 3-3. Sindhu subsequently took control of the rallies with her deception and sharp net play to move ahead 8-5.

She maintained her advantage through the opening game, using a combination of well-placed shots and attacking strokes to put pressure on her opponent. A superb backhand winner helped her move to 17-12 before she converted her first game point to take the opening game 21-12.

Sindhu carried the momentum into the second game, establishing a 6-3 lead before Kjærsfeldt attempted to fight her way back into the contest. However, the Indian responded with a series of winners to restore her advantage and move ahead 10-6.

The Dane continued to struggle with her net play as Sindhu extended her lead to 17-11. An attacking return earned the Indian six championship points, and she sealed the title on her first opportunity when Kjærsfeldt committed another net error.

5th T20I: Seifert, Record-Breaking Phillips Help NZ Beat India In Hamilton

Hamilton, Nov 1 (Way to News): A strong batting show from Tim Seifert and Glenn Phillips guided New Zealand to an impressive seven-wicket win over India in the fifth and final T20I of the series at Seddon Park here on Sunday. Phillips (65*) created the record for scoring the most runs by a batter in a single bilateral series as the Kiwi star capped off a brilliant series with another half-century, while Seifert (93) registered his first noteworthy knock of the series as the duo led the Kiwis to chase down 192, their new highest T20I chase against India with seven wickets in hand and 12 balls to spare.



The Indian bowlers were found wanting in discipline, and the New Zealand batters were too strong for them on the day. Phillips made an unbeaten 65 as he scored his fourth fifty of the series. He also broke Phil Salt's record for most runs in a single bilateral series, as the Kiwi star now has 341 runs in the five-match series, while Salt had scored 331 against West Indies in a five-match series in 2023.

While Seifert and Phillips starred for New Zealand, Arshdeep Singh, Varun Chakravarthy and Nitish Kumar Reddy picked up the only wickets for India.

New Zealand were jolted at the start of their chase as they lost Finn Allen early when Arshdeep Singh got the Kiwi opener caught at deep mid-wicket in the second over.

Seifert was handed a lifeline on 13 in the fourth over by Naman Dhir as Arshdeep missed his man. Daryl Mitchell and Seifert kept going and took the hosts to 59/1 at the end of the powerplay as Bhuvneshwar Kumar was hit for 20 runs in the sixth one. Varun Chakaravarthy came in and sent some jitters to the Kiwis with some LBW appeals, and he got Mitchell in the ninth over, but that did not deter the hosts.

Brief Scores: India 191/8 in 20 overs (Ishan Kishan 61, Shreyas Iyer 50; Adam Milne 4-19, Nathan Smith 2-28) lose to New Zealand (Tim Seifert 93, Glenn Phillips 65; Nitish Kumar Reddy 1-19, Arshdeep Singh 1-40) by seven wickets.*

Biten Singh breaks course record to win title in ironman 70.3 Goa 2026



Margao (Goa), Nov 1 (Way to News): Indian Army athlete Biten Singh produced a record-breaking performance to win the sixth edition of Ironman 70.3 Goa on Sunday, clocking 4:24:29 to better the previous course record of 4:25:47 set by Uzbekistan's Konstantin Belousov in 2025. Singh's performance saw him finish 1 minute and 18 seconds faster than last year's winner, marking a significant milestone at one of India's premier endurance sporting events.

Over 2,000 triathletes from 30 countries took on the demanding course, comprising a 1.9 km swim, a 90 km cycling leg and a 21.1 km run, starting along the iconic Miramar beachfront. The sixth edition continued to showcase Goa's appeal as an international endurance sports destination, bringing together elite competitors, age-group athletes and relay teams. Biten Singh's victory was particularly meaningful given the circumstances of his preparation. Posted in Tawang, the Indian Army athlete said he had completed three months of focused training ahead of race day, balancing his preparation with the demands of his posting. Having pulled out from the 2024 edition due to dehydration, Singh had set his sights on breaking the record this year.

"I am very happy. I had targeted before that today I will break the record," Biten Singh said after his victory.

With the course record now behind him, Singh has his sights set on the next milestone in his triathlon journey: competing at the Ironman World Championship. He revealed that he would need to undertake further training for the full-distance Ironman, with participation at the World Championship remaining a personal dream.

In the women's category, Marina Shliakhtina claimed the top spot with a time of 5:30:29. Sabina Iskakova finished second in 5:42:58, while Mellanie Vendt completed the podium in 6:04:54.

Karan Singh/Atharva Sharma duo captures ITF M15 doubles title in Egypt

Chandigarh, Nov 1 (Way to News): Indian youngsters Karan Singh and Atharva Sharma added a prestigious international trophy to their cabinet, capturing the men's doubles title at the ITF Men's World Tennis Tour M15 tournament in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on Sunday. Karnan Singh and Atharva Sharma, the top-seeded duo, delivered a masterclass in tactical discipline, sharp net play, and mental fortitude throughout the tournament, which ran from October 26 to November 1.



This victory fetched Karan, a Roundglass Tennis Academy (RGTA) athlete, his 5th title of the year, and underscored his incredible recent momentum, standing as his third title win and fifth final appearance in the last two months. At Sharm El Sheikh, Karan and Atharva navigated a demanding international draw with remarkable composure. In the quarterfinals, the top seeds demonstrated their clinical edge by defeating the international pairing of Switzerland's Lars Aregger and Austria's Niklas Waldner in straight sets, winning 6-3, 7-6. Carrying their momentum deep into the tournament, the Indian pair faced a tough test in the semifinals against the third-seeded Turkish duo of Melih Anavatan and S. Mert Ozdemir, holding their nerve in a tightly contested battle to prevail 7-6, 6-3 and book their spot in the title clash.

In the championship match, Karan and Atharva delivered their finest performance of the week against the second-seeded pair of Nikita Ianin and Egypt's Karim Ibrahim. Displaying stellar synergy and relentless pressure during crucial moments, the top seeds sealed a hard-fought 7-6, 6-4 victory to officially claim the championship crown, his academy informed in a release on Sunday. This latest success in Egypt serves as a strong continuation of Karan's stellar 2026 calendar, which has already seen him claim multiple singles and doubles titles on the international professional circuit.

Sunelita Toppo Wins 34th Ekalabya Puraskar

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1 (Way to News): Hockey player Sunelita Toppo has been selected for the 34th Ekalabya Puraskar 2026 in recognition of her outstanding achievements and contribution to the sport, Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Ltd (IMFA) announced on Sunday.



Hockey player Amandeep Lakra and badminton player Tanvi Patri have been named for the citation awards for their achievements in their respective disciplines.

While Toppo will receive a cash award of Rs 7 lakh along with a trophy, Lakra and Patri will each receive Rs 1.5 lakh and a citation.

The Ekalabya Puraskar was instituted in 1993 by the Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust (IMPaCT) to recognise and encourage outstanding sporting talent from Odisha.

Over the years, the award has played a significant role in acknowledging the achievements of promising sportspersons from the state and motivating young athletes to excel at national and international levels. Congratulating the three sportspersons, IMFA wished them success in their future sporting endeavours and expressed hope that they would continue to bring laurels to Odisha.

Manisha reveals secret behind historic World Championships comeback

New Delhi, Nov 1 (Way to News): Indian wrestler Manisha Bhanwala revealed that years of practising for difficult match situations with her coaches helped her overcome a 0-6 deficit in the final of the Senior World Wrestling Championships and script a historic comeback to win a gold medal in the women's 59kg category in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Manisha, who became the first Indian woman to win a gold medal at the Senior World Wrestling Championships, said she did not experience any mental pressure despite trailing Abigail Neto 0-6 in the gold-medal bout, as she had regularly trained for such challenging situations. Manisha said her preparation for such situations, particularly the ability to score points in the final seconds, helped her turn the bout around and secure the historic triumph. "When we practice, our coaches give us situations where we have to take points in 30 seconds or not. So, we practise on that. I had been working for a long time for that. I had to handle such situations. So, I practised, and it helped. There was no mental pressure there," Manisha said in a media interaction facilitated by SAI Media on Sunday. The 23-year-old also reflected on her disappointment at the Asian Games, where she failed to win a medal in the women's 57kg category, but said she quickly shifted her focus to the World Championships, which were scheduled just 10 days later.

"I didn't think I would come without a medal from the Asian Games. The hard work I had put in and the amount of practice I had done made me believe that I would win a medal. I was very frustrated.



How could this happen? But I don't focus on what has happened. I believe in what is next," she said. "I had 10 days, so I focused on the World Championships. I worked on what I lacked during those 10 days. So, yes, it helped," she added. Manisha eventually competed in the 59kg category in Astana, as she felt that the short gap between the two competitions would make it difficult to manage her weight and recovery for another appearance in the 57kg category.Looking ahead to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics, Manisha confirmed that she would target the 57kg category in the qualification events next year, as the 59kg category is not part of the Olympic programme. "For the Los Angeles qualifiers next year, I want to compete in 57kg," she said.

She also highlighted the importance of participating in the four ranking series competitions in 2027, saying they would help her prepare for the Olympic qualification events. "The most important thing for us is to play in the four ranking series. If we play in those, we will get a lot of things which will make the Los Angeles qualifiers easy," she added. The wrestler also acknowledged the support she has received through the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), under which she has been included since 2024. She said the financial assistance and exposure to international training camps had played an important role in her development.

"In our TOPS scheme, we get monthly pocket money. It is very important for a sportsperson. Many things are very expensive. We can't provide it to our family. There are many things. For example, we go to foreign camps, and TOPS helps us get there. We get a chance to practise with foreign players. It increases our confidence. We get to learn many things," Manisha said. She further revealed that TOPS continued to back her even after her disappointing Asian Games campaign and encouraged her to shift her attention towards the Los Angeles Olympics.

"I have been in TOPS since 2024. TOPS has given me a lot of things. They always support me. Even when I lost a medal in the Asian Games, they told me to focus on Los Angeles. TOPS provides me with everything I need. I thank TOPS for that," she said. Comparing the Asian Games and World Championships, Manisha said both competitions feature strong opponents and that it was difficult to determine which was tougher.

Premier League: Carrick Faces Test as Arsenal Visit Liverpool

London, Nov 1 (Way to News): This weekend's Premier League action features two major games, with Chelsea hosting Manchester United on Saturday lunchtime and Liverpool entertaining Arsenal on Sunday afternoon in a match that could have significant repercussions for the title race. Michael Carrick will again be the focus of attention as Manchester United travel to Stamford Bridge to open the weekend's round of matches.



Carrick was expected to lose his job after last weekend's 3-0 home defeat to Bournemouth, but he has retained his position. According to reports, he has held talks with club captain Bruno Fernandes after leaving the Portuguese midfielder out of last weekend's defeat. Chelsea go into the game following a disappointing 2-0 defeat to Tottenham, in which Cole Palmer was sent off. That was followed by an exit from the Carabao Cup after a penalty shootout defeat to Liverpool, reports Xinhua.

With Joao Pedro sidelined through injury and Palmer suspended, Xabi Alonso will have to make changes to his attack, with veteran Danny Welbeck among the options to lead the line.

Liverpool have continued to show signs of improvement in recent games as their players adapt to life under coach Andoni Iraola. A win at home to Arsenal would be a major step toward establishing the Reds as genuine title contenders.

Arsenal travel to Anfield after a painful Carabao Cup exit, losing on penalties to Fleetwood Town, a League Two side playing in the fourth tier of English football. Bukayo Saka is also unavailable, dealing another blow to Mikel Arteta's plans. Arteta's starting lineup on Sunday will be very different from the team that lost in midweek, but he will still be looking for a positive reaction at a particularly difficult venue.

Manchester City also face an interesting test as Enzo Maresca's side entertain Brighton, which remain third in the standings despite a reality check in last weekend's 2-0 defeat to Liverpool. Antoine Semenyo and Matheus Nunes are both out for Manchester City, which saw its perfect start to the Premier League season ended by a 2-1 defeat to Aston Villa. Saturday also sees Bournemouth at home to Leeds United. Bournemouth have won their last two Premier League matches, with Evanilson in excellent form, while Leeds are winless in four. Recently promoted Hull City and Ipswich Town go head-to-head, with Hull aiming to maintain their unbeaten home record. Nobel Mendy could return after missing the last two matches through injury.

Second-bottom Coventry City host bottom side Sunderland, which will be looking to improve their league form after a difficult start to the campaign. Sunderland did, however, book their place in the Carabao Cup quarterfinals on Wednesday night with a 3-2 home win over Brentford.

Bayern Munich suffer double injury blow as Saibari undergoes surgery, Gnabry sidelined

Munich, Nov 1 (Way to News): Bayern Munich, who were held to a 2-2 draw by Borussia Dortmund in Der Klassiker, have suffered a double injury setback, with Ismael Saibari undergoing surgery for a syndesmosis ligament tear in his right ankle, while Serge Gnabry has sustained a muscle injury in his left thigh.



The Bundesliga champions confirmed the injuries on Sunday, revealing that Saibari had successfully undergone surgery following the injury sustained during Saturday's clash at the Allianz Arena. Gnabry, meanwhile, suffered a muscle injury in the posterior part of his left thigh.

Both players were forced off during the first half of the contest, with Saibari coming off worse following a challenge involving Dortmund goalkeeper Gregor Kobel. The Moroccan international was later seen leaving the stadium on crutches. Gnabry was also forced to leave the field just three minutes later after appearing to suffer a muscle injury. The two substitutions disrupted Bayern's plans as they looked to maintain their advantage against their Bundesliga rivals.

'Ismael Saibari and Serge Gnabry will both be out of action for Bayern after the pair suffered injuries in Saturday's 2-2 draw against Borussia Dortmund in the Bundesliga. "Saibari tore the syndesmotic ligament in his right ankle and has already had surgery. Gnabry sustained a muscular injury in his left hamstring," Bayern wrote in an official statement.

Bayern also had concerns over Michael Olise, who was substituted in the closing stages after appearing to pick up an injury.

Despite the setbacks, Bayern twice took the lead through Konrad Laimer and Dayot Upamecano, but Dortmund fought back on both occasions, with Serhou Guirassy and Fabio Silva finding the net to secure a 2-2 draw.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Ram Charan touches feet after dad

CHIRANJEEVI GIVES MUHURAT CLAP FOR 'RC17'



Ram Charan and director Sukumar embarked on their next cinematic journey on Sunday as their film tentatively titled 'RC17' went on floors with a grand pooja ceremony in Hyderabad. The makers, Mythri Movie Makers, dropped a video from the mahurat ceremony on their official social media handles.

The clip opened with Ram Charan arriving at the venue and greeting the members of the team. Next, the 'RRR' actor lit the ceremonial lamp. "Mega Power Star @AlwaysRamCharan arrives at the #RC17 Pooja Ceremony (sic)," read the caption on the post. In another post, Megastar Chiranjeevi was seen giving the mahurat clap, along with performing the auspicious coconut-breaking ritual during the pooja ceremony. We could also see Ram Charan touching his father's feet, after which the father and son duo shared a warm hug.

Sharing the precious moment with the netizens, the makers wrote, "The journey of #RC17 begins with the MEGA CLAP... Megastar @chiranjeevikonidela garu sounded the clapboard and blessed the entire team of #RC17 (sic)" The Mahurat for 'RC15' was attended by many big names from the Telugu film industry, such as Ravi Shankar, Naveen Yerneni, Naga Vamsi, Rahul Sankrityan, Gopichand Malineni, Maruthi, Buchi Babu Sana, Vamsi Nandipati and Harish Shankar, along with others.

Presented by Bhushan Kumar under T-Series Films, the technical crew of the drama also includes Ratnavelu as the cinematographer, whereas Anirudh Ravichander has been roped in to score the tunes. The remaining cast and crew for this yet-untitled drama have been kept under wraps for now.

Refreshing your memory, Ram Charan announced 'RC17' in March 2024. The 'Peddi' actor had uploaded a picture with Sukumar. This will be Ram Charan's second professional collaboration with the filmmaker after their 2018 blockbuster 'Rangasthalam', which also featured Samantha Ruth Prabhu as the female lead. Given that 'Rangasthalam' performed exceedingly well at the ticket counters, the expectations from 'RC17' remain sky-high.

Rashmika adopts 400 families

NEW GROCERY SUPPORT INITIATIVE, VOWS YEAR-LONG EFFORT



Actor Rashmika Mandanna has launched Project Annapurna, a charitable initiative aimed at providing essential food supplies and grocery support to families across South India, announcing that she has adopted 400 families as part of the effort.

The actor revealed details of the initiative in a video shared on social media, explaining that her aim was to ease the burden of household grocery expenses for a fixed period, enabling families to save money and plan their futures better.

In her post, Rashmika reflected on how the characters she portrays influence her own life, drawing a connection between herself and Jayamma, her character in the upcoming film Ranabaali. She said, "There is something in the characters you play that influences you.. A lot of you keep asking whether there are any similarities between Jayamma and me, and my answer is yes - and this is one of them. This has always been me, and this is also her... and I would always keep doing things like this for all the love that you give me... but I always kept it under wraps because I thought if I knew and just my team knew and just a bunch of us knew.. it was enough... but now I am opening up about this because I am thinking.. if this could influence you lovelies out there to do anything like this.. I would be happy."

Explaining the thinking behind Project Annapurna, Rashmika said she wanted to begin by supporting a manageable number of families at a time, allowing them to redirect the money they would otherwise spend on groceries towards savings and future planning.

"So hence I thought, why not start now... with this! I've adopted 400 families today... and I want to just help 400 families at a time for 3 months each and continue this for the next year and hope that they can save that money on groceries and use it to save and plan their futures better," she said.

The actor also spoke about the emotional significance of the initiative, saying that the happiness it brings makes the difficulties she has faced throughout her working years worthwhile.

"Even a small act of kindness can change a person's life, and it doesn't have to be big. Let's all start with something small! And trust me, all these smiles are worth every sleepless night, the injuries, the struggles, the pain, the tears, and everything that I've gone through over the last working years.. This is priceless!!," the actor said.

Rashmika's reference to Jayamma comes ahead of the release of Ranabaali, which stars Vijay Deverakonda in the titular role. The film marks the actors' return to the screen together following their marriage.

Set in 1870s South India, Ranabaali draws inspiration from the Great Madras Famine of 1876–78, one of the darkest chapters in India's history.

According to IMDb, the film follows "a rebellious warrior in 1870s South India during the Great Famine who confronts a British commissioner while protecting his region and people."

Vijay plays Ranabaali, while Rashmika portrays Jayamma, his wife and companion in the struggle against colonial oppression. Through Project Annapurna, Rashmika hopes to turn a gesture of support into an opportunity for families to build greater financial security, while encouraging others to recognise that even modest acts of kindness can have a lasting impact. Rashmika's initiative has also drawn attention to the importance of food security and community support, particularly for families managing rising household expenses. By extending assistance in batches of 400 families for three months at a time, she hopes to make the programme sustainable and reach more households over the coming year. The initiative reflects her belief that meaningful social change can begin with simple, consistent efforts.

Regina Cassandra Quits NGO Democratic Sangha



Popular actress Regina Cassandra has taken an unexpected decision. She has announced that she is completely leaving the NGO 'Democratic Sangha', of which she was a co-founder. To this extent, she released an official statement on social media. She clarified that she is leaving the organization as a co-founder and a member. It is understood that

Regina started this NGO with Deepti Alapati at the center of Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. However, she did not reveal the exact reason why she is leaving the organization.

"After much thought and introspection, I have decided to withdraw completely from the 'Democratic Sangha'. I am stepping down from my responsibilities as a founder and member of this organization, and from all the programs associated with it. 'Democratic Sangha' has been a meaningful part of my life's journey. I will forever cherish the experiences, friendships, and fond memories associated with this organization. I consider it a special privilege to be a part of its founding journey. I am proud to have contributed to the organization's goals and programs. As I move forward in life, I believe this is the right time for me to choose a different path and focus on other priorities. I will move forward with immense respect, gratitude, and warm memories of everyone who has been a part of this journey. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all my colleagues, friends, and well-wishers who have supported and encouraged me on this journey. I will forever cherish your friendship. "I will never forget. I will always be grateful for this journey, the experiences I have had, and the great people I have met. I sincerely wish the 'Democratic Society' and everyone associated with it all the best in the future. I express my heartfelt respect for the paths we have shared together," Regina said in her statement.

It's not a movie, it's history

SAI PALLAVI'S KEY COMMENTS ON THE ROLE OF SITA



It is a known fact that popular actress Sai Pallavi will be seen in the role of Sita Devi in the upcoming film 'Ramayana'. She recently revealed how she prepared for this prestigious role. Participating in the program 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' hosted by Amitabh Bachchan, she said that prayer and meditation played a key role in playing this role.

Speaking on the occasion, she said, "I mainly prayed for this role. Because what we are making is not just a film. It will go down in history. Future generations will also watch it. That is why I gave priority to prayers with the intention of giving due respect to the role."

Sai Pallavi said that meditation helped her overcome the stress she faced during the shooting. "Whenever I faced stressful situations, I started thinking, 'How would Sita react in such a situation?' I learned from the role of Sita to observe the situation calmly without getting angry," she said.

Directed by Nitesh Tiwari, this mega-hit film stars Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Ram and Ravi Dubey as Lakshmana.

The film, which is being made on a grand scale, is among the most anticipated Indian cinematic projects. Featuring Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Ram, Sai Pallavi as Sita and Ravi Dubey as Lakshmana, the two-part epic is expected to bring the ancient Indian epic to life with advanced visual effects and elaborate production values. Sai Pallavi's portrayal of Sita has generated considerable interest among audiences, with her emphasis on prayer, meditation and understanding the character offering a glimpse into her preparation for the role.

Shahid Kapoor wraps up shooting for 'Farzi 2'



Filmmaker duo Raj and DK have completed the shooting of the second season of 'Farzi', starring Shahid Kapoor, whom they described as an "artist" Sharing a behind-the-scenes moment from the sets on Instagram, the filmmakers praised Shahid for his performance and revealed that he promptly stepped out of character after the shoot.

"It's a wrap on the Artist and he promptly breaks out of character! Fantastic job @shahidkapoor. We got some crazy s**t done this time! To the Fakers!" they wrote. On October 15, Shahid had shared his thoughts on his character Sunny as the shooting of 'Farzi 2' approached its conclusion. Posting a series of pictures showcasing his looks from the sets, the actor reflected on how deeply the character had become a part of him.

"As the shoot on FARZI 2 is coming to a close. It only reminds me of how much Sunny lives in me. I am him and he is me. We both started as just a kid off the Mumbai streets with a fire in his heart to tell the world…. look at me. I AM AN ARTIST!!" Shahid wrote. 'Farzi' is a black comedy crime thriller series created, produced and directed by Raj and DK. The show features Vijay Sethupathi, Shahid Kapoor, Kay Kay Menon, Raashii Khanna and Bhuvan Arora. Released in 2023, the eight-episode series follows a disillusioned artist who turns to counterfeiting currency. The series also shares continuity with Raj and DK's spy thriller 'The Family Man'. It premiered on Amazon Prime Video on February 10, 2023.

Radhikka Madan Marks 8 Years in Entertainment



Actress Radhikka Madan has completed eight years in the entertainment industry, reflecting on her journey, the challenges she faced and the experiences that shaped her career.

In a note shared on Instagram, the 'Angrezi Medium' actress expressed gratitude to everyone who supported her over the years, particularly those who believed in her during moments when she struggled to believe in herself. "8 years. So many stories told, so many versions of myself discovered. Some dreams came true, some changed along the way," she wrote.

Reflecting on the highs and lows of her career, Radhikka said her love for her work had remained unchanged despite the challenges and experiences she encountered along the way.

She also thanked those who continued to believe in her and acknowledged the important role they had played in her journey.

"To everyone who believed in me, especially on days when I struggled to believe in myself, thank you. You've been a bigger part of this journey than you know," she added.

Looking ahead, the actress said she continued to feel the same excitement and enthusiasm for her work, with many more dreams to pursue.

"8 years later, still the same butterflies, still the same hunger, and so much left to dream," she wrote.

Radhikka began her career on television with the popular show 'Meri Aashiqui Tum Se Hi', in which she played the character of Ishaani. She later made her film debut with Vishal Bhardwaj's 'Pataakha' in 2018.

Over the years, she has appeared in films such as 'Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota', 'Angrezi Medium', 'Shiddat' and 'Sajini Shinde Ka Viral Video'. She was also seen in the streaming series 'Saas, Bahu Aur Flamingo'.

Radhikka was last seen in the Netflix anthology film 'Lust Stories 3', which premiered on September 18. She also featured in the action film 'Subedaar',

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