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Modi Says 50 Crore Indians Overcame Extreme Poverty in 10-12 Years

PM HIGHLIGHTS METRO EXPANSION, URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE PUSH AND ECONOMIC GROWTH AT PUNE METRO PROJECT LAUNCH



NEW DELHI, Nov 3 (Way to News): Underscoring that India is defeating poverty on the ground, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said around 50 crore people had overcome extreme poverty in India in the last 10-12 years of NDA rule. The Prime Minister said that India stands as a nation that is not only the fastest-growing economy but also the fastest poverty reducer.

Speaking after virtually inaugurating and laying the foundation stone for Pune Metro projects worth around `21,800 crores, Mr Modi pointed out that India's operational Metro network has increased nearly five-fold. He said that the metro network, which covered 248 km before 2014, now covers 1,200 km and stressed that better urban infrastructure will accelerate the country's economic growth. Referring to two major achievements driving global discussion about India, the Prime Minister, citing the latest World Bank report, said that the nation has maintained the world's fastest growth rate amid difficult international conditions while lifting 50-crore citizens out of extreme poverty within just 10 to 12 years.

"Earlier, the fight against poverty was only in slogans; today India is defeating poverty on the ground," Mr Modi said. Observing that India's twin milestones as the fastest-growing economy and the fastest poverty reducer are interlinked, Mr Modi explained that a growing economy and expanding Budget enable higher public investment, while money once lost to scams and leakages now reaches beneficiaries directly. The Prime Minister said that treasury investments in roads, rail, airports, Metros, electricity, water, and gas pipelines simultaneously improve living standards and generate employment. "Both these accomplishments are connected to each other," he noted.

Recalling the launch of the "Garib Kalyan Mela" initiative during his tenure as Gujarat chief minister, Mr Modi said that the scheme focused on delivering welfare schemes directly to beneficiaries and encouraging them to overcome poverty. Stating that the mission initiated back then has continued uninterrupted as true good governance defined by the 'power to empower', he emphasised that this transformation is the result of years of deliberate and planned efforts rather than a sudden occurrence.

"Therefore, 50-crore Indians have defeated poverty," he noted. Explaining that poverty reduction benefits the wider nation beyond the families escaping deprivation, the Prime Minister pointed out that it revitalises the national economy and creates a new middle class whose purchasing power drives market demand and opens new possibilities from shops to factories. "Meaning, decreasing poverty in India is taking the economy of India to a new height," he observed.

Claiming that the expansion of the Pune Metro reflects how modern cities are being shaped for a "Viksit Bharat", Mr Modi observed that beyond traditional markers like industries, cuisine, or local produce, urban centres are now judged by their competitiveness and "Ease of Living", both of which are enhanced by Metro networks that save commuting time and offer greater convenience.



The Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla attends the Conference of Chairpersons of Public Accounts Committees of Parliament and State/UT Legislatures at the Kerala Legislative Assembly, in Thiruvananthapuram.

Om Birla Attends PAC Chairpersons' Conference in Thiruvananthapuram

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 3 (Way to News): Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla attended the Conference of Chairpersons of Public Accounts Committees (PACs) of Parliament and State and Union Territory Legislatures at the Kerala Legislative Assembly in Thiruvananthapuram.

The conference brought together chairpersons and representatives of Public Accounts Committees from Parliament and various State and Union Territory legislatures to discuss matters relating to legislative oversight, financial accountability and the functioning of parliamentary institutions. The Public Accounts Committees play an important role in examining government expenditure, reviewing audit reports and ensuring that public funds are utilised in accordance with approved financial procedures. Their work also strengthens transparency and accountability in public administration.

The participation of the Lok Sabha Speaker highlighted the importance of co-operation among legislative institutions in strengthening democratic practices and ensuring effective financial scrutiny. The conference provided an opportunity for representatives of different legislatures to exchange views and experiences on improving the functioning of Public Accounts Committees and reinforcing accountability in governance. The conference focused on strengthening the role of Public Accounts Committees in ensuring financial discipline, transparency and accountability in government functioning. Discussions also highlighted the importance of effective legislative oversight in monitoring the implementation of public expenditure and addressing issues raised in audit reports.

Jairam Ramesh calls ECI's Form-6 clarification 'Word Games'; demands halt to SIR



New Delhi, Nov 3 (Way to News): Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Tuesday sharply criticised the Election Commission of India's latest clarification on Form-6, terming it another set of "word games" that clarify nothing and expose how poorly designed the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process is. In a post on X, Ramesh said each damage-control attempt by the ECI only highlights the flaws in the SIR exercise. He pointed out that Form-6 clearly asks applicants whether they are "applying for inclusion for the first time."

According to him, the ECI's clarification that voters seeking re-inclusion during SIR can also be treated as first-time applicants is a "deceptive word" game aimed at covering up a flawed process that forces voters to make a false declaration. Ramesh further alleged that after asking voters to sign such a declaration, the Commission is now offering them protection from legal consequences after the fact. This, he said, shows how poorly thought through the entire SIR process has been. The Congress leader noted that the Chief Electoral Officer of Maharashtra had written to the ECI arguing that Form-6 cannot be used in this manner. He also referred to an ongoing case before the Goa Bench of the Bombay High Court, where the court has questioned the logic put forward by the ECI, particularly as it leaves out absent and shifted voters. Ramesh asserted that the ECI cannot address the real problem — that the SIR is designed for exclusion.

"It deletes voters first, and then asks them to apply for re-inclusion as new voters," he said. He maintained that no amount of damage control can fix this fundamentally flawed process and demanded that the Special Intensive Revision be stopped.

Chhattisgarh now Naxal-Free: HM Amit Shah



Raipur, Nov 3 (Way to News): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said Chhattisgarh has become Naxal-free and is poised to rank among the top three states in the tourism sector in the coming years. Addressing the closing ceremony of the Chhattisgarh Rajyotsav in Naya Raipur, HM Shah said the state possesses immense tourism potential with treasures such as the Gariaband region, Balameshwari temple, Dantewada's Danteshwari temple and the unique Bastar Dussehra.

He recalled that it was once said the land is rich, but the people are poor, and assured that within 10 years both the land and its people would be prosperous. HM Shah said the goal under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to create a state where people are happy and affluent, and the land itself is prosperous and thriving. He noted that out of the 26 years since the state's formation, the BJP has been in power for 20 years. During this period, he said, the annual budget has increased 30-fold, per capita income has risen significantly, and the Gross State Product has grown 25 times. The network of ITIs, colleges, polytechnics and universities has expanded threefold.

The Home Minister said the BJP's tenure has guided the people of Chhattisgarh from an era of fear toward an era of trust, and from mere resources toward true prosperity.

He expressed commitment to transforming possibilities into reality to build a capable and thriving Chhattisgarh. HM Shah praised the large turnout despite heavy rain and said Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai had assured him that people would come and participate as it was a programme for Chhattisgarh. He offered greetings to the people of the state on the occasion of Chhattisgarh Foundation Day and paid respects to 'Chhattisgarh Mahtari'. Earlier, HM Shah inaugurated the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Park in Naya Raipur. At the Rajyotsav closing ceremony, which was presided over by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, distinguished individuals from various fields were honoured with State Awards.

In his address, HM Shah also said that Atal Bihari Vajpayee created Chhattisgarh and Prime Minister Modi has nurtured it.

Heavy rains in coastal Andhra under cyclone Murasu's impact

Amaravati, Nov 3 (Way to News): Heavy rains continue to lash south coastal Andhra Pradesh under the impact of severe cyclonic storm 'Murasu', which crossed the coast in the early hours of Tuesday.

Gusty winds uprooted trees and electricity poles in a few places, while heavy rains inundated low-lying areas, disrupting normal life. Crops were damaged, and electricity supply was disrupted in the affected districts. No loss of life has been reported. The severe cyclonic storm crossed south Andhra Pradesh coast between Nellore and Narasapur close to between 3.30 a.m. and 5.30 a.m. with the wind speed of 100-110 kmph gusting to 120 kmph.

Widespread rainfall was recorded in Prakasam, Bapatla, Palnadu, Krishna, Eluru, and West Godavari. Officials said that since Monday, the state has recorded an average rainfall of 20.38 cm, with Bapatla district receiving 21 cm and Prakasam district receiving 20 cm.

Heavy rainfall is expected to continue in the districts of Bapatla, Guntur, and Prakasam until Wednesday morning. The sea conditions along the coast in Bapatla district were rough due to high waves. At Suryalanka beach, the seawater had come out to about 50 metres inland due to strong waves. Officials noted that the average rainfall deficit in the state has decreased from 53 per cent to 28.9 per cent due to the rains brought by the cyclones 'Arnab' and 'Murasu'. According to the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA), heavy rains are likely in Polavaram.

India, Poland strengthen economic ties: Jitin Prasada

New Delhi, Nov 3 (Way to News): The Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Jitin Prasada, said on Tuesday that India and Poland are moving decisively and effectively in the direction to strengthen bilateral economic ties amid the negotiations to implement the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Prasada, who met Poland's Deputy Foreign Minister Ignacy Niemczycki in Warsaw, said the ties between India and Poland are getting stronger under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Poland said the two nations are entering a new chapter of cooperation

Following Prime Minister Donald Tusk's recent visit to Delhi and Bengaluru, Deputy FM Niemczycki met Prasada in Warsaw.

"We are focusing on concrete areas of cooperation: A space agreement and new flight connections with @LOTPLAirlines; shipbuilding, mining and defence industries; and digitalisation and support for the EU-India Free Trade Agreement", said Poland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"Economic ties with the world's most populous country are gaining tremendous momentum," it said in a post on X.

Last month, PM Modi and his Polish counterpart Tusk set a target of doubling bilateral trade between the two countries by 2030, according to a joint statement issued after their meeting here.

The leaders called for early signing and ratification of the EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) as well as its timely implementation, to unlock new opportunities for trade and investment, diversifying and strengthening critical value chains, and opening new markets, the statement said.

Battlefield now extends to space and Cyberspace, says Rajnath Singh



New Delhi, Nov 3 (Way to News): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday noted that modern warfare has undergone a "fundamental transformation" with the battlefield now extending to "space and cyberspace". Addressing the 'Delhi Defence Dialogue 2026', Rajnath Singh also stressed the need for reforms in the defence sector, saying: "Reforms represent our willingness to change. 'Atmanirbharata' (self-reliance) represents our determination to create. Collaborations represent our confidence to partner with the world, and exports represent our readiness to compete with the world."

While cautioning that self-reliance without reform may not deliver its full potential, he said: "Self-reliance without collaboration may limit our technological horizons, and self-reliance without exports may not achieve the scale and competitiveness that a modern defence industry requires. Together, these four elements define the transformation we seek in India's defence ecosystem." Rajnath Singh noted that recent conflicts across the world have demonstrated that the character of warfare is undergoing a "fundamental transformation". "The battlefield is no longer confined to land, sea or air. It extends into space, cyberspace and the digital domain. The distinction between conventional and unconventional warfare is being increasingly blurred," he noted. He further noted that the world is also witnessing a transformation in the economics of warfare.

"Relatively expensive drones and autonomous systems can challenge sophisticated and costly military platforms. The ability to innovate rapidly, manufacture at scale, and replenish capabilities has become as important as possessing advanced weapon systems," he said while emphasising that these developments underline an important reality.

Piyush Goyal calls for faster approvals, easier funding to boost India's bioeconomy



New Delhi, Nov 3 (Way to News): Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has called for faster regulatory approvals, improved access to finance and stronger industry-academia collaboration to accelerate the growth of India's bioeconomy, an official statement said on Tuesday. Chairing a high-level roundtable on 'India's Bioeconomy Opportunity: Role of Startups in Driving Innovation and Growth' here, Goyal stressed the need to leverage the country's scientific capabilities and entrepreneurial talent to position India as a global leader in the sector, according to the Commerce Ministry.

The minister also called for time-bound action on recommendations emerging from the discussions, which focused on strengthening the biopharma startup ecosystem through streamlined regulations, faster approvals, improved access to finance and shared infrastructure. Participants in the roundtable – that was organised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in collaboration with NITI Aayog and NITI Frontier Tech Hub — discussed a proposed regulatory sandbox, single-window clearance, global regulatory alignment and simplified patent application processes to facilitate innovation and enable startups to scale up.

They also discussed Biopharma SHAKTI — announced in the Union Budget 2026-27 — and the need to develop shared laboratories, testing facilities and clinical trial infrastructure to reduce costs for startups. Meanwhile, Distinguished Fellow at NITI Aayog Debjani Ghosh highlighted the importance of collaboration among startups, industry, academia and the government in building a globally competitive bioeconomy. Similarly, NITI Aayog Member Gobardhan Das stressed the need to strengthen research capabilities and translate scientific discoveries into commercially viable products.

CM Revanth Reddy directs talks with Maharashtra on Tummidihatti barrage

Hyderabad, Nov 3 (Way to News): Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy ordered the irrigation officials to maintain a good rapport and continue the dialogue with the Maharashtra government on the proposed construction of the Tummidihatti barrage. Instructing the authorities to be fully prepared with comprehensive details of the submerged areas, the Chief Minister emphasized that all relevant documents including existing agreements and other important issues should be exchanged with the Maharashtra government.



The CM and Irrigation minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy held a review meeting with officials on Tummidihetti barrage at Jubilee Hills residence on Tuesday. The Chief Minister made some suggestions to the officials with regard to the recent discussions held with Maharashtra and other related issues. CM Revanth Reddy said that the government is prepared to provide adequate compensation for any lands in Maharashtra that may be affected by submergence and also ready to deposit funds into a joint account of the two state governments.

The Chief Minister noted that the state would not object to Maharashtra to conduct its own survey on the potential submergence of lands. The officials were ordered to furnish all the information sought by Maharashtra in a timely manner. Irrigation Advisor Adityanath Das, Secretary to Irrigation department Sridhar, Engineer-in-Chief, Irrigation, Ramesh, and other senior officials were present.

Ponnam urges CM to declare three Siddipet mandals drought-hit

Hyderabad, Nov 3 (Way to News): Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has urged Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to declare Husnabad, Koheda and Akkannapet mandals in Siddipet district as drought-affected areas due to severe rainfall deficit caused by the El Niño effect.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Minister, the minister stated that these three mandals in the Husnabad Assembly constituency are facing severe drought-like conditions, causing significant hardships to farmers and the general public. He pointed out that inadequate rainfall has severely affected the agricultural sector and warned that drinking water shortages could also arise in the coming days.

The minister further stated that out of the seven mandals in the Husnabad constituency, only two have so far been officially declared drought-affected, while the remaining mandals are also experiencing severe rainfall deficits.



Highlighting the difficulties faced by farmers and residents, Ponnam Prabhakar requested the Chief Minister to include Husnabad, Koheda and Akkannapet mandals in the drought-affected list and take necessary relief measures.

He also mentioned that residents of the affected mandals and villages have been unanimously passing resolutions demanding that their areas be declared drought-affected.

The minister appealed to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to consider the prevailing situation and take appropriate steps to provide relief to the affected farmers and people.

Ponnam Prabhakar stressed that declaring the mandals drought-affected would help eligible farmers access government assistance and enable the administration to take up necessary drought mitigation measures. He called for timely intervention to prevent further distress among agricultural households. He also urged the concerned departments to assess the ground situation, examine crop losses and drinking water requirements, and coordinate relief efforts to address the immediate needs of residents in the affected areas.

The minister emphasised that the government should respond promptly to the repeated appeals from local residents, noting that timely recognition of drought conditions would help ensure that farmers receive the support they need and prevent the situation from worsening in the affected mandals.

Life of Lord Shri Ram an ideal for humanity: Shiv Pratap Shukla

Hyderabad, Nov 3 (Way to News): The life of Lord Shri Ram is an enduring ideal for all humanity, embodying the values of dharma, truth, justice and devotion to duty, Telangana Governor Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla said. He observed that the ideals practised by Lord Shri Ram continue to serve as timeless guiding principles for society and called upon everyone to imbibe these values in their daily lives.



As part of his visit to Uttar Pradesh, the Governor visited the sacred Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya on Tuesday evening. He offered special prayers to Balak Ram and sought the blessings of the deity. He subsequently visited the renowned Shri Hanuman Garhi Temple and offered prayers to Lord Hanuman.

Highlighting the significance of Lord Shri Ram's life, the Governor noted that respect for parents, affection for siblings, responsibility towards people, protection of dharma, commitment to truth and spirit of sacrifice were among the enduring values exemplified by Lord Shri Ram.

He observed that the concept of Ram Rajya continues to inspire the ideal of good governance. The Governor expressed the hope that practising the ideals of Lord Shri Ram would strengthen peace, harmony and unity in society.

The Governor said that the teachings of Lord Shri Ram transcend religious boundaries and offer valuable lessons on compassion, humility, discipline and moral responsibility. He emphasised that these principles remain relevant in addressing the challenges faced by modern society.

During his visit, Shiv Pratap Shukla also appreciated the spiritual significance of Ayodhya, describing it as a place deeply connected with India's cultural and civilisational heritage. He said that the temple continues to attract devotees from across the country and abroad.

Centrally sponsored schemes must reach expected outcomes, says Dy CM Bhatti Vikramarka

Hyderabad, Nov 3 (Way to News): Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday called for better focus on implementation of Central sector schemes and programmes in Telangana, and directed officials to ensure that such programmes and schemes make most of the funding and generate the expected outcomes.

Mr Vikramarka, who chaired a meeting with all department heads and senior officials at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat on Tuesday, emphasised the need to maximise the flow of funds from the Government of India under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).



Reviewing the progress of fund utilisation under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes by different departments, the Deputy Chief Minister stressed the importance of ensuring that the funds allocated by the Centre are effectively utilised and that the intended benefits reach the people.

He pointed out that the State Government is also contributing 40 per cent of the funds towards these schemes and, therefore, it is essential to closely monitor not only the utilisation of funds but also the outcomes and benefits generated through their implementation. He directed officials to prioritise schemes that deliver tangible benefits to the State and its people.

All department heads were also advised to make effective use of the services of Liaison Officers working at Telangana Bhavan, New Delhi, for coordinating with the Central Government, securing the release of funds and ensuring timely follow-up on pending matters. The officials were also asked to ensure timely follow ups and pursuit of status on matters raised in letters to various Union ministers by the Chief Minister, and the Deputy Chief Minister.

He called on the officials that they should make the most of the Central programmes such as the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment. Resolve pending and technical issues to take the schemes forward, he said, and suggested to the irrigation, urban development, transport, agriculture and health departments to effectively implement central schemes which can pave the way for the continuation of the schemes and additional funding for the same.

Principal Secretary Finance Sandeep Kumar Sultania said the state's share of funds for the CSS were being released on time, and that many pending issues too were cleared. All bills are being cleared with discipline, he said.. Sultania, and Secretary, Planning, Gaurav Uppal, briefed the Deputy Chief Minister on the status and progress of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and the utilisation of funds by various departments.

Rs 2,200 Crore Worth of Development Works Underway in Makthal: Minister Vakiti Srihari

Makthal, Nov 3 (Way to News): Telangana Minister Vakiti Srihari has announced that development works worth approximately 2,200 crore are currently underway in the Makthal Assembly constituency. He said a special action plan has been prepared to ensure comprehensive development of every village.



As part of the initiative, the minister conducted a detailed review meeting with Sarpanches and senior party leaders representing all 39 villages in Makthal mandal at his camp office. He allotted 20 to 30 minutes for each village to discuss local issues, basic infrastructure requirements and pending development works. He personally noted the problems and directed officials to prepare plans for their resolution. Addressing the meeting, Minister Srihari said, "If people who have knowledge and awareness remain silent, injustice will prevail." He urged local leaders to speak up about the development taking place in Makthal and said that serving the land where he was born remains his primary commitment.

The minister highlighted several major development projects underway in the constituency. He said BT roads are being constructed at a cost of 500 crore, while CC roads and drainage facilities are being prioritised in all villages. An advanced hospital is being constructed in Makthal town at a cost of 80 crore and is expected to be made available to the public before the upcoming Sankranti festival. A modern sports stadium is also being developed at a cost of 26 crore. The government has sanctioned 237 crore for the Makthal–Narayanpet four-lane road, and the tender process has been completed. Construction work is expected to begin soon.

He further stated that modern rehabilitation villages are being developed for families displaced by the Bhootpur Reservoir project. The government has allocated 50 crore for Anugonda, 28 crore for Ankenpally and 30 crore for Dadanpally. The minister also highlighted bridge projects, including the Chityala–Gajrandoddi barrage-cum-bridge and the Katrevupally bridge, stating that some works have already been completed. Speaking about education, Srihari said the establishment of a degree college in Makthal has provided students with an opportunity to pursue higher education locally.

Minister Seethakka Calls for Quality Healthcare for Tribal Communities in Mulugu

Mulugu, Nov 3 (Way to News): Telangana Minister Seethakka expressed gratitude to doctors who are contributing to nation-building through their services in the medical field, stating that access to healthcare is a fundamental right of every individual, irrespective of their place of residence or social background.



Speaking about healthcare facilities in tribal regions, she emphasised the urgent need to provide quality medical services to Adivasi and tribal communities, particularly those living in remote forest areas.

The Minister said Mulugu district holds a special place for her and that she is well aware of the living conditions and healthcare challenges faced by its people. She stressed that children should not suffer due to anaemia and malnutrition. Seethakka appreciated AIIMS Bibinagar for coming forward to support hospital construction and expand healthcare services in Mulugu district. She also welcomed the joint initiative of AIIMS Bibinagar and Sammakka Saralamma Central Tribal University to provide basic medical training to local communities.

She proposed that the training centre should facilitate medical check-ups in tribal areas, healthcare services for pregnant women and nutritional monitoring for children. She called for special attention to diseases and health concerns such as sickle cell disease, malaria and anaemia.

The Minister stressed the importance of training local tribal youth as healthcare workers so that they can provide medical assistance within their own communities. She also welcomed the proposal to create health awareness in local languages, including Koya, Gondi and Lambadi.

She emphasised that research activities should be conducted with the participation of Gram Sabhas and the consent of local communities. Assuring full support from the Telangana government, Seethakka said all possible assistance would be extended to AIIMS Bibinagar in expanding healthcare services in Mulugu. She requested the authorities to initially establish satellite health centres in Eturunagaram and Mulugu and introduce telemedicine facilities.

KTR Facilitates Safe Return of Telangana Woman Stranded in Muscat

Hyderabad, Nov 3 (Way to News): Stranded in Muscat after being cheated on the pretext of providing employment, Tuppudu Lakshmi's family approached BRS Working President KTR in a desperate situation. Within a month of assuring her son that he would bring his mother home, KTR fulfilled his promise.



Tuppudu Lakshmi, W/o Venkatappa, a resident of Gokafasalwad village in Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's Kodangal constituency, met KTR today at Telangana Bhavan, Hyderabad, and expressed her heartfelt gratitude to him for ensuring her safe return to India from Muscat.

Lakshmi had travelled to Muscat on February 27 in search of employment, hoping to support her family. However, upon reaching there, she was assigned work that was different from what the agent had promised. Her employer (Kafeel) allegedly confiscated her passport and refused to send her back to India.

The agent who had sent her abroad stopped answering her calls and reportedly demanded 2 lakh to arrange her return. Her Wi-Fi and SIM card were disconnected, leaving her completely cut off from her family. In a desperate attempt to contact her loved ones, Lakshmi managed to access a neighbour's internet connection and reach out to her son, narrating the ordeal she was going through.

Unable to bear his mother's suffering and desperate to bring her home safely, her son Raju approached KTR on September 29 and shared their family's distressing situation.

KTR immediately assured Raju that he would secure his mother's passport and bring her back to India within a month. Keeping his word, KTR intervened, wrote to the concerned officials and facilitated Lakshmi's safe return to India.

Overwhelmed with gratitude after reuniting with her family, Lakshmi personally met KTR today after returning to Hyderabad and thanked him for standing by them when they had nowhere else to turn.

Overwhelmed with emotion, Lakshmi recalled how KTR had given her son hope during their darkest moments and fulfilled his promise by bringing her home within a month.

"KTR Anna promised my son that he would bring me back within a month. He kept his word and brought me home. I can never forget what he has done for me and my family. My heartfelt thanks to KTR Anna," Lakshmi said.

TVRF Demands SIR Rollback, Seeks CEC Gyanesh Kumar's Resignation

Hyderabad, Nov 3 (Way to News): Telangana Voter Rights Forum (TVRF), a civil society platform, on Tuesday, November 3, demanded that the SIR exercise be completely rolled back and CEC Gyanesh Kumar resign. TVRF said it has conducted a "social audit of the SIR process and public hearings" here during October, directly meeting hundreds of voters, which showed the alleged fundamental flaws in the exercise. Eminent citizens who addressed the press meet were Prof G Haragopal, economist and political analyst Dr Parakala Prabhakar, social activist Prof Padmaja Shah, educationist and social activist Maria Tabassum, Sister Manjula of National Dalit Christian Watch, and human rights lawyer Adv SQ Masood.

On behalf of TVRF, Dr A Suneetha presented key findings of the public hearings; Mary Liz Dias and Irfan facilitated the testimonies of deleted voters; and Kiran Vissa anchored the press meet. Economist and political analyst Parakala Prabhakar, who was a jury member at a public hearing, questioned the comments of Union Home Minister Amit Shah about three crore foreign infiltrators in the country.

Prabhakar said that if that is really true, the government should be able to give state-wise and constituency-wise details of these infiltrators. Prabhakar, husband of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, alleged that the government is wrongly stating that the SIR exercise has been conducted so many times in the past. He claimed, "This is the first time in the country that an SIR of this nature is being conducted where every voter is being asked to submit a form and being deleted if the form is not received." He demanded that the present SIR exercise should be completely scrapped, the release said.

The TVRF said detailed groundwork was carried out in Musheerabad and Secunderabad Cantonment assembly constituencies here as part of the 'Social Audit and Public hearings'. In the Seunderabad Cantonment constituency, the TVRF volunteers went door to door in two booths with the draft voter list and the deleted voter list. Out of 757 voters who were directly surveyed, 232 were deleted.

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'Irresponsible' Parties Attempting To Break People's Trust In EC: JP Nadda Attacks Cong, SP



Bareilly, Nov 3 (Way to News): Union Minister JP Nadda on Tuesday lashed out at the Congress and the Samajwadi Party, calling them "irresponsible" and accusing them of "attempting to break" people's trust in the Election Commission. Nadda made the remarks while addressing the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) 'Save democracy, Remove Anarchy' rally in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh.

While hitting out at the Opposition, the Union Minister asserted that it is after years of hard work that India's Election Commission and the Supreme Court have received global recognition. "Some irresponsible parties, especially the Congress and the Samajwadi Party, have attempted to break the people's trust in the Election Commission," he remarked. Criticising Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Nadda compared him to school kids who blame teachers whenever they score less marks, saying: "Whenever he (Rahul) loses polls, he blames the Election Commission while considers himself smart whenever he wins any election."

Highlighting the poll panel's efforts in conducting elections, the Union Minister said the EC made it possible for people residing in Gujarat's Gir forest and Malogam in Arunachal Pradesh to cast votes, "despite the terrain being difficult to reach". The former BJP chief also referred to the imposition of Emergency under former Prime Minister late Indira Gandhi, saying: "The number of people sent to jail by Indira Gandhi without any trial for 22 months was even more than those imprisoned under the British rule…now Rahul Gandhi talks about saving democracy!" He pointed out that the Congress-led UPA made the shift from ballot papers to EVMs, "and are now themselves blaming the machines". "Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav are today doing politics similar to what was done by students in colleges," he remarked.

Further, Nadda asserted that the 13 crore voters that the Opposition keeps referring to as "deleted" under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls were "ASDD, Absent, Shifted, Duplicated and Dead".

"The Bangladeshi infiltrators got scared of the Election Commission and ran away. So, when the BLOs came (for enumeration), it was found that three crore were 'absent', six crore 30 lakh were 'shifted' and one crore were 'duplicate' voters. Two crore 80 lakh were 'dead voters'. This is what SIR is, which is being opposed," he stated. Noting that Union Home Minister Amit Shah has asked to detect, delete and deport the illegal voters, he said: "Whereas the Congress wants to recognise and formalise such voters."

India and France discuss climate Finance, COP31 priorities



New Delhi, Nov 3 (Way to News): India and France on Tuesday discussed biodiversity conservation, energy transition, climate finance and priorities for COP31 while reiterating committment to strengthening cooperation through the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

"Pleased to meet Mr Mathieu Lefevre, Minister Delegate for the Ecological Transition of France. Discussed the areas of mutual interest including biodiversity conservation, energy transition, climate finance and COP31 priorities," stated Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh on X after meeting the French minister who is in New Delhi for the ninth session of the ISA Assembly, being held at the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit 2026. France was re-elected co-president of the ISA on Tuesday. "Committed to strengthening cooperation through International Solar Alliance- ISA and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure-CDRI," Singh said. Welcoming France's re-election, Lefevre credited President Emmanuel Macron for France's role in the alliance.

Bharat RE Summit: India, Denmark discuss strengthening renewable energy ties



New Delhi, Nov 3 (Way to News): Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Tuesday held a bilateral meeting with Denmark's Minister for Business and Competitiveness Martin Lidegaard on the sidelines of the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit 2026. Taking to the social media platform X, Joshi said both sides discussed strengthening India-Denmark cooperation in offshore wind, green hydrogen, battery storage and renewable energy integration.

Joshi emphasised the vast investment opportunities in India's renewable energy sector and welcomed greater Danish participation through technology partnerships, joint ventures and local manufacturing. Moreover, both ministers reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening the India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership and expanding clean energy cooperation.

Apart from that, Lidegaard visited Mumbai on Monday to advance cooperation on maritime affairs, green shipping, technology, trade and investment. He had said that Denmark and Maharashtra are two economies of roughly the same size with a lot to offer each other. "More than 60 Danish companies are already present in Maharashtra and we expect commercial opportunities to expand with the coming EU-India free trade agreement," according to him. "The major Danish shipping company Maersk is very active in your shipping sector, and I had a chance to visit their terminal in Mumbai today. I look forward to seeing Denmark's cooperation with Maharashtra grow even further in the coming years," Lidegaard said.

Moreover, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Chairman S.N. Subrahmanyan has been appointed Denmark's Honorary Consul.

Meeting with the Governor of Maharashtra, Jishnu Dev Varma to discuss Danish investments, EU-India FTA and growing economic opportunities including in the maritime sector and infrastructure. Lidegaard was scheduled to visit APM Terminals Mumbai — also known as Gateway Terminals India — at Jawaharlal Nehru Port, operated by APM Terminals, part of the Danish Maersk Group.

Delhi Police Defend Jantar Mantar De-Notification, Says Decision Taken After MHA Panel Report



New Delhi, Nov 3 (Way to News): The Delhi Police have told the Supreme Court that the decision to de-notify Jantar Mantar as a designated protest site was taken after considering changed ground realities, public safety concerns and recommendations of a committee constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

In a counter affidavit filed before the apex court, Delhi Police Commissioner Anurag Kumar said the decision was taken independently and was not prompted by the Supreme Court's October 9 order, as the proposal to shift the designated protest venue had been under consideration of the Central government for a considerable period.

The affidavit was filed in response to a petition challenging the de-notification of Jantar Mantar as a designated protest venue.

The Commissioner said the MHA had constituted a committee on August 26, 2026, to examine the suitability of continuing Jantar Mantar as a protest site and identify alternative locations. Its report was received in September and forwarded to him on September 14. "The decision to denotify Jantar Mantar as the designated site for protests was taken by me after due consideration of the relevant factors and criteria relevant for such decision making, and upon consideration of the recommendations of the Committee constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs," the affidavit stated.

The Commissioner submitted that the ground situation around Jantar Mantar had changed substantially since the Supreme Court's 2018 order directing the authorities to devise an appropriate mechanism for regulating protests and demonstrations at Jantar Mantar Road, with increasing concerns over public order, traffic management, crowd control, emergency access and the security of sensitive installations. Describing Jantar Mantar as a public road rather than a designated protest site in the conventional sense, the affidavit said the stretch witnessed more than 1,300 protests and demonstrations annually, frequently constraining access for emergency services such as ambulances and fire brigades.

FIR sought against AISA chief over temple remarks

New Delhi, Nov 3 (Way to News): A Supreme Court lawyer has approached the Delhi Police seeking registration of an FIR against All India Students' Association (AISA) national president Neha Bora over her alleged remarks linking temple priests to sexual offences against women.

In her complaint to the Station House Officer of the Cyber Police Station, New Delhi district, advocate-on-record (AoR) Amita Sachdeva sought action under Section 196 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and other applicable provisions of law, claiming that the statements could promote enmity between different groups and disturb public tranquillity. Sachdeva contended that a video featuring Bora had been widely circulated on social media platforms and reported by multiple news outlets, in which she made sweeping statements attributing sexual offences against women to temple priests.

In the video, Bora is purportedly heard saying: "Brahmin mahilayein sadkon par chalte hue bhi surakshit nahi hain. Unke saath rape hota hai. Mandiron mein pujari bhi rape karte hain. Unnao aur Kathua mein aisi ghatnayein hum dekh chuke hain." (Brahmin women are unsafe even while walking on the streets. They are raped, and even priests in temples commit rape. We have witnessed such incidents in places like Unnao and Kathua.)

'Women as shield, foreign funding for protests': BJP tears into oppn over 'Anarchic Model'



New Delhi, Nov 3 (Way to News): Sounding an alarm bell over the 'anarchic model' of protest by the Congress and opposition parties, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on the proponents of "regime change" and said that there was no place for anarchy, violence and undemocratic stir in a democratic country like India. Addressing a press conference at BJP HQs, party spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said that the violent protest is not in the DNA of Indian citizens and warned against such tactics, highlighting that Indian democracy was robust enough to withstand challenges.

Gaurav Bhatia slammed the Congress and its allies of the INDIA bloc, accusing them of pursuing an 'anarchic model' of regime change, rather than asserting themselves through democratic means. Citing a sting operation by a mainstream media network, the BJP leader accused Rahul Gandhi and the Opposition of promoting the politics of violence, anarchy and regime change.

Referring to statements 'caught on camera' supporting Nepal, Bangladesh and France-like protests in India, he raised serious questions over an alleged strategy of using women as shields during protests, and revelations of funding amounting to 5 lakh per day. He also demanded a detailed investigation into the alleged links with foreign organisations and stated that while democracy guarantees the right to protest, demonstrations must remain peaceful and non-violent.

Bhatia alleged that the sting operation has brought to light the actual model of the Opposition, led by the Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi.

"Leaders like Rahul Gandhi believe in anarchy and destruction, which is why people call him Bhasmasur. Rahul Gandhi has become a leader who seeks to bring anarchy to the country by destroying democracy and strangling it," he remarked.

The BJP spokesperson claimed that there are anarchic elements who are supporting the opposition parties in organising violent protests.

Samrat Choudhary's crime remark sparks political row

Patna, Nov 3 (Way to News):The remark by Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on crime and law and order in the state has triggered a political controversy after he appeared to confuse the Hindi word 'apradh' (crime) with its English equivalent while addressing an event in New Delhi.

Speaking at the event, which was also attended by the Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, CM Choudhary said, "The very concept of 'apradh' (crime) has ceased to exist here. There might be 'crime', but there is no 'apradh'—and no criminals (Apradhi)."

The statement has since gone viral on social media, with users trolling the Chief Minister over his choice of words. Bihar's Leader of the Opposition (LoP) and Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav launched a sharp attack on Samrat Choudhary, sharing a video of his remarks on social media.

In a post on social media platform X, Tejashwi Yadav said, "In Bihar, there can be 'crime', but no 'apradh'!"

Addressing fellow countrymen, the Bihar LoP alleged that the person making such claims was facing allegations in seven murder cases and had been handpicked by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the post of Chief Minister.

He also questioned whether the IAS and IPS officers seated on the stage alongside CM Choudhary felt honoured or humiliated to work with him.

CM Yogi announces Rs 1,500 cr subsidy for LPG refills to over 1.89 cr families ahead of Diwali



Lucknow, Nov 3 (Way to News): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced the distribution of LPG cylinder refill subsidies worth Rs 1,500 crore to more than 1.89 crore eligible families on the occasion of Diwali, asserting that his government has prioritised public welfare over dynastic politics.

In a post on X (in Hindi), the Chief Minister said the subsidy would be distributed in Lucknow, extending support to millions of poor households and ensuring that economic difficulties do not force families to return to cooking on traditional, smoke-emitting stoves. "On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, LPG cylinder refill subsidies worth Rs 1,500 crore will be distributed today in Lucknow to more than 1.89 crore eligible families in the state," CM Yogi said. Targeting the previous governments in Uttar Pradesh, he alleged that when the priority of a government was its own family, the suffering of poor households remained overlooked in governance policies.

He said that during the previous regime, millions of mothers and sisters were compelled to spend their lives cooking in smoke-filled kitchens amid what he described as dynastic politics. "Under the illustrious guidance of the Honorable Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji, the double-engine government has prioritized public welfare over familism," he said. Highlighting the contribution of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, he said the scheme had ensured access to clean cooking fuel for poor households and provided women with better health, convenience and dignity. "Our commitment is clear. No poor family should be forced to return to smoke-filled traditional stoves because of financial difficulties. May the happiness of Diwali reach every household and the light of convenience remain in every kitchen," he said. The Chief Minister also expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Modi for supporting the welfare of women and disadvantaged families and extended advance Diwali greetings to all mothers and sisters.

In another post, CM Yogi highlighted the message of social harmony conveyed by Ayodhya's Deepotsav, saying that shared faith and culture bring society together, while caste rigidity creates divisions.

'Unacceptable': Tripura CM condemns attack on BSF personnel, vows strict action



Agartala, Nov 3 (Way to News): Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Tuesday condemned the attack on three Border Security Force (BSF) personnel near the Indo-Bangladesh border, calling the incident "unacceptable" and a "matter of grave concern".

Three BSF personnel were injured after they were attacked by a mob in Tripura's Sepahijala district over a smuggling-related issue.

The incident occurred on Monday when a verbal altercation allegedly broke out between residents and BSF personnel stationed at Ashabari Border Outpost (BOP) under the 49th Battalion. Taking to X, CM Saha said, "I strongly condemn the brutal assault on our brave BSF personnel at Ashabari by a group of miscreants. Such acts of violence against our security forces are completely unacceptable and deserve unequivocal condemnation."

He also directed the authorities to take strict action against those responsible.

"Any attack on our security personnel is a matter of grave concern and must be dealt with firmly in accordance with the law. Concerned authorities directed to take swift and stringent action against those responsible and ensure that justice is delivered. Our security personnel deserve the utmost respect and protection," the Chief Minister added. According to unconfirmed media reports, an argument broke out between the residents and BSF personnel near the Boxanagar-Rahimpur road after the soldiers from the 49th Battalion detained a person identified as Hefzur Rahman on suspicion of smuggling during vegetation clearance in Ashabari.

Following this, the residents blocked the Boxanagar-Rahimpur road and attacked a BSF vehicle with sticks and bamboo, injuring Company Commander Rohit, along with three other BSF personnel.

A video of the incident has gone viral on social media, showing the mob rushing towards the BSF personnel and attacking them with sticks and bamboo.

The injured personnel were then taken to Boxanagar Primary Health Centre (PHC) for treatment. Meanwhile, security has been tightened in the area following the incident. Further details are awaited.

Editorial

India must engage Nepal as an equal partner

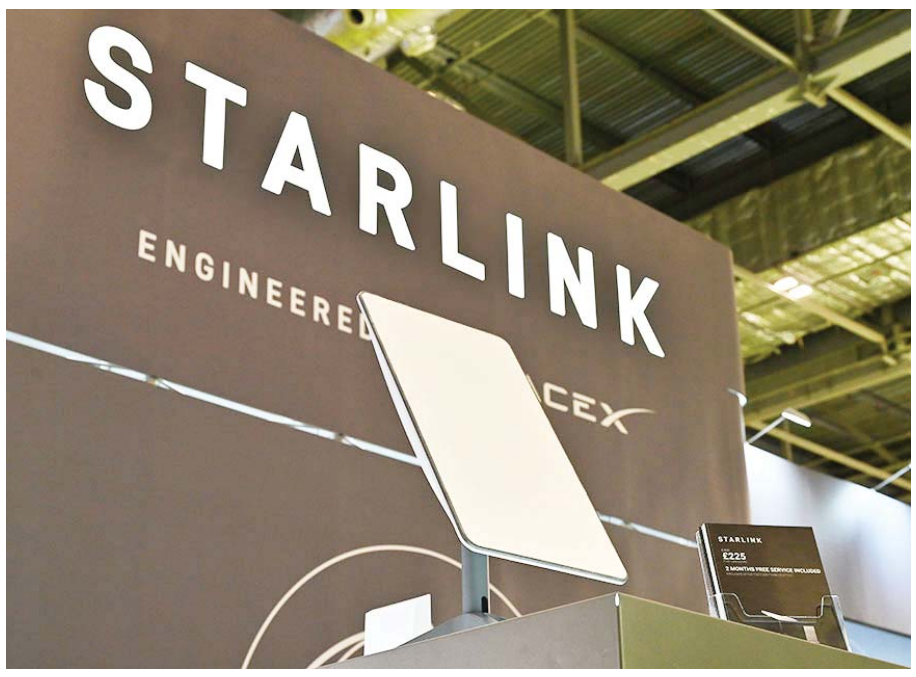
After months of diplomatic distance, Nepal PM Balendra Shah's likely visit to India offers an opportunity to rebuild trust and reset ties. New Delhi must balance its strategic concerns with Kathmandu's growing assertion of sovereignty and its expanding engagement with China India's long wait to host new Nepalese Prime Minister Balendra 'Balen' Shah is expected to end soon, with a visit likely in the third week of November. The young leader, who assumed office in March this year, has kept India waiting for this critical visit since being sworn in. Indian foreign secretary Vikram Misri is slated to travel to Kathmandu in early November to finalise the agenda. New Delhi will likely be relieved that Shah has chosen India, rather than China, for his first official bilateral visit. China, which has already made deep inroads into Nepal, continues to assiduously court the Nepalese leadership across political parties to further expand its influence. For India, Nepal remains a vital strategic buffer between itself and China. Consequently, China's expanding footprint in Kathmandu has raised significant concern in New Delhi, prompting it to redouble its diplomatic and economic efforts to remain closely engaged with Nepal. Sharing a long and porous border with Nepal, India has huge security stakes in the landlocked Himalayan country. During Shah's visit, New Delhi must seek firm assurances from Kathmandu that its core strategic interests will not be compromised.

The upcoming summit between the two PMs is expected to inject fresh momentum into bilateral relations, which faced significant headwinds under Shah's China-leaning predecessor K P Sharma Oli. India will also be seeking to get better acquainted with the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) leader and his government's expectations from New Delhi. Traditionally, bound by deep historical and civilizational ties, newly-elected Nepalese PMs make New Delhi their first foreign destination soon after taking charge. Shah, who is a rapper-turned-politician, however, has kept India on tenterhooks. Early in his tenure, Shah had indicated he would bypass immediate foreign travel to focus squarely on domestic reforms. Adopting an unorthodox diplomatic stance, he even declined a one-on-one meeting with the Indian ambassador shortly after taking over, opting to meet him only as part of a collective group of envoys. He later even refused to meet the Indian foreign secretary during a planned visit by him to Kathmandu, prompting a miffed New Delhi to call off the trip.

Shah's indifference to diplomatic necessities was further reflected in the failure to appoint an ambassador to India even six months after the recall of the previous envoy. While it is said to have finally zeroed in on Nischal Nath Pandey as Nepal's next ambassador to India, there seems to be little concern about the potential impact of such delays on Nepal's strategic interests. India, on the other hand, was swift to announce the appointment of senior Indian diplomat Sudhakar Dalela as India's new envoy to Nepal. Shah's decision to finally visit India is a positive signal that he recognises the importance of his country's ties with it and its pre-eminence in the region. His visit would also be driven by the practical realisation that robust ties with India are a developmental and economic necessity for his nation. Preparing the groundwork for the visit, Nepal's finance minister Swarnim Wagle and home minister Sudhan Gurung have visited India in recent weeks. Wagle is said to have given the necessary push for Shah's visit, though he did set the cat among the pigeons in his own country with some of his recent remarks at an event in New Delhi.

Starlink - Perils of outsourcing strategic autonomy

Lt Gen. Bhopinder Singh (Retd)



Ukraine's experience is a stark warning for India i.e., when a private satellite network becomes indispensable to military operations, the power to keep it running, or switch it off, becomes a strategic lever.

The controversy surrounding Elon Musk's Starlink services in Ukraine should set alarm bells ringing in New Delhi. It is not merely a dispute over commercial terms of service. It exposes a fundamental reality - when a nation relies on a privately controlled foreign communications network for critical operations, it risks surrendering strategic autonomy to those who control the switch. For India, which faces a two-front security challenge and shares contested borders with China and Pakistan, this is a warning that cannot be ignored. The question is not whether Starlink is technologically impressive, but whether India can afford to make critical national security functions dependent on a service whose availability may ultimately be determined outside its sovereign control.

Amid the war with Russia, Musk accused Ukrainian forces of violating Starlink's terms by using a civilian commercial network for offensive drone strikes. He said SpaceX had closed the loophole, while Ukrainian officials reported restrictions and disruptions affecting military terminals. President Volodymyr Zelensky subsequently announced that Starlink and Starshield operations had returned to the speeds Ukraine required.

The episode also raised questions about the US government's role in restrictions affecting Ukrainian operations. Reports offered differing accounts of who was responsible, while Musk has described Starshield, SpaceX's military-oriented system, as owned and controlled by the US government. The precise chain of decision-making remains contested. But the strategic lesson is clear i.e., a country cannot depend on a communications network without possessing sovereign control over its continued availability. Ukraine's experience demonstrates why governments must examine the risks of dependence before a crisis makes alternatives difficult to implement.

Satellite communications increasingly support military command and control, logistics, intelligence sharing, surveillance and unmanned systems. Losing connectivity at a critical moment can disrupt operations and undermine battlefield coordination. What happens if a foreign provider changes its terms of service? What if its home government imposes restrictions under domestic law or national security policies? And what if access is curtailed precisely when military operations require uninterrupted communications?

These are not allegations against Musk or predictions about his intentions. They are questions of national security. India might purchase terminals and pay for the service, yet it would not necessarily control the satellites, software, network architecture or external decisions governing access. The power to deny a capability need not be exercised to have strategic significance. Its mere existence creates uncertainty about whether that capability will remain available when it matters most.

India's strategic autonomy rests on retaining freedom of action rather than becoming excessively dependent on any external power. That principle has shaped its approach to defence procurement, energy security and indigenous technological development. Digital infrastructure deserves the same scrutiny.

Starlink could offer substantial civilian benefits, connecting remote communities and supporting disaster relief. The answer is not to reject foreign technology simply because it is American. The danger arises when a useful commercial service becomes a single point of failure for a critical national function.

Dependence on a private company and dependence on a foreign government are distinct risks, even when they intersect. A company operates within commercial and contractual constraints; a government can exercise regulatory, legal and national security powers. India may have limited practical recourse if access is interrupted during an emergency. Diplomatic goodwill and commercial assurances cannot guarantee that foreign interests will always align with India's strategic priorities.

India's security environment makes this issue particularly consequential. Along the Line of Actual Control with China, difficult terrain and long distances demand resilient communications. During a confrontation, conventional infrastructure could be disrupted by physical damage, cyber operations or electronic warfare. Satellite networks offer valuable redundancy. But redundancy is not sovereignty.

Replacing dependence on vulnerable terrestrial infrastructure with dependence on a foreign-controlled satellite network could solve one problem while creating another. The same concern extends to Indian Ocean maritime operations and disaster response. India must ask - can it sustain essential operations if a foreign provider becomes unavailable through technical failure, commercial decisions, regulatory restrictions or geopolitical pressure? If the answer is no, a strategic vulnerability exists, regardless of the technology's sophistication. India should welcome satellite technology while insisting on safeguards proportionate to its strategic importance. Critical military communications must remain under sovereign control. Foreign commercial networks may supplement national capabilities but should not become indispensable without assured alternatives. Contracts for sensitive applications should address service continuity.

Industrial growth needs a policy shift

PARTHA SEN



THE Economic Survey 2025-26 set a target for India's manufacturing as a share of its GDP at 25%, to be achieved by 2035. This constitutes a nearly 100% increase in the share over its current level. Are we adequately prepared for this leap? There are many reasons why India's industrial growth has been lacklustre. I want to confine myself to discussing India's macroeconomic policy, and, under that rubric, draw the reader's attention to a cause that is not discussed at all, except in moments of crises.

Macroeconomics as a sub-discipline of economics is of recent origin. One can trace its beginning to British economist John Maynard Keynes' writings on combating the Great Depression. His arguments were so persuasive that policymakers used his analysis of demand management to achieve full employment in advanced capitalist countries in the post-World War II period — this came to be known as the "Golden Age" of capitalism. This period came to an end when, in the mid-1970s, the members of OPEC (Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) increased the price of oil. It was clear to everyone that Keynesian demand management policies were ill-suited to handle supply shocks of the type that an increase in the price of imported oil represented.

This failure of the Keynesian policymaking framework reinforced the hands of those economists who, following American economist Milton Friedman, asserted that markets "work", i.e. private individuals are capable of taking optimal decisions. The government (in this context, the monetary and fiscal authorities) cannot do better than what the private sector would do. The government should confine itself to following pre-announced paths for the policy variables. This requires that the government budget debt should follow a sustainable path and the monetary authorities must ensure that inflation stays within a range. Indian policymakers accepted this prescription wholeheartedly.

What is often forgotten is that India is a developing country whose features are different from those of advanced Western economies. It has limited access to the world capital markets and requires foreign exchange to pay for international transactions. In a rules-based framework, we need the government to guide the economy on international variables like the exchange rate and the availability of foreign exchange.

A discussion of these questions is fobbed off with answers like: "The exchange rate is market-determined. Only in cases of excess volatility will the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) intervene." We are left to figure out what is the acceptable level of volatility, and hence, what is "excessive"? What form will the RBI's intervention take?

General Helmuth von Moltke the Elder, the Prussian Field Marshal during Otto von Bismarck's tenure as German Chancellor, said, "No (battle) plan survives the first contact with the enemy." This should not be interpreted as a green signal for being frivolous in designing a policy framework. Indian policymakers have left out crucial areas in performing a cut-and-paste from the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries' policy structures. These countries have fully convertible currencies, and hence do not have an external "constraint".

This is well understood (e.g. in the context of the Latin American debt crises), but somehow our policy quiver is missing arrows for the external sector. India's recent underwhelming industrial performance is, in part, attributable to our lopsided interaction with the rest of the world.

In the early 1990s, when Manmohan Singh "opened up" the economy, he liberalised both trade in goods and foreign capital flows. It was hoped that unleashing India's entrepreneurial energy, together with its presumed comparative advantage in labour-intensive goods, would create increased employment, thereby lifting millions out of poverty. In the event, this did not happen.

One possible cause was that foreign capital inflows caused the Indian rupee to appreciate (in "real" terms). The RBI intervened to limit some of this appreciation (via what is called sterilised intervention). The net result was a huge trade deficit — India's imports of goods and services exceeded its exports. Economists refer to this phenomenon as the "Dutch Disease" (since it was noticed in the Netherlands in the 1970s). India never gained its presumed share of the world's labour-intensive goods sales because of the perverse effects of international capital inflows. There is no denying the fact that India needed FDI (foreign direct investment) to be competitive in exports, but unbridled portfolio flows played havoc with our trade balance.

It is worth remembering that the East Asian economies have grown by exporting and running current account surpluses. This discussion of the Dutch Disease is meant to highlight the fact that a macroeconomic policy response is called for. What types of capital flows should be allowed? What levels of exchange rates are desirable? How much foreign exchange reserves are enough? Answers to these questions will not be forthcoming unless an open economy is an integral part of our policy discussion. Now fast-forward to 2026. The US-Israel war on Iran has hurt India along many dimensions.

Gen ZA & the Viksit Bharat dream

R JAGANNATHAN



THERE is much talk about GenZ these days, especially after the protests led by students in the wake of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) paper leaks. GenZ is defined as those people who were born between 1997 and 2012, which means some have already entered the job market, while others are still in the classroom or doing odd jobs, the latter in case they can't afford higher education.

There was a time when we considered 20 years to a generation before we started counting the next one, since that is the age at which some start marrying and start earning a living. If that gap has now come down to 15 years or less, it implies that trying to define a generation by age intervals is past its sell-by date. The GenZ person born in the late 1990s is not going to share the same attitudes with those born in the early years of the second decade of the 21st century. Given the speed with which technology is changing — widely available artificial intelligence (AI) models are barely four years old today — Gen Alpha, which came after GenZ — is already ending.

So, when we talk about the young today, we are essentially talking about a mix of later-born GenZ and the early-born Gen Alpha, and it is this cohort (born between 2005 and 2020) that may share one characteristic: of being born entirely in the digital age, where one spends a lot of time watching screens, whether on the laptop or the smartphone. Let's call them Gen ZA (or 'Zah').

The road to Viksit Bharat, assuming it is reachable, will depend on how this cohort is educated, skilled, nurtured and allowed to contribute to national wealth creation. Gen ZA will be in the prime of life (27-42 years) by 2047. Unfortunately, it is precisely this ZA generation that faces the toughest future, for it has been born when AI and automation will start impacting entry-level jobs, or jobs that need middle-level skills.

Consider this reality: the earnings of the entry-level software coder is not much higher than what a lower-skilled Zomato or Swiggy delivery person working up to 10 hours a day would be capable of earning — Rs 18,000-20,000. The coder's salary may even be lower than what a good carpenter, plumber or electrician may earn in the metros. Of course, the job quality of the greenhorn coder may be higher than that of the delivery boy who rides a bike under the scorching sun, but earning levels are comparable when adjusted for age and skillsets.

The challenge Gen ZA is facing is one where formal full-time jobs are less likely to be available, and hence incomes may also be lumpy and uneven between months. This generation, especially the one in contractual jobs that depend on work done and not time spent in the office, will not easily be able to buy a home using equated monthly instalments (EMIs). A former colleague and columnist, Vivek Kaul, speculated recently about whether GenZ (my Gen ZA) will ever be able to afford a home, or is destined to live in rental homes or with family. It is a relevant question to ask when almost anything affordable is located far away from the workplace, or simply unaffordable to most single-income nuclear homes. The fact that permanent jobs are themselves becoming scarce reinforces this fact.

Kaul also speculates that since GenZ are mostly progeny of the Millennial generation (1981-1996), they are more likely to be either single children or have only one sibling. This means, even if they don't buy a home because they are unaffordable, they may end up inheriting one from their Baby Boomer grandparents or Millennial parents, who lived in times when regular jobs were easier to come by.

If fewer people buy homes, it means that EMIs, or differently structured EMIs that allow for flexible payments over the same time period, may be used for the other objects of desire beyond homes — from fancy cars to gadgets or foreign vacations. If Gen ZA kids are born digital natives, it stands to reason that they will be buying gadgets like smartphones and digital devices more often than their parents. But unlike homes, which last a lifetime if maintained properly, gadgets become obsolete rather quickly. These days, one can barely keep a smartphone or laptop for three years without them beginning to slow down or even hang repeatedly. To make sure that you do indeed keep upgrading, the manufacturers of these gadgets will keep updating your software to the point where the old hardware will not be able to cope with the new software's memory and processing requirements.

Add the need for cyber security, and the need for upgrades and frequent changes of gadgets can only grow. The tech industry knows that it can upgrade you enough to kill the utility of the old device and force you to buy another, more expensive, gadget. What this is adding up to is a simple result: Gen ZA, and the ones to follow, will be investing or buying gadgets for the short-term, which makes it obvious that those who want to sell them anything will have to make it more like a rental than a genuine purchase.

Midterm elections are coming to a close as voters pass judgment on Trump's second term



WASHINGTON, Nov 3 (Way to News): Voters struggling with high prices and angry over an unpopular war with Iran will decide whether to drastically shift power in Washington in midterm elections Tuesday that will serve as a referendum on President Donald Trump's second term.

Democrats were cautiously optimistic about their prospects as they watched Republicans spend the campaign's final stretch pumping tens of millions of dollars into states and districts that Trump won handily just two years ago. They are betting that discontent over Trump's failure to deliver on his promise to tackle rising costs and perceptions that he has been more focused on gilding the nation's capital than their pain at the pump will depress Republican turnout and drive their own voters to the polls.

Republicans held out hope that their overwhelming money advantage would help stem the tide, but they were bracing to lose control of the US House and fighting to hang onto the US Senate — an outcome that seemed unlikely earlier this year, given a map widely seen as favoring their party.

Still, the margins are tight in both chambers, and just one or two seats could tip the balance. Democrats need a net gain of four seats in the 100-member Senate to win the majority, an uphill climb because many of the most competitive races are in historically red states. In the 435-member House, they only need three.

More than 57 million people had already cast ballots as of Monday, with turnout surpassing the early vote four years ago in many closely watched states.

Trump, whose party has struggled when he is not running to turn out the low-propensity voters who have fueled his victories, has told voters to act as though he is, even as many Republican candidates have tried to keep their distance.

"I really want you to pretend I'm on the ballot," he told the crowd in Salina, Kansas, on Sunday evening at the final of several dozen rallies in the closing weeks of the campaign.

Trump's aggressive schedule included stops in the reddest states, including Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas, underscoring his party's challenges.

The president has also continued to make false claims about voting fraud, such as insisting noncitizens are casting ballots en masse. His administration has already filed lawsuits in Alaska and California, and Democrats fear interference and voter intimidation as his Justice Department threatens to prosecute local election officials. It's an election that could reshape the political landscape

The results will shape the final two years of Trump's second term after the Republican-controlled Congress acted as a rubber stamp to much of his agenda. While Trump has proven adept at steamrolling efforts to rein him in, Democrats taking control of even one chamber of Congress would open the floodgates to investigations as well as possible impeachments. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and tech titan Elon Musk, a former top Trump adviser, are among the possible targets.

An especially strong showing for Democrats would also provide a boost to the crop of potential presidential candidates waiting in the wings, from California Gov. Gavin Newsom to Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker to former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. It could also complicate the paths of Vice President JD Vance and other Republicans who may be looking to turn their loyalty to the president into momentum.

Republicans had tried to buck historical precedent — a president's party almost always loses seats during the midterms — with an aggressive redistricting effort aimed at creating a more favorable congressional map. But the plan may fall short as new districts drawn in Florida and other states to be safely red may not vote that way.

Greenland parliament ratifies US security deal



COPENHAGEN, Nov 3 (Way to News): Greenland's parliament on Tuesday formally ratified a security agreement signed with Washington to head off US President Donald Trump's bid to take over the vast Arctic island.

Sixteen members of the Inatsisartut voted for the text, seven abstained and none voted against.

The deal signed by Trump and the Danish and Greenlandic leaders in New York in September allows the United States to build two military bases in Greenland.

It also blocks countries outside the European Union and NATO from strategic sectors, in order to stop China or Russia gaining influence on the territory, particularly through investments.

Greenland is an autonomous territory of Denmark, and the Danish parliament is expected to ratify the agreement on November 19.

Since returning to the presidency in January 2025, Trump has repeatedly insisted that the United States needed to control Greenland for strategic reasons, alarming NATO ally Denmark and other partners.

WHO urged to review drinking water standards amid nitrate health fears



GENEVA, Nov 3 (Way to News): Dozens of global health and environmental organizations called on the World Health Organization on Tuesday to revise decades-old standards for nitrate levels in drinking water, arguing they do not reflect recent scientific evidence about potential health risks.

In an open letter, 85 organizations, including Greenpeace International and the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA), called on the United Nations health agency to include nitrate in an upcoming review of its drinking water guidelines. The toxic effects of nitrates — a residue left behind by intensive farming — are widely recognized as particularly dangerous for children and pregnant women. But the current WHO guidelines — which set the maximum acceptable nitrate level in drinking water at 50 milligrammes per liter as nitrate or 11.3 milligrammes per liter as nitrate-nitrogen — date back to 1958 and are "outdated," the organizations warned. That level was set specifically to prevent so-called "blue-baby syndrome" — a deadly blood disorder in which the blood's capacity for carrying oxygen is reduced. But the limit "has not been updated in response to robust epidemiological evidence linking chronic, low-level nitrate exposure to long-term human health risks," Tuesday's letter said, pointing in particular to "colorectal cancer and adverse birth outcomes." "Studies now link nitrate in drinking water, at levels well below the current WHO limit, to bowel cancer and premature birth," WONCA chair Pratyush Kumar said in a joint statement.

'DECISIVE ACTION'

The letter was sent to coincide with WHO's annual One Health Day, which aims to raise awareness about the interconnected health of humans, animals, plants and shared ecosystems. Surface water models indicate that hundreds of millions of people globally are exposed to elevated nitrate levels, the letter warned.

"Water should be life-giving, not life-threatening," Amanda Larsson, the global project lead for agriculture at Greenpeace, said in the statement. "We cannot protect human health without protecting the groundwater and rivers that sustain us," she insisted.

Students blockade dozens of high schools in France

Paris, Nov 3 (Way to News): Students blockaded dozens of high schools across France on Tuesday to maintain pressure on the government over education reforms as trade unions prepared for a nationwide strike later this week. After returning from a two-week autumn break on Monday, some students resumed their protest campaign, calling on authorities to renovate dilapidated schools, reduce class sizes and create more university places.

Authorities said 48 out of France's 3,700 high schools were blocked, including in cities such as Paris, Rennes, Toulouse and Lyon. The Union syndicale lyceenne (USL) contested those figures, saying 500 establishments were blocked. The student union denounced what it called heavy-handed tactics, with "young people pinned against walls and riot police units deployed" outside schools. "Our impression is that the objective is to suppress the movement and prevent Thursday's mobilization," a union representative told AFP. On Thursday students plan to stage a new day of blockades as trade unions called for a nationwide strike. In the northwestern city of Rennes, around 30 students blocked access to the Brequigny High School, one of the country's largest secondary schools.

Tensions quickly flared between students and a member of the school administration. "You are not the majority," the staff member protested.

"If we're doing this, it's because everything we've tried before hasn't worked," a student replied.

N. Korea slams FBI allegations over Binance hack as 'grave' provocation



SEOUL, Nov 3 (Way to News): North Korea on Tuesday slammed the FBI's allegations that Pyongyang was behind the theft of $6 billion from cryptocurrency platform Binance, with Kim Jong Un's powerful sister labelling it a "grave political provocation."

Kim Yo Jong, in a statement released Tuesday by the KCNA state news agency, said the FBI's claim was "absurd rhetoric and nothing new," given prior US allegations that North Korea was behind last year's major hack of Bybit. "It is a grave political provocation against the DPRK that the US misleads the international public opinion as if all the cybercrimes in different parts of the world are our deeds," Kim said, using the acronym for North Korea's official name. The FBI said on Saturday that a North Korea-affiliated hacking group called TraderTraitor had been behind the hack. TraderTraitor is the same group blamed for a $1.5 billion theft from the Bybit platform in February last year, which had been the largest crypto theft until the Binance hack.

"This is a sinister attempt to damage the international image of the DPRK and undermine its dignity and national prestige and another grave violation of the sovereignty of the DPRK," Kim said. "It is the consistent policy stand of the DPRK government to resolutely oppose all sorts of malicious acts in cyberspace," she added. Binance is the world's largest crypto exchange by daily trading volumes. News of the hacking attack caused the prices of most major cryptocurrencies to fall sharply on Friday.

Ex-Chicago FBI Chief Sues Justice Department Over Protesters Case



CHICAGO, Nov 3 (Way to News): The former head of the FBI's Chicago field office says he lost his job after being wrongly blamed for prosecutions that fell apart against six people who protested the federal immigration crackdown in the city, according to a lawsuit he filed Monday.

Douglas DePodesta, a 24-year veteran of the FBI, says in the suit against top Justice Department officials that federal prosecutors pushed "politically motivated prosecutions" against Chicago's demonstrators before gathering evidence. He says his superiors told him that FBI Director Kash Patel wanted him fired, and he stepped down against his will this summer. "I saw the writing on the wall," DePodesta told The Associated Press on Monday. He accused the top federal prosecutor in Illinois, Andrew Boutros, of starting a "campaign within the Department of Justice to blame" him after the so-called "Broadview Six" case dramatically fell apart earlier this year.

Boutros' office declined to comment. The FBI and the Justice Department, which are both named in the suit, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Hours after DePodesta filed the suit, US District Judge April Perry ordered Boutros and three of his assistant attorneys to testify under oath on Nov. 16 in the failed case against the protesters. "There is more than an adequate factual basis for the Court to pursue an inquiry as to whether willful false statements were made to the court," Perry wrote in the order. Federal prosecutors brought charges against around 30 protesters during the Chicago immigration enforcement operation, called Operation Midway Blitz. Many of those charges have been dropped or dismissed. According to DePodesta's lawsuit, Boutros faced pressure from the Justice Department throughout the crackdown to charge protesters with felonies.

"Boutros sent DePodesta emails demanding that DePodesta open FBI investigations into individuals with political views or affiliations in opposition to the Trump administration," DePodesta's attorneys wrote.

Boutros often pressured attorneys under him in the US Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois to press charges "before investigating the objective evidence," and he wanted felony charges when assisting attorneys "favored misdemeanors or no charges at all," the suit alleges.The office last October charged six people with conspiring to obstruct a federal officer, a felony, for their actions during a protest at a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in the Chicago suburb of Broadview. Transcripts turned over to the court, which a judge ordered Boutros' office to remove redactions from, later revealed that a grand jury twice refused to indict the six, despite prosecutors' urgings and a highly unusual speech

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia seek stronger cultural ties amid deepening strategic partnership



ISLAMABAD, Nov 3 (Way to News): Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have agreed to expand cooperation in television, entertainment and digital media, Pakistan's information minister said on Tuesday, as the longtime allies look to deepen cultural exchanges alongside their close defense and economic ties. The discussions build on previous plans to introduce Pakistani television dramas to Saudi audiences and develop joint productions, reflecting efforts to broaden cooperation between two countries with longstanding diplomatic, security and people-to-people ties.

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar announced the understanding after meeting Saudi Arabia's new Ambassador Dr. Rajeh Tami Albugamy in Islamabad.

"I hope our dramas, art and artists will bring the people of both countries even closer, and that future generations will carry this friendship forward," the minister said in a post on X.

A separate account of the meeting carried by state broadcaster Radio Pakistan said Tarar proposed introducing Pakistani television dramas to Saudi audiences and exchanging delegations of writers, musicians, artists, journalists and digital content creators.

The minister also called for closer cooperation on factchecking and combating misinformation, proposing a joint working group of officials and technical experts from both countries. The proposals follow earlier initiatives to strengthen cultural cooperation between Islamabad and Riyadh.

In 2020, Pakistan announced plans to export television dramas to Saudi Arabia, with three popular series — "Dhoop Kinare," "Tanhaiyan," and "Aahat"" — selected for dubbing.

In February 2025, Tarar and his Saudi counterpart, Salman Al-Dossary, agreed during a meeting in Riyadh to establish a joint committee for producing films.

Red Cross chief urges international law respect amid rampant abuses



GENEVA, Nov 3 (Way to News): The International Committee of the Red Cross was hosting on Tuesday representatives from over 100 countries in Geneva for discussions on bolstering respect for international law at a time of rampant abuses.

The issue is pressing, ICRC President Mirjana Spoljaric told the gathering, warning that the so-called laws of war were increasingly being trampled on even as the globe grapples with over 130 armed conflicts — its highest number since World War II.

"We are living through an age of fading restraint, where the rules are too often ignored, rejected or used to justify violations," she warned. "We don't need stricter rules," she insisted. "What we need is political commitment to respect the existing ones and a renewed determination in applying these rules in good faith." The ICRC, along with Brazil, China, France, Jordan, Kazakhstan and South Africa, launched an initiative in 2024 aimed at galvanizing political support for international humanitarian law, or IHL.

Enshrined in the Geneva Conventions, IHL consists of a set of rules that seek, for humanitarian reasons, to limit the effects of armed conflict, protecting civilians and civilian objects and imposing limits on the means and methods of warfare. IHL "does not abolish war, nor can it prevent all of the suffering that inevitably comes with them," Spoljaric acknowledged, "but its rules, if they are respected, have the power to save lives." Over the past two years, more than 160 countries have taken part in discussions seeking to identify concrete ways to boost respect for IHL. They produced guidelines, presented at the Geneva event, proposing ways that states can counter narratives and behaviors that portray individuals or groups as less deserving of protection.

This includes guidance for armed forces on how to refer to the enemy and civilians, the monitoring of social media use by armed forces and public authorities, and integrating humanitarian values into civic education, ICRC said.

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Will Assess FPI Demands On LTCG Tax; Expects Tata Trusts-Tata Sons Issues To Be Settled Amicably, Says FM Sitharaman

Mumbai, Nov 3 (Way to News): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday expressed confidence that the issues within the Tata Group, including differences over the re-appointment of its chairman and the proposed listing of Tata Sons, would be resolved amicably through internal discussions.



Speaking at the Financial Express Leadership Awards here, FM Sitharaman described the matter as a sensitive issue involving significant commercial and business considerations, and said it should be settled by the concerned parties rather than through public disagreements. Highlighting the Tata Group's importance to the Indian economy, she pointed to the conglomerate's global brand value, the contribution of the Parsi community in building the group, and the wide range of sectors in which Tata companies operate. "I know the brand value of Tata, the contribution of the Parsee community to make Tata a huge global brand. I also know the expanse of activities in which Tatas are invested. So this is a very critical component to the Indian economy and therefore it has to be amicably settled between themselves," FM Sitharaman said. The Finance Minister urged all stakeholders to engage in dialogue and restore normalcy at the earliest, adding that prolonged public disputes were not desirable for an institution of such stature. Addressing another key issue concerning investors, FM Sitharaman said the government would listen to concerns raised by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) regarding India's capital gains tax regime before deciding on any course of action. Speaking amid growing demands for a reduction in long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax, the minister acknowledged that changing market conditions and foreign investment outflows had intensified calls for a reassessment of the tax structure. "These are very delicate matters, and a lot of business and commercial acumen will have to come into play," the finance minister said. FM Sitharaman, however, noted that the existing taxation framework was the same during 2023, when India witnessed record foreign investment inflows.

"The taxation structure was what it is today even in 2023, when inflows were at record highs. Today, the circumstances have changed. FII outflows have happened, and voices of concern are louder. I will consider all this," FM Sitharaman mentioned. The Finance Minister indicated that the government would weigh multiple factors before considering any changes to the current tax regime, while taking into account concerns voiced by global investors.

Sensex Surges Over 1,200 Points, Nifty Reclaims 23,800 As Earnings Optimism Lifts Markets

Mumbai, Nov 3 (Way to News): Indian equity markets ended sharply higher on Tuesday, extending gains for the fourth straight trading session as investors cheered robust corporate earnings and shifted away from global AI-linked trades that have recently come under pressure.

The Sensex jumped 1,225.07 points, or 1.62 per cent, to settle at 76,917.85, while the Nifty climbed 370.05 points, or 1.58 per cent, to close at 23,810.85.

Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the ongoing recovery is encouraging, although the Nifty may encounter resistance in the 23,800–23,900 zone.

"On the downside, the 23,200–23,500 range is likely to act as immediate support in the event of a pullback. We reiterate our preference for stocks demonstrating relative strength, while maintaining prudent overnight risk management amid global event-related uncertainties," analysts stated. Market sentiment remained buoyant amid encouraging quarterly results from domestic companies, while weakness in global technology and artificial intelligence-linked stocks continued to drive investors toward more traditional sectors and markets.

Among the Nifty constituents, BSE, Nestle India and Tata Consumer Products emerged as the top gainers, leading the benchmark higher.

The broader market also ended in positive territory, although gains were relatively muted compared with the frontline indices. The Nifty Midcap 100 rose 1.06 per cent, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 advanced 0.31 per cent.

RBI eases forex rules for small exporters and importers of services

Mumbai, Nov 3 (Way to News): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has eased the foreign exchange reporting requirements for small exporters and importers of services. Under the amended Foreign Exchange Management (Export and Import of Goods and Services) Regulations, 2026, individual service exporters will be deemed to have submitted the Export Declaration Form (EDF) once they provide the required payment-related information to their authorised dealer bank for crediting the proceeds to their accounts.



For exporters other than resident individuals, the same treatment will apply if the inward remittance for the service is not more than Rs 10 lakh or its equivalent in foreign currency. The RBI notified the changes on Tuesday through the Foreign Exchange Management (Export and Import of Goods and Services) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2026. The revised norms have come into effect retrospectively from October 1. The Reserve Bank has also eased reporting requirements for imports of services under the Import Data Processing and Monitoring System (IDPMS) subject to certain conditions.

Under the revised rules, authorised dealer banks will be required to enter service import details in IDPMS within five working days of receiving the details, only for importers other than resident individuals, and where the invoice or contract value exceeds Rs 10 lakh. The amended provision specifies that banks must enter details of service imports "where the invoice or the contract value is more than Rs 10 lakh or its equivalent in foreign currency". This effectively removes the IDPMS reporting requirement for resident individuals and for other importers undertaking service imports valued at up to Rs 10 lakh.

Crude Oil Prices Rebound Amid Fresh Middle East Tensions, Supply Disruption Concerns

New Delhi, Nov 3 (Way to News): Global crude oil prices on Tuesday rebounded in early hours after US forces reportedly had struck Iran's Qeshm Island, heightening concerns over a potential escalation in regional tensions and renewed threats to energy supplies from the Middle East. Brent crude — the international oil benchmark rose 61 cents or 0.58 per cent to $105.38 a barrel. Similarly, US West Texas Intermediate crude gained 71 cents or 0.73 per cent to $97.17 a barrel in early trade. The rebound followed a sharp decline in the previous session when Brent settled $8.66 or 7.6 per cent lower at $104.77 a barrel.



Reports — citing US officials — claim that American forces targeted Qeshm Island in an operation described by some officials as defensive to limit Iran's ability to threaten commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.

Meanwhile, market participants said the development prompted traders to reintroduce a geopolitical risk premium into crude prices.

The latest military developments come even as diplomatic channels remain active. In addition, Tehran said discussions with Washington aimed at ending the conflict are continuing, although recent talks mediated by Qatar concluded without a breakthrough despite revised proposals from the Iranian side.

US President Donald Trump also signalled uncertainty over the prospect of renewed military action, saying an agreement with Tehran remained possible.

TRAI overhauls telecom complaint system

New Delhi, Nov 3 (Way to News): The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Monday issued the Telecom Consumers Complaint Redressal (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2026, strengthening the consumer grievance redressal framework through round-the-clock complaint support, improved accessibility for Persons with Disabilities, faster filing and disposal of complaints and appeals.

It also enhanced digital access, stronger oversight mechanisms and financial disincentives for non-compliance to strengthen consumer grievance redressal.

The amended regulations shall apply to Internet Service Providers having over 10,000 subscribers as on the last day of the preceding financial year, according to the official statement. The existing alternative criterion based on annual financial turnover exceeding 5 crore has been dispensed with thus simplifying the applicability clause.

Consumers will now be able to register complaints and appeals, raise service requests, and make service-related queries through the service provider's mobile application, in addition to the existing channels of the Complaint Centre, website and web portal.

Consumer support through Complaint Centres will be available round the clock on all days of the week, instead of the existing 16-hour arrangement.

Such support may be provided through human representatives, automated systems, Al agents, other customer-centric technological solutions, or a combination thereof.

Technology-based solutions shall function with appropriate human oversight and it will ensure ease and convenience to consumers and gives flexibility to service providers in manning the complaint centres. "Every service provider shall equip dedicated desks or helplines in their Complaint Centre or Consumer support centres, with personnel or assistive technology capable of receiving calls from persons with disabilities (PwDs)," the statement said.

Service providers will ensure that their mobile app, website and portal have accessibility features in accordance with the applicable guidelines or standards on accessibility for Persons with Disabilities issued by the Central government.

India's Car Sales Breach All-Time High Of 5 Lakh Units In Oct

New Delhi, Nov 3 (Way to News): Domestic passenger vehicle wholesales breached a record 5-lakh mark in October, driven by a strong festive demand, with leading automakers such as Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai and Mahindra & Mahindra recording their highest-ever monthly sales.

Domestic passenger vehicle wholesale dispatches, comprising cars and SUVs, from factories to retail dealers, which constitute wholesales, are estimated in the range of 5.25-5.3 lakh units in October this year, against 4.6 lakh units in October 2025. This represents a growth of around 13-15 per cent, which comes on top of a high base in the same month last year.

Market leader Maruti Suzuki reported domestic passenger vehicle dispatches of 2.12 lakh units in October, which represents growth of 20 per cent year-on-year. Tata Motors recorded 21 per cent growth to 73,894 units, while M&M posted a 2 per cent rise to record 73,338 units. Hyundai registered a 16.7 per cent increase in domestic wholesales to 62,799 units. With Dhanteras and Diwali in the first half of November, October wholesales largely reflect dealers stocking up ahead of peak festive deliveries. October registrations, by contrast, are expected to decline against last year's high festive base, as a significant share of festive deliveries shifts into November, said Gaurav Vangaal, associate Director for Light Vehicle Production Forecasting at Mobility Global. October's growth comes on a high base. In 2025, sales from mid-August to mid-September were subdued as buyers held off purchases , expecting a GST cut. After the lower rates took effect.

Ambuja Cements envisions 30 MTPA expansion with Rs 14,500 crore growth capex programme

Ahmedabad, Nov 3 (Way to News): Ambuja Cements Limited on Monday said it has firmed up its next phase of expansion, with new greenfield and brownfield projects planned to add 30 MTPA of cement capacity across key markets with a total growth capex programme of around Rs 14,500 crore.



The programme will expand its manufacturing network across the high-growth markets in East, West and North, building on its current 113.5 MTPA pan-India cement capacity across 24 integrated plants and 24 grinding units, said the company, which is part of the Adani Portfolio and one of India's leading building materials solutions providers. "Our next phase of expansion is focused on quality of growth and creating a more balanced manufacturing network. By strengthening the link between clinker and grinding capacity and expanding closer to the high growth potential key markets, we are building greater flexibility into the network," said Vinod Bahety, CEO – Cement Business, Adani Group. The proposed expansion will take its capacity to 155 MTPA by FY30.

"As we scale, our focus is on combining market reach with logistics and cost efficiencies so that every capacity addition strengthens the competitiveness of the overall business. We have a vibrant supply chain ecosystem with stronger Brand Equity and share of Premium Cement in these markets. The growth footprint will compliment well with our value-based strategic growth," Bahety noted.

The expansion includes new grinding capacities of 15.5 MTPA in West Cluster, 11.6 MTPA in East Cluster, and 2.9 MTPA in North Cluster. The programme also includes new clinker capacity in East cluster at Umrangso (4 MTPA) in Assam, West cluster at Maratha (4 MTPA) and Mundra (2.3 MTPA), strengthening the upstream network required to support the expanded grinding footprint.

"Apart from increasing market share, these capacities will also help to reduce manufacturing cost by bringing higher efficiencies. Being closer to the market, it will also help in reducing lead distance and thereby logistics cost. In all, it will pave the journey to achieve a cost of Rs 4,000 PMT by FY28," said Bahety.

During H1 FY27, the company added 4.6 MTPA through the 1.2 MTPA brownfield expansion at Dahej in Gujarat, the new 2.4 MTPA Salai Banwa Grinding Unit in Uttar Pradesh and a 1.0 MTPA brownfield.



UPI daily transaction value crosses Rs 1 lac crore mark in October

New Delhi, Nov 3 (Way to News): The average daily transaction value on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) crossed Rs 1 lakh crore for the first time in October, with the cumulative monthly transaction value touching a record Rs 31.53 lakh crore, partly driven by increased consumer spending during the festive season.



The previous record for average daily transaction value was around Rs 98,000 crore, registered in September 2026. UPI also crossed the Rs 30 lakh crore monthly transaction value milestone for the first time, surpassing the previous high of Rs 29.9 lakh crore recorded in May 2026. According to data available with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the country's most popular digital payments platform processed 25.47 billion transactions in October, averaging 821 million transactions per day.

NPCI operates UPI, which accounts for around 89 per cent of all digital payments in the country.

UPI generally records higher transaction volumes in months with 31 days, owing to the additional consumer spending compared to a typical 30-day month.

The previous highest average daily transaction volume was recorded in September at 802 million, while the highest monthly transaction volume stood at 24.5 billion, registered in August.

Assam govt plans to 'double' farmer producer companies, expand potato farming

Guwahati, Nov 3 (Way to News): Assam Agriculture Minister Pijush Hazarika on Monday directed officials to work towards doubling the number of Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) in the state while emphasising crop diversification and stronger market linkages to enhance farmers' income.



Chairing a review meeting at Krishi Bhawan in Khanapara, Hazarika assessed the progress of various agricultural initiatives, including the Makhana Mission, Edible Oil Palm Mission and Pulse Mission.

He also reviewed the proposed Rajmah Mission in the Barak Valley. The Minister stressed the need to move beyond conventional paddy cultivation and promote alternative crops such as makhana, agarwood, edible oil palm, coconut and dragon fruit, besides other fruits and horticultural produce.

He directed senior officials to ensure timely implementation of departmental schemes, strengthen accountability and improve grassroots-level engagement so that government initiatives deliver tangible benefits to farmers. Hazarika also highlighted the state government's vision of transforming Assam into a leading horticulture-based state by exploiting the agricultural potential of individual districts. In a separate meeting with representatives of another unit, the Minister explored opportunities to expand potato cultivation and strengthen the company's partnership with farmers across Assam.

This unit, which operates a plant in Nalbari, currently has around 1,200 potato farmers associated with its operations in the state and has a significant requirement for potatoes. Hazarika emphasised the need to expand the existing engagement to more farmers through stronger market linkages, ensuring assured opportunities for potato growers and improving their income. The discussions focused on strengthening the farmer-industry partnership and exploring ways to increase potato production to meet the company's requirements.

The Minister said strengthening the agriculture sector, encouraging crop diversification and promoting industry-farmer partnerships would remain key priorities of the state government.

IPL 2027: Punjab Kings hold the edge in race to seal Hardik Pandya trade deal

New Delhi, Nov 3 (Way to News): Punjab Kings (PBKS) have edged ahead of others in the race to secure the services of Hardik Pandya via a trade deal with Mumbai Indians (MI) ahead of the November 17 retention deadline for the 2027 Indian Premier League (IPL) season understands that apart from PBKS, who have been very aggressive in vying for Pandya, Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), Rajasthan Royals (RR) and Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) have also been in the running to acquire the premier seam-bowling all-rounder.



"Yes, this is true that as of now, Punjab Kings have their noses ahead to get Pandya. If all falls in place, as per the verbal discussions between the top management of the two teams, the formal paperwork to complete Pandya's trade can start soon and then the approval from the IPL officials will be sought," a source tracking the development told on Tuesday.

Under the proposed swap, understands that if Pandya goes to PBKS, left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh and wicketkeeper-batter Vishnu Vinod are likely to head to MI. Arshdeep is currently in New Zealand, where he is part of India's fast-bowling attack in the five-match ODI series that starts in Auckland on Wednesday. Vinod, meanwhile, was part of the MI set-up in IPL 2023 and played four games for them. PBKS's rivals in the race to get Pandya's services have appeared to fall behind. KKR, who need a new captain following Ajinkya Rahane's retirement, did reach an advanced stage in talks with MI over Pandya's trade.

But three-time winners KKR were not willing to part with their core players, and the talks did not result in a deal. RR, the inaugural edition winners, have also been keen to get Pandya by offering to send Yashasvi Jaiswal and Ravi Bishnoi to MI in exchange, but there has not been much progress. LSG's attempts to get Pandya did not make much headway. Chennai Super Kings (CSK) were also said to have shown early interest, but it did not develop further. If the MI-PBKS trade goes through, the Shreyas Iyer-led side will gain an all-rounder in Pandya who is capable of winning games with both bat and ball. MI, on their part, would get a marquee Indian left-arm fast bowler who can bowl in all phases, as well as add another Indian wicket-keeping option.

"If somehow the MI-PBKS trade talks don't materialise, Pandya will not mind playing another year at MI, possibly under Rohit Sharma's captaincy, before the mega auction happens next year," another source tracking the deal told. It is also understood that if the Pandya deal is done, PBKS are looking to add left-arm pacer Mohsin Khan in exchange for Australia's seam-bowling all-rounder Marcus Stoinis, whose role could shrink with his addition to the set-up.

Vaishnavi Sharma Climbs to 94th in ODI Rankings

Dubai, Nov 3 (Way to News): India's young spinner Vaishnavi Sharma made a significant leap in the latest ICC Women's ODI rankings following her impressive performance in the three-match series against Zimbabwe, climbing 53 places to reach 94th position in the bowling charts. The 20-year-old spinner emerged as the biggest gainer among Indian players after delivering an outstanding performance in the series, particularly in the third and final ODI, where she registered her maiden five-wicket haul in the format.



After picking up four wickets in the second ODI, Vaishnavi continued her impressive run with figures of 5/39 in the series finale. The performance, which came in only her third appearance in the 50-over format, earned her the Player of the Match award and helped India complete a 3-0 clean sweep.

Vaishnavi's rise was not the only positive development for India in the bowling rankings, with Sayali Satghare also making notable progress. The pacer climbed 18 places to 85th after an impressive display in the final ODI, where she returned figures of 2/11 in six overs and bowled 30 dot balls.

Meanwhile, left-arm spinner Kranti Gaud moved up one place to 24th after claiming two wickets in the third ODI. For Zimbabwe, Nomvelo Sibanda gained two places to reach 60th in the bowling rankings. She made an early impact in the final match by dismissing India's Yastika Bhatia off the first ball of the innings.

In the batting rankings, India opener Pratika Rawal climbed three places to 18th following another consistent performance against Zimbabwe. Rawal registered her third consecutive half-century of the series, continuing her impressive run with the bat. Fellow opener Shafali Verma also gained ground, moving up eight places to join the 65th after scoring an attacking 51 in the final match.

Weightlifting: DPR Korea's song sets sights on olympic gold after record-breaking run

Ningbo (China), Nov 3 (Way to News): DPR Korea's Song Kuk Hyang broke all three women's 69kg world records at the World Weightlifting Championships on Tuesday before declaring her ambition to win gold at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

The 25-year-old lifted 122kg in the snatch and 153kg in the clean and jerk for a combined total of 275kg, improving the three world records she set at the Asian Games in September by one, one and two kilograms, respectively. Her compatriot Ri Suk took silver with a total of 259kg, while Colombia's Julieth Rodriguez claimed bronze with 245kg.



After completing her final lift, Song slammed the barbell onto the platform before grabbing the DPR Korea flag on her lifting suit and holding it up to the crowd in celebration. Speaking to Xinhua in a rare interview following her victory, Song credited her coach for helping her achieve the record-breaking performance. "Above all, I want to say a big thank-you to my coach comrade, who has helped me become the holder of all three world records," she said.

With the Ningbo championships marking the start of the qualification process for the Los Angeles Olympics, Song said her focus had already shifted toward winning the sport's biggest prize. "I am training hard at the moment, and I will redouble my efforts to win the Olympic gold medal," she said.

Asked about her immediate plans, Song replied: "To keep up the high-intensity training." Song overcame an unsuccessful opening snatch attempt at 114kg before setting a world record of 122kg with her final lift. She then lifted 153kg on her second clean-and-jerk attempt before opting to skip her third.

Despite her dominance, Song acknowledged the strength of her international rivals, including those from China, which did not field a competitor in the women's 69kg category. "Chinese athletes are every bit as strong as ours. We will keep taking on not only Chinese athletes but every athlete in the world," she said. The women's 69kg competition marked DPR Korea's final event at the championships. The country has won every women's 69kg competition it has entered since the introduction of the new weight classes at last year's world championships.

Glenn Maxwell Retires from International Cricket After Stellar Career

New Delhi, Nov 3 (Way to News): Australia's explosive all-rounder Glenn Maxwell announced his retirement from international cricket on Monday, bringing the curtain down on a career spanning more than a decade across all three formats. According to ESPNcricinfo, Maxwell, who represented Australia in 286 international matches, scored 7,226 runs and claimed 136 wickets during his career. Nicknamed 'The Big Show', the 38-year-old was a key member of Australia's successful campaigns in the 2015 and 2023 ODI World Cups and the 2021 T20 World Cup.



After making his International debut in an ODI against Afghanistan in 2012, Maxwell went onto become one of the most destructive white-ball batters of his generation, known for his unorthodox stroke-play, power-hitting and how he can change the course of a game. Maxwell is also the joint holder of most T20I centuries – five – with India's Rohit Sharma. One of the turning points of his career was the 2023 ODI World Cup league-stage game with Afghanistan at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. With cramps and his movement, Maxwell scored an incredible 201 not out off only 128 balls as Australia defeated Afghanistan by three wickets while chasing 292.

Before Maxwell's miraculous innings, Australia had been 91/7 and seemingly on the brink of defeat in the seventh over. Maxwell's last Test for Australia was in 2017, with the Australia batsman having played 7 matches. He has largely been confined to limited-overs cricket since and has been significantly more successful in that format.

He had earlier declared his quit from ODI cricket after the 2025 Champions Trophy, with a parting shot of 3,990 runs in the format. His last T20I was against Oman in February this year.

Dhinidhi Desinghu wins historic bronze In women's 100m freestyle at youth olympics



New Delhi, Nov 3 (Way to News): There was a time when Dhinidhi Desinghu was so frightened of water that she ran back home in her swimsuit rather than enter a swimming pool.

On Monday, the 16-year-old Bengaluru swimmer stood on the podium at the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games, having clinched a bronze medal in the women's 100m freestyle.

Dhinidhi clocked a personal best of 56.27 seconds in the final to finish third behind Croatia's Ana Bobanovic (55.89) and New Zealand's Alyssa Lawson (56.13), becoming the first Indian female swimmer to reach a final at the Youth Olympics. For the teenager, who had once actively disliked swimming, the achievement marked a remarkable transformation from a reluctant beginner to one of India's most promising young swimmers. "I know I was really scared. There's a story from when I was six or seven… We went to the pool during summer break… I went to the pool and then ran back home in my swimsuit because I just hated being there," Dhinidhi told Olympics.com after winning her medal.

Her parents had to enter the pool themselves to persuade her to get into the water. Swimming was initially introduced as a recreational activity, largely because the pool was close to home and convenient for her parents to take her for lessons. Dhinidhi, who preferred spending time alone reading books rather than engaging in outdoor activities, gradually developed an interest in the sport as she grew older.

"I'm not really sure how I fell in love with swimming, but as the years went by, I grew to love it," she said.

Her competitive instincts eventually became a driving force, with swimming providing an outlet for her desire to challenge herself and win.

That determination took her to the Paris 2024 Olympics at just 14, where she was the youngest member of the Indian contingent.

For someone who had grown up watching the world's leading swimmers on television, competing alongside them was an unforgettable experience.

"You see these swimmers on TV, and suddenly they're standing next to you, competing in the same events, swimming in the same pool and even in the same lanes," she recalled. Among those who left her starstruck was French swimming sensation Leon Marchand.

Dakar 2026: Beyond Medals, Senegal's Wushu Journey Reaches Olympic Stage

Dakar (Senegal), Nov 3 (Way to News): A folding fan snaps open. A foot strikes the floor with a powerful stomp. A long staff slices through the air before trembling to a halt. At the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games, the movements of Chinese martial arts have come alive on an Olympic stage for the first time. For Ousmane Sakho, head coach of Senegal's national wushu team, the sight of his young athletes competing at an Olympic event on home soil represents the fulfilment of a dream he once considered impossible.

"Never in my life!" Sakho exclaimed when asked whether he had imagined such a moment. "In the beginning, we trained with almost nothing. I would never have imagined bringing young people to the Youth Olympics here in Senegal."

His journey began decades earlier, when a kung fu film on a videotape introduced him to Chinese martial arts. "I was immediately fascinated," he recalled.

Wushu soon became more than a sporting pursuit. It taught him to control his body, confront difficulties and find what he described as "inner peace."

At 20, Sakho decided to devote himself to promoting the sport in Senegal, where football dominates the sporting landscape, and wushu has long struggled for recognition, reports Xinhua. But enthusiasm could not provide a training hall, equipment, or a steady income. For more than a decade, he continued teaching despite limited resources, driven by his belief in the sport's value to young people. Then came an opportunity he had never expected: wushu would make its debut as an official medal sport at Dakar 2026.



Appointed coach of Senegal's youth wushu team, Sakho began preparing a new generation of athletes for the biggest competition of their lives. Among them were Mahib Amar and Woreye Ndiaye, both 16, who would eventually represent the host nation at the Games. But reaching the Olympic stage required more than determination.

Unlike the forms of martial arts Sakho had spent years teaching, competitive wushu demands precise execution of standardised routines, with strict requirements governing technique, direction, difficulty, and movement. With limited exposure to elite international competition, the Senegalese coach and his athletes faced a steep learning curve.

In April 2025, Sakho travelled to China for a training course organised by the International Wushu Federation, studying the third set of international competition routines.

Chinese coach Zheng Jutian, who met Sakho during the course, recalled that he was initially unfamiliar with some of the required movements. Their sessions focused on correcting techniques and explaining the finer details that could lead to deductions in international competition. Sakho later returned to China with his athletes, including a trip to Tianjin for the World Junior Wushu Championships in March 2026, an important qualification event for the Dakar Games. In August, he brought four young athletes back to Tianjin for nearly two months of intensive training at the Tianjin Huo Yuanjia Civil and Military School.

Spanish police open investigation into death of Tenerife forward Jesus de Miguel

New Delhi, Nov 3 (Way to News): Spanish police have launched an investigation into possible involuntary manslaughter following the death of CD Tenerife forward Jesus de Miguel, who died after suffering serious injuries in an on-field collision with an opposing goalkeeper during a Spanish second-division match.



The 30-year-old striker suffered head and chest injuries after colliding with Andorra goalkeeper Jesus Owono during the closing stages of Monday's match at the Estadio Heliodoro Rodriguez Lopez. He was immediately attended to by medical personnel before being taken to hospital.

According to, Spain's National Police confirmed on Tuesday that an investigation had been opened into the circumstances surrounding the incident, with prosecutors also expected to be involved in the proceedings. De Miguel was admitted to the intensive care unit at the University Hospital of Nuestra Senora de Candelaria after the collision. He reportedly suffered a cardiac arrest on the pitch but was resuscitated by medical personnel. His condition was initially described as stable but serious before deteriorating neurologically on Tuesday morning. He passed away at 8 am local time.

The match was abandoned following the incident, while Andorra goalkeeper Owono was shown a straight red card by the referee. Andorra, owned by former Barcelona defender Gerard Pique, expressed its condolences following the Tenerife forward's death.

Dawid Malan named Venice Livewires captain; KC Cariappa joins squad for Italia T10

Venice, Nov 3 (Way to News): Venice Livewires have strengthened their squad ahead of the upcoming Italia T10 League with the signing of Indian leg-spinner KC Cariappa, while former England international Dawid Malan has been appointed captain of the franchise. The twin announcements mark an important step in Venice Livewires' preparations for the competition, bringing together international batting experience and specialist bowling talent.



Dawid Malan, one of England's most accomplished white-ball batters, will lead the side. Known for his consistency, composure and ability to perform under pressure, Malan brings considerable international and franchise cricket experience to the leadership role. His appointment is expected to provide stability and direction to the team as they prepare for the fast-paced T10 format.

KC Cariappa's inclusion adds variety and depth to the bowling department. The Indian leg-spinner has experience in the Indian domestic circuit and the Indian Premier League (IPL), having represented franchises including Kolkata Knight Riders and Kings XI Punjab. Recognised for his variations and ability to challenge batters, Cariappa will add another dimension to the Venice Livewires bowling attack. With Malan taking charge as captain and Cariappa joining the squad, Venice Livewires are building a competitive combination for the upcoming Italia T10 League.

The franchise is focused on assembling a balanced squad featuring experienced international cricketers and emerging talent, with the ambition of making a strong impact in the tournament.

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English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Emraan Hashmi: Music Connects Audiences to Films



Bollywood star Emraan Hashmi, who returns to the horror genre with "Rooh", has talked about how music plays an integral part for the audience to connect with his films.

Speaking about the film's musical vision, Emraan said in a statement: "Collaborating with Kumarji on this film feels serendipitous. Music has always been an integral part of how audiences connect with my films."

"With ROOH, we want music that captures the soul of the film, which is deeply romantic, haunting and rooted by emotion."

Kumar Taurani of Tips Films and Tips Music joins hands with Emraan to produce ROOH, a musical horror film that places emotion at the heart of its cinematic vision.

Kumar Taurani added: "The association with Emraan is special, as we were also the producers on his debut film Footpath. Over the years, we have had many memorable successes across several films and with Rooh we are excited to recreate that magic once again. I am also excited to collaborate with Sunny Khanna and Vikram Khakhar on this project and we look forward to bringing the compelling experience of a theatrical film back to the audiences." Directed by Mayank Sharma, written by Vishal Kapoor and Mayank Sharma, the film brings together a theatrical experience that combines the genres of horror and romance with music being a central part of the narrative.

Vikram Khakhar, Producer, Vicked Films Productions, said, "Rooh is a very special project for us. Having Tips Films and Tips Music join us is a significant milestone. We are collectively excited to bring an immersive and memorable horror experience to audiences in theatres in 2027."

Sunny Khanna, Producer, said: "We are delighted to have Kumar Taurani and Girissh Kumar join us on Rooh. Their legacy across the film and music industries makes this association particularly exciting, especially for a film in which music plays such an integral role." "With this partnership, we look forward to taking Rooh to audiences across Hindi, Tamil and Telugu markets."

Rooh is presented by Tips Films and is an A Vicked Films Production. Directed by Mayank Sharma, the film is produced by Kumar Taurani, Girissh Kumar, Vikram Khakhar and Sunny Khanna. Written by Vishal Kapoor and Mayank Sharma, the film is co-produced by Vikas Sahni, with music on Tips Music.

The film is slated for a 2027 theatrical release in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

Raashii Khanna highlights complexities of mother-daughter relationships, says love and hurt can coexist



Actress Raashii Khanna reflected on the complexities of mother-daughter relationships. She highlighted how love, hurt, and admiration can exist within the same bond. Taking to Instagram, Raashii shared her thoughts on Arundhati Roy's memoir 'Mother Mary Comes to Me' and praised the author's honest portrayal of her relationship with her mother, Mary Roy. The actress spoke about how Mary Roy was a strong feminist who challenged societal norms and carved out her own identity, but whose fierce personality also caused emotional pain to those closest to her.

"There is something extraordinary about 'Mother Mary Comes to Me': the way Arundhati Roy holds the contradictions of a woman who could be both a force of nature and a source of deep hurt," she wrote.

Raashii observed that Arundhati's account neither overlooked her mother's achievements nor concealed the emotional challenges their relationship involved. Reflecting further on the emotional depth of the memoir, the actress said it explored what it meant to love someone who had caused pain while acknowledging their humanity without dismissing one's own hurt. "Mary Roy was a formidable feminist who challenged the world and carved out a place for herself, yet the same fierce, uncontained spirit could wound those closest to her. Arundhati writes of her with a startling honesty that neither diminishes her mother's achievements nor conceals the wreckage left behind. What emerges is an inheritance of extraordinary complexity: a daughter shaped by the very person she has struggled to understand, carrying both her mother's fire and the scars of its burning," she added. Her post further reads, "The memoir asks what it means to love someone who has hurt you, to recognise their humanity without denying your own pain, and to live with the knowledge that tenderness and cruelty can inhabit the same person.

It is a portrait of motherhood, memory, rage and resilience, and of how the private lives behind public triumphs are rarely as simple as the world imagines. Perhaps its greatest achievement is that it makes room for a woman to be a revolutionary and a deeply flawed mother, and for a daughter to tell the truth about both."

Raashii also shared a series of photographs of herself reading the book.

In terms of work, she will next be seen in the upcoming film "Mauja Hi Mauja," which also stars Akshay Kumar and Vidya Balan.

The actress's reflection has drawn attention to the memoir's central theme of navigating complicated family bonds. Through her post, Raashii underlined how personal relationships are often shaped by conflicting emotions, where admiration and affection can coexist with disappointment and pain.

Arundhati Roy's Mother Mary Comes to Me explores her relationship with her mother, Mary Roy, a renowned educationist and women's rights activist. The memoir offers an intimate account of their complex bond, tracing the influence of her mother's personality and experiences on her own life and literary journey.

Raashii's appreciation of the book also highlights the growing interest among celebrities in literature that explores personal experiences, emotional resilience and relationships. Her post encouraged followers to look beyond public achievements and understand the complex personal stories that often shape individuals.

On the film front, Raashii continues to remain active across different film industries. Her upcoming project, Mauja Hi Mauja, featuring Akshay Kumar and Vidya Balan, is among her anticipated releases.

Tara Sutaria revisits her favourite food experiences in London, talks about her love for oysters



Actress Tara Sutaria took a culinary trip down memory lane as she shared glimpses of her favourite food experiences in London. The 'Marjaavaan' actress revealed her love for the city's diverse offerings. Taking to Instagram, Tara reflected on spending 25 summers and winters in the British capital and listed some of the things she never gets tired of, with food featuring prominently in her post.

From freshly prepared vongole and scallops to oysters, escargot and truffle ravioli, the actress offered a glimpse of the dishes she enjoyed. She also mentioned her fondness for Irish rock oysters, crème brûlée, baked camembert and a Milanese dish. Tara's post also highlighted her appreciation for London's cultural and dining experiences. She mentioned enjoying live jazz and wine evenings, along with watching the musical 'The Phantom of the Opera', which she said she had seen for the 30th or 31st time. The 'Ek Villain Returns' actress also shared pictures capturing London's streets, restaurants, food and a rare moment of sunshine, giving her followers a glimpse into her time in the city.

Sharing a series of photos, Tara wrote, "The east or the west end, you end up in the best end. (Dame Shirley Bassey was not wrong Twenty five summers/winters in London later, here are a few things i never tire of.. (mostly food)- Cooking the best Vongole- @boisdale_restaurants live jazz and wine nights- @devonshiresoho scallops- crisp afternoons perfect for a cheeky selfie- Pillowy, flaky salt sprinkled bread and the best butter in town, again at @devonshiresoho- My 30th/31st time watching The Phantom Of the Opera so an espresso martini was in order- @libertylondon needs no introduction – just the best."

"- A moment of appreciation for 2 minutes of sunlight lol (A rare sight in London) – @brasseriezedel my favourite escargot, oysters and crème brûlée. More like home than a restaurant now! – A gorgeous Milanese, crumbed to perfection The oceans best, dinner.. @sancarlo_cicchetti- A dirty martini and my favourite.. gorgeous Irish rock oysters- A sublime take on the Alfredo. This one was with truffle- Mornings- Can't ever have enough oysters- Quiet corners at Boisdale Belgravia- more truffle cream in and on ravioli- marrow, baked camembert and escargot," she added.

On the professional front, Tara Sutaria is set to share screen space with Aditya Roy Kapur for the first time in an upcoming untitled film. Backed by Bhushan Kumar, the film has been described as an intense, violent and musical love story and will be directed by Milap Zaveri. Co-produced by Shiv Chanana, the project is scheduled to go on floors later this year and is slated for a theatrical release in 2027. Tara's post received attention from fans, who appreciated her candid celebration of London's food culture and her long-standing connection with the city. Her pictures showcased not only her culinary preferences but also the little experiences, familiar places and cultural attractions that have made London a special destination for her over the years.

Elnaaz Norouzi: India Will Always Be Home



She described it as a path shaped by hard work, learning and new experiences. Norouzi also expressed her strong connection with India, saying she considers it very much her country. Speaking to IANS, Elnaaz reflected on how her journey has evolved over the years, admitting that making her way in the industry was not easy and required considerable effort.

"I mean, my journey has definitely evolved. I'm not going to lie, it wasn't easy and it was a lot of hard work. It was a lot of me learning a lot of new things and finding my way through to the destination that I want to be at," she said. The actress said she feels grateful to have had the opportunity to work across different countries and entertainment industries. While she continues to explore opportunities internationally, she shared that India holds a special place in her heart.

"And I think I can say I'm really grateful to be able to work in all of these territories that are not necessarily mine, in countries that are not necessarily mine, even though I see India very much as my country. But to be now venturing out to Hollywood and getting these opportunities is beautiful," she added.

For the unversed, Elnaaz was born in Tehran, Iran, and moved to Hanover, Germany, with her family when she was eight years old. She grew up in Germany before moving to India to pursue a career in the entertainment industry. She rose to prominence for her portrayal of Zoya Mirza in the popular web series 'Sacred Games.' She will next be seen in the upcoming film 'The Fix.' The actress said the movie, which is based on a true story, will feature plenty of action, along with several unexpected twists and turns. She also teased that the film will see her in a completely different avatar, offering audiences a fresh side of her acting abilities.

Elnaaz said, "I think what you can expect from The Fix is a lot of action, a lot of real stories, because this film is based on a true story. You can expect a lot of twists and turns, and you can expect me in a totally different avatar."

Mona Singh: 'Jassi' Changed My Life

Actress Mona Singh, who has enjoyed a successful run on screen in 2026 with projects such as 'Happy Patel', 'Border 2', 'Kohrra' season 2, 'Subedaar', 'Maa Kasam' and 'Pritam Pedro', has reflected on her journey of over two decades in the entertainment industry.

The actress opened up about the struggles she faced during her initial days in Mumbai and recalled how determination and support from her family helped her navigate the early challenges of building a career in acting.

Recalling her father's advice when she first considered moving to Mumbai, Mona said her family stood firmly behind her despite her being new to the industry and having no professional contacts."When I started my acting journey, I was very new and didn't know anyone in the industry, but my family supported me. My dad had told me not to shift right away. He said, 'Since you don't have work at the moment, I don't want you to move there right now. You don't know anybody there. Once something is confirmed, then you can move.' I said, 'Okay'," she recalled. The actress further spoke about travelling between Pune and Mumbai for auditions, describing the long journeys and repeated disappointments she experienced before landing her breakthrough role. "Back then, I was still new and didn't have much experience. I used to travel from Pune via the old highway to Mumbai. I would get off at Dadar, travel to Mahalakshmi for auditions, and return home at 11 at night.



When Manoj Bajpayee spoke about his drunken encounter with Mahesh Bhatt during 1st meeting



The 3 time National Award-winning actor Manoj Bajpayee, who was recently seen in 'Last Man in Tower', once spoke about his drunken encounter with filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt. A clip from one of Kapil Sharma's shows has resurfaced on the Internet, and it shows the actor along with director Anubhav Sinha talking about his meeting with Mahesh Bhatt at his house. Mahesh Bhatt had invited the actor to his house for a chat after he was impressed with his work. However, the evening took a mind-altering turn when Manoj was served the alcohol by the director.

He said, "Once, I got a message from Mahesh Bhatt. He said, 'I have seen your episode. You call me on this number, right now'. It was 10:30 pm. I called him up, he asked me what I was doing. I said, 'Sir, I am not doing anything'. He told me to come. I went and he saw the episode of 'Swahimaan'. He praised it a lot. He asked me if I would like to have a drink. How do I say this? It was Mahesh Bhatt's first meeting. I was in my senses. He kept a bottle in front of me. He asked me to have a drink. I was meeting Mahesh Bhatt for the first time, such a big name". The actor then went on to share, how hilariously drunk he got during his 1st meeting with the critically and commercially acclaimed director.

"He asked me if I knew what it was. I said, 'Sir, it's whisky'. I had a drink. I felt as if I was drinking water. You were fooling me. Whenever he went inside for some work, I would make another drink, have it, and behave as if nothing happened. After an hour, I saw 4 Mahesh Bhatt sir. After 40 minutes, I couldn't understand if these are the right people. Or these are the right people. Or these are the wrong people", he added.

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