WAY TO NEWS

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EC announces special summary revision of electoral rolls in 6 states, UTs



New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News): The Election Commission on Thursday announced that the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls in six more states and Union Territories, including Chandigarh, will begin on November 20, with the final voters' list scheduled to be published on January 21, 2027.

The six states and Union Territories are Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Mizoram, Odisha and Sikkim. As per the schedule announced by the EC, rationalisation of polling stations will be completed by November 20, 2026.

The integrated draft electoral rolls will be published on November 30, 2026, while the period for filing claims and objections will run from November 30 to December 30, 2026.

The claims and objections will be disposed of by January 16, 2027, and the final electoral rolls will be published on January 21, 2027. The six states and Union Territories are in addition to the 17 states and Union Territories for which the poll body announced the SSR schedule last month. This takes the total number of states and Union Territories where the SSR is to be held to 23.

The revision will be conducted in states and Union Territories where the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has been completed. These include states where Assembly elections are due early next year, including Punjab.

The 23 states and Union Territories are Punjab, Chandigarh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Mizoram, Odisha and Sikkim.

SSR normally follows the November-January schedule and was last held during the November 2024-January 2025 cycle. It was not conducted during the November 2025-January 2026 period as SIR was underway in the above-mentioned states and Union Territories.

The SSR is held annually to facilitate the enrolment of eligible electors and new voters with reference to the qualifying date of January 1, while also inviting advance applications for the three subsequent qualifying dates of April 1, July 1 and October 1. The EC further informed that the SSR schedule for states and Union Territories where SIR is underway or has just been completed will be announced later. These include Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland, the National Capital Territory of Delhi, Tripura and Telangana.

For Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, where SIR has not yet begun, the SSR schedule will be announced in due course, keeping in view the weather conditions.

Telangana Cabinet clears Rs 4,193-Cr Kaleshwaram restoration, welfare schemes



Hyderabad, Nov 5 (Way to News): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to undertake restoration works on the Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages of the Kaleshwaram project strictly in accordance with the recommendations of central government agencies and dam safety experts.

The Chief Minister held a review meeting with ministers and irrigation department officials to discuss the measures required to safely bring the three damaged barrages back into operation. He emphasized that the current government has a responsibility to safeguard the project and ensure that the errors committed by the previous administration are not repeated.

He instructed ministers to counter the false propaganda suggesting that water available at Medigadda is not being lifted. Irrigation department engineers clarified to the Chief Minister that, given the current conditions, it is technically unfeasible to lift the water present at that location.

It was explained—via a PowerPoint presentation—that for water lifted from Medigadda to reach Yellampalli, the gates of the Annaram and Sundilla barrages would need to be closed. However, it was noted that the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) has explicitly warned that the gates of the Annaram and Sundilla barrages—which suffer from structural defects—must be kept open.

The Chief Minister stated that, to prevent water in the lower Godavari from going to waste, the government has lifted water through the Devadula and Sitarama lift irrigation schemes on an unprecedented scale. With this, irrigation and drinking water have been provided to the command areas across the undivided districts of Warangal, Nalgonda, and Khammam.

It was noted that while an average of 9.57 TMC of water was lifted annually through the Devadula project during the previous administration, an average of 18.13 TMC has been lifted over the last three years—an 89% increase in the utilization of Godavari waters compared to the past. By October, 16.71 TMC of water was lifted via Devadula and 8.10 TMC via the Sitarama project, totaling 24.81 TMC of Godavari water put to effective use.

During the meeting, Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy and irrigation department officials presented a plan for the restoration of three barrages. The Chief Minister highlighted that since the current people-centric government assumed office, the state's agricultural area has expanded, and the state has achieved a national record in paddy yields.

It was explained that the Medigadda barrage suffered structural failure (sinking) due to errors made by the previous administration, and the reasons behind the failure of the barrages were detailed.

TN allocates Rs 812 cr for Annan seer scheme

Chennai, Nov 5 (Way to News): The Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay-led Tamil Nadu government has earmarked Rs 812 crore to provide eight-gram gold coins and pure silk sarees to 60,000 eligible brides during the 2026-27 financial year under the Annan Seer Thittam, reviving gold-based marriage assistance with revised eligibility conditions and quality standards.

The initiative marks the return of gold coin distribution under the state's marriage assistance programme, which had witnessed prolonged disruptions and policy changes under successive governments.

According to tender documents issued by the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department, approximately Rs 1.35 lakh has been allocated for each beneficiary towards purchasing an eight-gram gold coin and a silk saree. The government has prescribed stringent specifications to ensure the quality of the materials distributed.

SC Denies Immediate Relief to Azam Khan

New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News): The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to grant immediate relief to Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Mohammad Azam Khan in his plea challenging his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case and asked him to approach the Allahabad High Court.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi directed the apex court registry to transfer all records pertaining to the matter to the Allahabad High Court within two days and requested the High Court to list the petition before an appropriate Division Bench on November 16.

However, the CJI Kant-led Bench clarified that it was not expressing any opinion on the merits of the case.

The Supreme Court also granted Khan liberty to amend his petition and place additional material on record.

Jairam Ramesh questions Aadhaar replacement plan

New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News):Congress general secretary in charge of communications Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday questioned whether the Narendra Modi government has formally decided to replace Aadhaar with Voter ID as the means of identifying beneficiaries of social welfare programmes, warning that such a move could lead to large-scale exclusion of people from their entitlements.

Reacting to statements reportedly made twice in recent days by the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj, Ramesh asked whether the proposed change represented the official policy of the Modi government.

"Over the past few days the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj has said not once but twice that Voter ID will replace Aadhaar for identifying beneficiaries for social welfare programmes. Is this now official Modi Govt policy?" he said in a post on social media platform X.

CJP protests: Probe panel hardly received any complaints on Jantar Mantar stir violence, says SC



New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News): The Supreme Court on Thursday said the High-Powered Enquiry Committee (HPEC) appointed by it to probe alleged violence and police excesses during the CJP-led protests at Jantar Mantar in July has hardly received any complaints so far from those affected.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi allowed the Justice (Retd) R Subhash Reddy-led HPEC to examine materials, including video clips, submitted by petitioners before the court on behalf of the victims. It asked the panel to submit its report on police excesses within a month. Despite activating a portal and providing a dedicated email address for filing complaints online and physically, it had received hardly any responses, the panel told the Bench which urged the petitioners to encourage those affected to approach the committee and submit their accounts of the incidents. The complaints, which can be submitted anonymously without disclosing phone numbers or other personal details, should be examined by the panel, it said.

The Bench perused the action taken report filed by HPEC on October 31 and noted that the committee had created a dedicated portal inviting complaints and issued notices on October 17 in 149 newspapers across the country, asking people to submit their complaints virtually or physically or via registered post. "The report further indicates that there was hardly any response and therefore the Committee again reiterated the particulars on October 21. Despite the efforts, hardly any complaints have been received on the portal and none on email," the Bench said.

"We have impressed upon the counsel for the parties, since there is no requirement of disclosure of names of complainants/victims, let the entire materials within their possession be forwarded to the given address of HPEC or the portal, to enable it to consider such material. The petitions/affidavits filed before the Court be forwarded to the Committee," it said.

The top court directed that petitions, videos and complaints relating to the alleged incidents be forwarded to the panel, which also comprises former Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice Ravi Shankar Jha, former Delhi high court judge Justice Shalinder Kaur, former CBI director Rishi Kumar Shukla and retired Meghalaya DGP L R Bishnoi. It also accepted Bishnoi's request to be relieved from the panel due to personal reasons. The Bench asked the committee not to wait indefinitely for complaints and to proceed with its fact-finding exercise on the basis of the materials already received.

ECI places IT chief under dy Election Commissioner

New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has revised its work allocation order, bringing Director General (IT) Seema Khanna under the supervision of a Deputy Election Commissioner (DEC), restoring the earlier administrative reporting structure. Under the fresh work allocation order issued on November 4, Deputy Election Commissioner Prakash Raj Purohit has been assigned responsibility for the IT and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) divisions. Seema Khanna will now route files through him for matters relating to these divisions.

The revision follows a controversy over an earlier order dated July 28, which had reassigned IT and ICT-related responsibilities from then Deputy Election Commissioner Sanjay Kumar to Seema Khanna. The arrangement effectively removed the existing DEC-level supervisory channel and allowed the IT chief to submit files directly to the Commission. The move reportedly drew objections from Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, who wrote separate letters to Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan on July 29, questioning the manner in which the revised responsibilities had been allocated. They reportedly maintained that the order had been issued without the Commission's approval.

The Election Commission subsequently clarified that the July 28 order had never been implemented following the objections raised by the two Election Commissioners. In an affidavit submitted to the Supreme Court, the poll body stated that the earlier arrangement.

BrahMos deal set to get bigger? Philippines seeks more missiles from India



New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News): The Philippines is looking to acquire more BrahMos missile systems from India and is seeking greater cooperation with New Delhi in the military use of outer space.

Philippines National Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro disclosed the plans while addressing the 'Delhi Defence Dialogue', hosted by the think tank Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) in New Delhi. Teodoro addressed the audience via video conference on Wednesday.

"We hope to increase the number of BrahMos units we have, and have shared a wish list on the BrahMos to the Indian authorities in order to make it more tailor-made for the Philippine environment," Teodoro said.

He described the BrahMos as a "very capable weapon". Sources in India confirmed the development and indicated that the deal with the Philippines could be larger than the $375 million BrahMos deal India signed with the Southeast Asian country in 2022.

The BrahMos is a 300-km anti-ship missile produced under a joint venture between India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya. The Philippines procured the missile from India under a USD 375 million deal in 2022, with deliveries scheduled to be completed this year.

BrahMos has found eager customers among a group of countries around the South China Sea, including Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam. All three have opted for the coastal-launched anti-ship variant of the missile. The BrahMos also has a variant that can be fired from a ship at a land target, but it has not been exported so far.

Merchants can't pass on MDR charges to customers, NPCI tells Supreme Court



New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News): Merchants cannot pass on Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) charges to customers under the revised UPI pricing framework, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has told the Supreme Court.

In an affidavit filed in the top court, the NPCI submitted that UPI application providers cannot impose platform fees or other charges on users for making payments through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The affidavit has been filed in response to petitions challenging the amendment to Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, introduced through the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Act, 2026, the subsequent Finance Ministry notification and NPCI's revised MDR framework announced in September.

"The charge under the MDR is attracted only to a small fraction i.e. approximately 0.4 per cent, of P2M (person to merchant) transactions that exceed Rs 2,000 and thus, a measure confined so narrowly in its incidence affords less scope for merchants to recalibrate their pricing across their entire customer base merely on account of a charge that arises only occasionally and only above a defined value. Accordingly, the apprehension that the MDR Framework will result in quiet revision of prices is also misconceived," the NPCI said.

A Bench led by CJI Surya Kant had on September 28 issued notices to the Centre, the Reserve Bank of India and others on a PIL challenging the decision to impose a MDR on specified UPI person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions of over Rs 2,000. However, it had refused to stay the Centre's decision to impose MDR on specified UPI P2M transactions of over Rs. 2,000.

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Telangana global summit to feature climate conclave, 6 exhibition halls



Hyderabad, Nov 5 (Way to News): As part of the 'Invest Telangana Global Summit-2026', a 'Telangana Climate Conclave' will be held on December 8. This event will focus on the challenges posed by the El Niño effect and climate change, addressing both immediate response measures and long-term solutions. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy reviewed the progress of preparations for the 'Invest Telangana Global Summit-2026'—scheduled to take place from December 7 to 9 at the Young India Skills University campus in 'Bharat Future City'—with ministers and senior officials at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat.

Discussions were held comprehensively regarding the summit venue, the various halls, the invitation process for international delegates, and the overall management of the event. During the meeting, the Chief Minister provided several instructions to the ministers and officials. The Chief Minister directed that a dedicated liaison officer be assigned to every delegate attending the Global Summit. He emphasized that all relevant information regarding the summit should be provided to the delegates in advance, ensuring they face no difficulties during their visit.

He suggested extending invitations to the Chief Ministers of other states. Furthermore, he advised appointing a specific officer for each department, along with a dedicated security officer, and ordered that robust security arrangements be put in place for the summit.

He also directed that special invitations be extended to representatives of companies interested in establishing industries or entering into investment agreements. Officials have been directed to prepare a comprehensive plan for the summit arrangements by November 15.

Officials stated that the arrangements for this year's summit are being made on a much larger scale compared to last year's 'Telangana Rising Summit.' While there was only one expo hall previously, six exhibition halls are being set up this time.

The summit program has been designed with a focus on investments, industries, modern technology, innovations, and employment opportunities. Key components of the summit include the Raksha Expo, India Joy, a Startup Pavilion, a Pharma and Life Sciences Expo, an exhibition on agriculture and allied sectors, a Telangana Pavilion, an Education Expo, and a Climate Conclave.

The Raksha Expo will feature advanced equipment, drones, and robotics related to the defense, aerospace, space, and cybersecurity sectors. Plans are also underway to include aerial displays. So far, 49 organizations have come forward to participate in the Raksha Expo.

Special arrangements are being made for 'India Joy 2026,' which will focus on the animation, visual effects, gaming, and comics sectors.

A dedicated pavilion is being set up for startups, with plans to showcase innovations from 136 different startups. As part of the Telangana Innovation Startup Challenge, the government is inviting technological solutions for challenges in sectors such as agriculture, education, healthcare, the protection of government lands, and public infrastructure.

Arrangements are being made to showcase 60 companies from the pharma and life sciences sectors. The pavilion dedicated to agriculture and allied sectors will highlight modern farming techniques, agricultural drones, dairy, fisheries, and the food processing industry.

A dedicated 'Telangana Pavilion' is being set up to reflect the state's history, culture, handlooms, the Bathukamma festival, and the architectural legacy of the Kakatiyas, while also showcasing the state's development and future roadmap.

The Chief Minister has emphasized giving greater prominence to the tourism sector during the global summit. Furthermore, he has directed that a special 'Education Expo' be organized—covering the spectrum from 'nursery to Oxford' to highlight Telangana's educational landscape, with discussions focused on education, research, and skill development.

Kishan Reddy Calls for Faster Coal Gasification, Stronger Critical Minerals Ecosystem



Hyderabad, Nov 5 (Way to News): Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy on Thursday highlighted the need to accelerate coal gasification for the optimum utilisation of India's abundant coal resources and flagged the strategic importance of critical minerals in the evolving global geopolitical landscape. Addressing the conference of Mining Ministers on reforms in the mines and coal sector, being held in Goa, the minister said coal gasification would unlock the economic value of domestic coal, promote industrial diversification, generate employment, and strengthen the country's long-term energy security.

He urged coal-bearing states to actively facilitate investments, support infrastructure development, and accelerate project implementation to realise the sector's immense potential.

Highlighting the strategic importance of critical minerals, the minister stressed the need to strengthen domestic exploration, mining, processing, refining, and recycling capabilities. He emphasised that developing a self-reliant mineral ecosystem is essential to reducing import dependence and strengthening India's strategic and economic resilience. Emphasising the transformative role of technology, Reddy called upon state governments to harness Artificial Intelligence (AI), digitalisation and advanced technological solutions across exploration, mine operations and mineral recovery. He highlighted that technology-driven practices would improve productivity, operational efficiency and sustainability in the mining and coal sectors. The minister urged states to expedite the operationalisation of auctioned mines, accelerate the auction of new blocks, expand exploration activities and adopt technology-driven practices to unlock the full potential of their mineral resources. He also highlighted how mining sector reforms have strengthened state economies, attracted investments, generated employment opportunities and enhanced revenue generation, while promoting development in mining-affected regions.

Reddy called for stronger coordination between the Centre and states to unlock India's mineral and coal potential, strengthen the mining ecosystem and ensure sustainable and inclusive growth. He expressed confidence that collective efforts and a shared roadmap would take India's mining and coal sectors to new heights.

Addressing the conference, Coal Secretary Vikram Dev Dutt highlighted the significant progress made by India's coal sector and its vital role in strengthening the country's energy security and driving economic growth.

Rental dispute ends in murder in Kanchanbagh, six arrested

Hyderabad, Nov 5 (Way to News): Six people have been arrested in connection with the murder of a 35-year-old man near a hair salon in Hafeez Baba Nagar, Kanchanbagh Police said on Thursday, November 5. The accused have been identified as Aman Qureshi (35), Khaled Bin Abdus Samad Bayeesa Al Amoudi (34), Jaffar (36), Mohammed Shafiullah Qureshi (39), Mohammed Ali Abrar (21), and Dasthagir Mohiuddin Ahmed (20).

Two others, including the prime accused, Abdul Khader, and Muzamil, remain absconding.

According to the police, Abdul Khader was involved in a rental dispute with the deceased's uncle. He allegedly plotted to kill Syed Omer after he came up in support of his uncle. Khader contacted Aman Qureshi and his associates to kill the man. On November 3, Qureshi allegedly contacted Omer over a call and allegedly asked him to meet near SA Hair Cutting Salon and Men's Parlour Lane in Pathar-Ki-Makan, Hafeez Baba Nagar, on the pretext of solving the rental dispute.

When Omer showed up at the location, the accused allegedly surrounded him by engaging him in conversation. Qureshi then produced a knife from his clothes and started attacking Omer.

At this time, a different person, Syed Bin Mehfooz, arrived at the scene and tried to intervene. He was also stabbed in the process but survived.

Telangana aims to complete land survey by 2027



Hyderabad, Nov 5 (Way to News): The Telangana government aims to complete a comprehensive survey of every inch of land across the State by next year to ensure secure land ownership records and provide a permanent solution to long-pending land disputes, Revenue, Housing and Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has said. He emphasised that the resurvey must be conducted in the presence of farmers to ensure transparency and address discrepancies in land records. The government intends to provide every landowner with comprehensive and secure land records and passbooks, similar to the Aadhaar-based identification system.

The Minister was reviewing land survey, revenue, stamps and registration, and housing-related issues concerning the erstwhile Rangareddy district at the Medchal-Malkajgiri Collectorate on Wednesday. The meeting was attended by District In-charge Minister D. Sridhar Babu and Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar. Mr. Srinivas Reddy directed Tahsildars to visit villages where the resurvey is being conducted every day. Revenue Divisional Officers, Additional Collectors and District Collectors were instructed to closely monitor the exercise and visit the survey villages at least once a week.

He said the comprehensive survey would initially be taken up in selected revenue villages in every district in the first phase, in accordance with the provisions of the law.

The Minister said that officials were being randomly selected from mandal-level staff lists to discuss pending applications, public objections, survey-related issues and practical difficulties encountered in the field. He asked officials to present the actual situation without concealing problems, assuring them that necessary directions would be issued on the spot wherever possible.

Pointing out that the State was undertaking such an extensive land survey after nearly 125 years, he said the exercise would go beyond measuring land parcels. It would also address discrepancies between recorded survey numbers and actual possession of land, besides identifying boundary disputes between the Revenue and Forest departments and issues relating to assigned and patta lands.

He said the government was committed to ensuring that farmers received clear and legally secure ownership records. Officials who worked sincerely to resolve public grievances would be appreciated, while those deliberately misleading people or causing unnecessary hardship would face immediate action, he cautioned.

Mr. Srinivas Reddy also directed officials to examine issues relating to Section 22-A that remained unresolved despite the Government Orders and memoranda issued so far, and take appropriate measures to address them.

Minister Vakiti Srihari urges centre to support Telangana fisheries sector through NFDB



Hyderabad, Nov 5 (Way to News): Telangana Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries, Youth Services and Sports, Vakiti Srihari, has urged the Central Government to extend greater financial and technical support through the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) to strengthen the state's fisheries sector and improve the livelihoods of fishermen. Participating in the NFDB Governing Board meeting held in Hyderabad on Thursday, the minister submitted several proposals to Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, highlighting the potential of Telangana's major rivers, including the Godavari and Krishna, along with its reservoirs, lakes and other water resources to boost fish production.

Srihari called for strengthening fishermen's cooperative societies and providing fishermen with modern technology, training and financial assistance. He also stressed the need to develop cold storage facilities, fish processing units, modern transportation and marketing infrastructure to promote fish exports to domestic and international markets.

The minister also urged the Centre to provide special financial assistance and compensation to fishing families affected by El Niño and adverse weather conditions this year. He said such support was essential to protect their livelihoods and prevent income losses.

He further stated that the Telangana government was implementing several initiatives for fishermen's welfare and fisheries development. Additional funding, technical assistance and infrastructure support from the Centre through NFDB would help generate sustainable employment and improve the living standards of fishing communities.

SHE Team holds safety programme for UPHC Aliabad staff



Hyderabad, Nov 5 (Way to News): The Hyderabad City Police SHE Team conducted a workplace safety and legal awareness programme for healthcare personnel at UPHC Aliabad on Thursday, under the guidance and leadership of Dr. Anita Rani, Senior Public Health Officer (SPHO), Jangammet.

The programme witnessed the active participation of Dr. Shafiullah Baig, Medical Officer at UPHC Aliyabad, Dr. Huzaif, Medical Officer at Basti Dawakhana Rooplal Bazar, and Dr. Lakshmipriya, along with medical officers, nursing staff, administrative personnel and ASHA workers from UPHC Aliyabad, UPHC Charminar, UPHC Umda Bazar and associated Basti Dawakhanas, including Shalibanda Kummariwadi, Rooplal Bazar, Ghazi Banda and Patel Nagar. During the session, SHE Team officials explained important workplace safety protocols, emergency reporting procedures through Dial 100 and the official WhatsApp helpline, prevention of workplace harassment under the POSH Act, safety measures during community field surveys and cyber safety practices.

The programme aimed to enhance awareness among frontline healthcare workers about their legal rights, personal safety and the measures available to address workplace-related concerns. The participating medical officers expressed their gratitude to the Hyderabad City Police SHE Team for conducting the awareness session and equipping healthcare personnel with essential legal and safety knowledge.

Telangana to build 38 'self-respect buildings' for Backward Classes



Hyderabad, Nov 5 (Way to News): The Chief Minister Revanth Reddy-led Telangana government has sanctioned Rs 88.50 crore for construction of 'Atma Gaurava Bhavans' for 38 associations for Backward Classes in Hyderabad.

Government Orders, sanctioning funds for the construction of community centres called 'Atma Gaurava Bhavans (self-respect buildings)' were issued on Thursday, November 5. Minister for Backward Classes Welfare, Ponnam Prabhakar handed over the official Government Orders documents to representatives from various caste associations.

The Congress government has launched a novel initiative for constructing buildings for all castes, aimed at their social, cultural and educational uplift. Minister Prabhakar stated that, following the directives of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and instructions from Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, the construction of 'Atma Gaurava Bhavans' for Backward Class caste associations is being accelerated. He explained that although land had been allocated previously, construction could not proceed due to certain administrative and technical issues. These hurdles have now been resolved with the cooperation of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA).

He noted that the allocated land has been developed with layouts following a "ready-to-construct" approach, making the sites immediately suitable for building. With the government having now sanctioned the necessary funds, he urged the caste associations to commence construction work without any further delay.

He emphasised that the Congress government had a firm commitment to ensure construction of these buildings and make them accessible to the BC community. He stated that the goal was to complete the projects within one year, or within a timeframe determined by the specific requirements of each construction site.

He further assured that all necessary construction permits would be facilitated through coordination between the Engineering Department and the HMDA, utilising a "single-window" clearance system to avoid any delays. Additionally, he mentioned that the BC Welfare Department will conduct monthly reviews of the construction progress and obtain regular status reports.

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India poised to surpass $220 bn investment target in green energy sector

New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News): Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said on Thursday that India was poised to surpass the $220 billion investment target required to add the remaining 190 GW of installed power capacity targeted from non-fossil sources by 2030.



Speaking at a press conference, the Union Minister said that investments totalling Rs 7 lakh crore, including domestic funds and foreign direct investment, have flowed into the renewable energy sector over the past two years. Highlighting the fast acceleration in the pace of renewable energy capacity addition in the country, Union Minister Joshi added, "To achieve first 100 GW, it took seven decades, another 100 GW was achieved in seven years and the next 100 GW was added in two years," he remarked. Joshi said the momentum would continue and India would meet the 500 GW target on schedule. Strategies are also being prepared to add another 300 GW as directed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he added.

He said that at present, the country's installed power capacity from non-fossil fuels stands at 310 GW, and the Union government has fixed a target of reaching 500 GW by 2030. The Union Minister also said that India has learnt lessons from earlier supply chain disruptions and is working to remain prepared for similar challenges in the future.

Speaking at a press conference held on the fourth day of the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit and Expo 2026, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) Secretary Santosh Kumar Sarangi said the Ministry was working on framing new guidelines for solar module waste recycling. "We are trying to formulate the guidelines as quickly as possible. This will also mandate manufacturers to produce modules which has higher degree of recyclability," the top official said.

He also added that while the recyclability of wind turbines is fairly high, technological solutions for recycling blades and the epoxy used in making them are not available in India. However, Suzlon and the Aditya Birla Group have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) under which epoxy will be fully recyclable and used to make completely recyclable blades. He added that from an MNRE perspective, we will have to formulate a standard operating procedure which will mandate the same for other manufacturers as well.



The Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Shri S Krishnan releases indigenous AI Foundation Models – EKA-1 by Soket Labs and Dhīr 2B and Dhīr 5B by ZenteiQ under the IndiaAI Mission, in New Delhi.

IndiaAI Mission releases three indigenous AI foundation models

New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News): The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has released three indigenous Artificial Intelligence (AI) foundation models under the IndiaAI Mission, marking a significant step towards strengthening India's domestic AI capabilities and technological self-reliance.

The models — EKA-1, developed by Soket Labs Technology and Research Private Limited, and Dh r 2B and Dh r 5B, developed by ZenteiQ AiTech Innovations — were unveiled in New Delhi on November 3 in the presence of MeitY Secretary S. Krishnan, senior ministry officials, IndiaAI representatives and the leadership teams of the two companies.

The three models have been developed under the IndiaAI Innovation Centre's Foundation Models pillar, which aims to encourage the creation of indigenous foundation models and large language models suited to India's diverse requirements. The developers received support through subsidised national AI computing infrastructure and assistance for research-related expenses under the mission.

Press Information Bureau

EKA-1: Advanced Model for Multiple Applications

EKA-1, developed by Soket Labs, is a foundation model featuring 26.3 billion parameters and trained on approximately 7.5 trillion tokens. It supports all 22 scheduled Indian languages, in addition to English, and is designed to perform a wide range of tasks, including mathematics, coding, reasoning and agentic applications. The model has been developed as an open, sparse hybrid language model with capabilities aimed at addressing India's specific technological and industry requirements. It is particularly tailored to the banking, financial services and cybersecurity sectors, with an emphasis on understanding India's evolving digital ecosystem. Speaking on the occasion, Soket Labs CEO Abhishek Upperwal said the support received under the IndiaAI Mission had helped the company develop an advanced AI model suited to India's banking, financial services and cybersecurity landscape. ZenteiQ AiTech Innovations has introduced Dh r 2B and Dh r 5B as open-source multilingual AI models designed for secure, on-premise deployment. The models support English and 10 Indian languages and are capable of functioning in offline environments, making them suitable for applications in sectors where data security and connectivity are critical.

The models enable document-based automation, knowledge retrieval and citizen- and enterprise-focused services across defence, government, industrial and educational sectors. Their lightweight architecture also allows deployment on different computing platforms, including GPUs and TPUs, as well as on mobile devices without requiring continuous cloud connectivity.

Win-Win situation for both military and Agniveers, says senior IAF Officer

Gandhinagar, Nov 5 (Way to News): The Centre's decision to provide a second two-year service term option for 'Agniveers' is a "win-win situation" for both the soldiers and the military, a senior official of the Indian Air Force's South Western Air Command said on Thursday.



Referring to the Agnipath scheme as "collective refinement", the Gandhinagar-headquartered SWAC's Senior Officer-in-Charge Administration, Gurjot Singh Bhullar, said the government's decision was based on feedback, following the assessment of the current Agniveers serving in the armed forces.

Addressing a press conference here, he stated that Agniveers are spread all across the frontline command. "We have Agniveers employed in core operational roles. Out of the 25 per cent absorbed into the Air Force, they are involved in air defence, fighter operations, helicopter operations, sensor management, at various radar systems, and even in basic administrative functions such as airmen's messes, station quarters, and guard duties," he said.

Declining to give out the exact numbers, AVM Bhullar said that a "sizeable chunk" is currently serving the SWAC. "Whether they belong to the South Western Command or any other command, the distribution is almost equal and well balanced," he added.

Responding to a question regarding the retention of Agniveers in the forces, the Air Vice Marshal asserted that there will definitely be a demand for Agniveers.

"Why would they not want to stay in the forces? But there is a balance. If you look at our organisational requirements, given the current situation, we need trained manpower that is technologically aligned, well-motivated, and has undergone training in the various costly equipment that have recently come in. When we have a trained individual, it is a very good package for us," he stated.

SC asks TMC leader to move Calcutta HC

New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News): The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to entertain a plea filed by senior Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Sovandeb Chattopadhyay seeking disqualification of 10 rebel party MLAs, including Leader of Opposition Ritabrata Banerjee, under the anti-defection law, and asked him to approach the Calcutta High Court.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi observed that the appropriate remedy at this stage would be to approach the Calcutta High Court and granted liberty to the petitioner to file an appropriate petition before it. The apex court also requested the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court to place the matter before a Division Bench for expeditious consideration. During the hearing, counsel appearing for Chattopadhyay submitted that the disqualification petitions had been filed on July 8 and that nearly five months had elapsed without a decision.

The counsel argued that the issue was covered by the Supreme Court's earlier directions and sought an early hearing by a Division Bench of the High Court to avoid further rounds of intra-court appeals.

Dictating the order, the CJI Kant-led Bench observed that the petitioner should take recourse to the Calcutta High Court and accordingly disposed of the petition at this stage, granting liberty to file an appropriate petition before the High Court.

Voter Lists Soul Of Democracy; Congress Shouldn't Object To Their Purification: Ashwini Vaishnaw

Jaipur, Nov 5 (Way to News): Union Minister for Railways and Information & Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday that the voter lists are the soul of democracy, and Congress should never oppose their purification. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said electoral rolls form the foundation of a democratic system and stressed that their accuracy was essential to ensuring free and fair elections. "If the electoral roll itself is flawed, how can the fairness and credibility of the democratic system be ensured?" he asked.



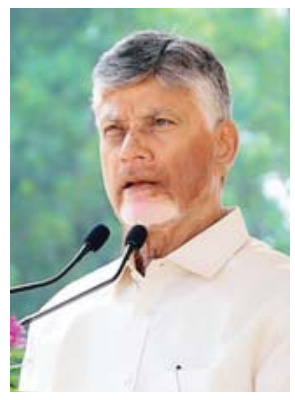
Vaishnaw clarified that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) was not a new procedure. Its objective, he said, was to correct errors in electoral rolls and ensure that every eligible voter was included. Taking a dig at the Congress's claims of defending the Constitution, he said democracy could not be protected simply by displaying a copy of the Constitution. It required understanding its spirit and acting in accordance with its principles. He also criticised the Congress for questioning constitutional institutions after electoral defeats.

Such an approach, he argued, reflected a double standard in which institutions and electoral processes were accepted when the party won but questioned when it lost. "If there is a flaw in any process, the opposition should come forward with facts. Merely making allegations and spreading confusion will not provide a solution," he said. The BJP launched a scathing attack on the Congress over its opposition to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls at a rally held at Ramlila Maidan in Jaipur.

Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, Union Minister for Railways and Information & Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw, BJP State President Madan Rathore and Jaipur MP Manju Sharma targeted the Congress, challenging the opposition party on both streets and in the political arena.

HC defers hearing on PIL seeking transfer of cases against CM Naidu to CBI

Amaravati, Nov 5 (Way to News): The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Thursday adjourned the hearing on a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking transfer of cases registered by the Crime Investigation Department (CID) against Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for an independent and fair investigation.



A bench headed by Chief Justice Lisa Gill adjourned to November 10 the hearing on the PIL filed by Kotti Balagangadhar Tilak.

The PIL was filed in 2024 after the change of government. The petitioner approached the Court anticipating that the change in power could affect the investigations and lead to the cases being closed. The petition challenged the closure of several cases, which the petitioner says were treated as "mistakes of fact" while the PIL was pending.

The cases concern allegations relating to the transfer of assigned lands belonging to members of SC/ST communities; irregularities in the award of an optical-fibre network tender; the setting up of skill development centres; land acquisition for the Inner Ring Road; excise-policy decisions; and the framing and implementation of the free-sand policy.

The petitioner also filed an interlocutory petition seeking directions to the Vijayawada ACB Court to ensure that documents and electronic devices seized during investigations were not returned to the concerned individuals.

Senior Counsel Ranjith, appearing for the petitioner, argued that the complainants in these cases are government officials and that, with Chandrababu Naidu in power, they have not come forward to challenge the closure reports.

Poland-India ties entered new phase, share similar positions on global governance



New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News): Ambassador of Poland to India, Piotr Antoni Switalski, said on Thursday that ties between Poland and India have entered a new phase following Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk's visit to New Delhi in October and emphasised that both nations share similar positions on the issues of global governance, international tensions and conflicts.

Switalski highlighted the economic dimension of India-Poland ties during PM Tusk's visit, noting that over 100 Polish companies participated in the visit and nearly 200 Indian firms participated in discussions on potential areas of cooperation.

On how he sees the current state of bilateral ties, Switalski said, "After the visit of our Prime Minister to India, which took place two years after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Poland, we can say that relations between Poland and India have entered a new phase. The visit of our Prime Minister was extremely successful. The official discussions with Prime Minister Modi showed a high degree, although not total, convergence of views on the most pressing issues on the international agenda. Poland and India share similar positions on the issues of global governance, conflicts and international tensions."

Rahul Gandhi leading 'International Conspiracy' for regime change: Maha CM

Nagpur, Nov 5 (Way to News): Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday launched a scathing attack on Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, accusing him and his associates of "targeting" democracy and the Constitution, and alleging that an "international conspiracy" is being orchestrated under Rahul Gandhi's leadership. He was speaking at the "Save Democracy, Remove Anarchy" march organised by the BJP and Mahayuti.



"We have organised this mega rally with the slogan 'Save Democracy, Remove Anarchy.' Today, we have gathered to protect democracy. Rahul Gandhi and his allies are targeting democracy and the Constitution. Rahul Gandhi, you had issued a threat of fighting on the streets. Remember, this is Dr Babasaheb's Constitution, and we are fully capable of fighting on the streets as well," the Chief Minister said. "No matter how large a number you come in, we will come onto the streets in an even greater number to show you—this is the roar of India," he added.

Accusing the opposition of conspiring against the nation, CM Fadnavis alleged that an international conspiracy is underway under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi. "They want a regime change. Their idea of a regime change is not just a change of government, but a complete overhaul of India's democratic framework. They want to dismantle democracy and establish an ultra-left system. Rahul Gandhi is leading this international faction." Referring to history, the Chief Minister noted that according to Babasaheb, the fundamental rights given to the people were the most important aspect of the Constitution.

"But what happens if a government takes away the rights granted by Babasaheb? The Indira government stripped those rights away in 1975. It is the Congress that plays with the Constitution and plays with the Supreme Court," the Chief Minister stated.

CHAWRI BAZAR BUILDING COLLAPSE

Two MCD engineers suspended, FIR registered against contractor, says Delhi CM

New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News): Delhi Chief Minister, Rekha Gupta on Thursday reached the site of the building collapse in Delhi's Chawri Bazar area to take stock of the situation and said that the Municipal Corporation has suspended its Junior Engineer (JE) and Assistant Engineer (AE) following the tragedy which has so far claimed two lives. Speaking to reporters, CM Gupta said that two people have been pulled out dead so far, while one person has been rescued in an injured condition.



"The building which had a ground floor and two additional floors, was undergoing construction. The exact cause of the collapse will become clear after further investigation," she said. She added: "The Municipal Corporation has suspended its Junior Engineer (JE) and Assistant Engineer (AE), and an FIR has been registered against the contractor who was carrying out the construction."

"The way people are ignoring their safety and security while constructing houses, this is dangerous for their own lives," the Chief Minister said while urging people to follow the safety protocols during any kind of construction work.

The Delhi CM also warned officials overseeing the construction work, saying: "Action will be taken against officials if they are found to be negligent."

Further, she said that the contractor did not care about the safety of workers despite being in charge of the construction. "That is why an FIR has been filed against him," CM Gupta added. BJP Delhi President Harsh Malhotra, who had also reached the site, told IANS, "Such incidents occur when construction is carried out in violation of rules and proper safety arrangements are not made. The officials responsible must also be held accountable." Reiterating that MCD's AE and JE have been suspended, and an FIR has been registered against the contractor, he said: "FIR should be lodged against the responsible officials as well."

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Editorial

Triumph Over Poverty

When a country of 1.4 billion people reduces extreme poverty from 27.1 per cent to 2.6 per cent in twelve years, the achievement deserves to be recorded plainly and without qualification. That is what the World Bank's India Poverty and Equity Brief of October 2026 has done. It describes one of the fastest poverty declines anywhere in the world. The scale makes this achievement so remarkable. Many nations have cut poverty, but few have done so with a population larger than Africa as a whole. In 2011, more than one in four Indians lived on less than USD 3 a day, measured at 2021 purchasing power parity. By 2023, the figure was roughly one in 38. Over the same period, the share living below the USD 4.20 line fell from 57.7 per cent to 16.1 per cent, lifting an estimated 496 million people above it. That is more than the combined population of the European Union's twenty-seven member states, and it was neither a joke nor a fluke.

It also came through a pandemic. Covid-19 shattered livelihoods, shuttered factories and sent migrant workers trudging home across the country. Many economies saw their poverty gains reversed. India's progress survived the shock, which suggests that the foundations laid in the preceding years were sturdy. The World Bank attributes the decline to strong consumption growth, rising employment, particularly among women, and expanded social transfers, including food subsidies. Supporters of the Government argue, with some justification, that these drivers were the product of deliberate policy rather than a happy accident.

Consider the financial architecture. The drive to open bank accounts for households that had never had one brought millions into the formal economy. Combined with Aadhaar and mobile connectivity, it allowed direct benefit transfers to reach beneficiaries without a long chain of intermediaries. Subsidies and pensions arrive in a person's own account. Farmers receive income support directly. Women have benefited from access to credit, self-help group financing and schemes such as subsidised cooking gas connections, which spare them hours of drudgery and the smoke of solid fuels.

Social protection has been broad. Free food grains for over 800 million people cushioned households against inflation. Housing support addressed asset poverty. Health cover for secondary and tertiary care has shielded families from the medical bills that have historically pushed them into debt. Tap water and sanitation programmes have reduced illness and improved dignity. Rural employment guarantees have offered an income floor in lean seasons, and loans for small entrepreneurs have encouraged self-employment. The Government has reached almost all sections of society, including backward classes, labourers, farmers, girls, and women. The employment story is encouraging too. The bank notes substantial job creation, much of it driven by women entering the workforce. Households with more than one earner are more resilient, and a woman's wage often decides whether a family spends on schooling and nutrition. The gap between rural and urban India has also narrowed, with rural households gaining faster.

Credit is due, and the Government has claimed it, but the work is unfinished. The Bank itself cautions that poverty is now concentrated among households with lower education, fewer assets and less stable work, and that about 57 per cent of the remaining poor live in a belt stretching from Uttar Pradesh to West Bengal. Wage disparities remain stark: the top tenth of earners make roughly thirteen times what the bottom tenth do. Projections suggest the USD 4.20 poverty rate may fall from 14.2 per cent in 2026 to 12.1 per cent by 2028, a slower pace that reflects how much harder the last miles are.

US blue wave may not hit FTA with India

Sushma Ramachandran

A BLUE tsunami has engulfed the US Congress just as the India-US trade deal is on the verge of finalisation. The Democratic Party is now convincingly holding sway in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. It is bound to lead to shifts in some US domestic policies. But foreign policy, including trade ties, remains within the US President's domain without any need for Congressional approval.

It is thus eminently possible there would be little change in the contours of the trade agreement that has been hammered out over the last one and a half years. This is despite the fact that tariffs have been extremely unpopular with US consumers, who feel these have contributed to the higher cost of living. Trump's approach to tariffs may thus be reined in by the Congress, but this is not likely to have an impact on the forthcoming free trade agreement (FTA).

Besides, it must be recalled that India-US trade ties have remained under strain even during Democrat administrations. Joe Biden, for instance, showed little interest in entering into an FTA with New Delhi while Section 301 of the US Trade Act has been applied against this country under both Clinton and Obama administrations. The political upheavals may, however, lead to further delay in the unveiling of the first phase of the FTA. It has already been a long time in the making. Talks began in February 2025 and it was then expected that this would be one of the first pacts hammered out after Donald Trump began his new protectionist policies. It was not to be as deals were announced with country after country, but these negotiations were poised interminably on some imaginary finishing line.



Meanwhile, tariffs on exports to the US rose in August last year to 50% with a 25% penalty duty for importing Russian oil. This was later brought down as US courts ruled against Trump's reciprocal tariff regime. An interim framework agreement for the free trade agreement was then unveiled in February this year.

The negotiations subsequently seemed to be heading towards a conclusion earlier this year, but the Lindsey Graham law threw a spanner in the works. It allowed Donald Trump to levy up to 100% tariff on countries importing oil from Russia. The trade deal seemed set to flounder again but the US President gave a temporary waiver from the law.

Currently, Indian merchandise exports are being levied tariffs under the most favoured nation (MFN) system of the World Trade Organisation along with a 10% tariff under the US Trade Act. It is in this backdrop that one must view the recent pronouncements made by both sides, assuring that the trade deal was nearing conclusion. These were meant to allay concerns over the prolonged delay, especially as the US had tied up deals far more quickly with other Asian economies, like Indonesia, Bangladesh and South Korea.

Yet it is better for the India-US trade deal to be negotiated at a slow and measured pace, given the need to protect critical areas of the domestic economy from a flood of imports. It must be noted that the US is New Delhi's second largest trade partner. Bilateral trade is estimated at $141 billion in 2025-26 compared to $151 billion of the India-China trade. More importantly, there is a trade surplus in this country's favour.

The agreement is thus essential to increase India's competitive advantage against Asian rivals like Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia and, of course, China.

The potential advantages of the trade deal are the prospect of lower tariffs in areas where there is stiff competition. These include textiles and garments, where countries like Bangladesh have lower duties. Gems and jewellery, industrial products, chemicals and engineering goods are other segments where exporters are looking forward to zero-duty market access.

On the flip side, the US is looking for greater opening up of the Indian market in areas that have remained rigidly controlled, like dairy and agriculture. It is the red lines laid down by New Delhi in these sectors that have been among the sticking points for finalising the deal.

Both dairy and agriculture are sensitive political issues in a country where the livelihoods of millions of farmers are at stake. This is diametrically opposite to the US where farming is heavily corporatised and economies of scale bring down per unit costs. The interim agreement has, however, indicated that some areas will be opened up. These include tree nuts, fruits, spirits and non-GM sorghum. But staple grains, the bulk of the dairy segment, corn and soyabean are still on a strict negative list and these red lines are expected to remain in place. Even so, the trade surplus has to be cut in some way. The process has begun with purchases of US crude oil and petroleum products like LPG that are needed here in the wake of the West Asian crisis. The interim agreement committed to buy goods worth $500 billion over a five-year period. This includes commodities like oil and coking coal as well as hi-tech equipment needed here. The anxiety over the FTA has reduced considerably due to recent developments on the export front. The first is the 11% rise in exports to the US in the first half of 2026-27, despite the imposition of higher tariffs. The second is the 18% growth in overall exports in the same period, giving confidence that export growth can be sustained despite the negative effect of external headwinds.

The big question remains — whether the forthcoming trade pact with the biggest market in the world will be advantageous for India. This can only be answered conclusively after the details of the deal are made public. There is no doubt, however, that the success of the pact will depend on comparative advantages. In other words, the extent to which Indian goods are given an edge over similar ones supplied by competitive geographies. This critical factor remains unaltered despite the blue revolution in the US Congress.

America is big enough for all of us

JYOTSNA G SINGH

DR Abdul El-Sayed had a simple, distinctive slogan throughout his campaign for the US Senate against former Congressman Mike Rogers: "Money Out of Politics, Money in Your Pocket, Medicare for All." In his victory speech, El-Sayed asserted his domestic priorities as well as his opposition to foreign wars and their tragic consequences: "We want our taxes spent here [in Michigan], for schools here, and healthcare here, and infrastructure here. We don't want our money sent to do apartheid or genocide or war." His message addressed the economic needs of all citizens, while recognising the diversity of Michigan's population. Thus, not surprisingly, El-Sayed achieved a solid, globally historic victory, winning with a vote share of 52.5% (his opponent got 45.5%), while becoming the first Muslim to be elected to the US Senate. El-Sayed's victory was part of the Democratic Party's Blue Wave takeover of both chambers of Congress and a repudiation of US President Donald Trump's divisive politics, economic policies and his war on Iran.



A disturbing element of this contest was the Republicans' Islamophobic rhetoric that could be regarded as unconstitutional hate speech targeting El-Sayed. The message from Republicans combined Rogers' "dog whistle" falsities about El-Sayed's supposed links with "terrorism" and direct attacks by Trump and Vice President JD Vance on his Muslim name and faith. Trump often called El-Sayed a "jihadist," asserting that if elected, the candidate would have to be screened using metal detectors. And repeatedly, Trump mockingly brought up (and sometimes mangled) his name, calling him "Mohammad" or "Abdul Ramadan." For Vance, El-Sayed's call for reform and equity made him an un-American outsider with "little gratitude for the country that gave him everything."

Underpinning these anti-Muslim attacks was the ideology of a racist/fascist Christian nationalism, openly articulated by Republican Senator Bernie Moreno in his repudiation of the Democratic candidate in Michigan: "Our rights come from God Almighty" and "Jesus came here for our salvation." And El-Sayed "should be nowhere near Washington, DC." The message that echoed from the Republican and generally conservative ecosphere was clear: "We cannot vote for a Muslim. He is not one of us. He hates America." How did El-Sayed and his surrogates respond to this vitriol? He campaigned tirelessly, meeting individuals and groups across diverse parts of Michigan. He never accepted corporate PAC money (unlike his primary opponent), so he was not beholden to any special interests. His supporters and surrogates also reminded voters of his distinguished record: as a University of Michigan student, athlete, Rhodes scholar, medical doctor and a successful public health official in Detroit. While pushing back against the divisive politics unleashed by his rivals, El-Sayed made diversity the cornerstone of his message. In his acceptance speech, he laid out his vision of an inclusive America, pointing to a contrast with Republicans: "They attack the very idea of America — an America that looks a little different, prays a little different." They repudiate "who does not look like them, prays like them, loves like them."

He responded to Islamophobic attacks with sharp retorts that blended equanimity with humour. During a town hall meeting (a video of which went viral), El-Sayed rebuked an audience member who questioned his loyalty to the nation: "You assume that because I am Muslim, that somehow I would have some allegiance to something that is not our Constitution? For me, that Constitution is the guiding light." Here, while being proud of his Muslim faith, he endorsed freedom of religion and secularism. Finally, in his victory acceptance speech, he offered a humorous riposte to Trump: "You struggle with my name. When I am sworn in by JD Vance, you can just call me Senator."

Finally, El-Sayed's victory in Michigan is also a testament to the unifying support of many civil society groups, drawing citizens across race, religion, class, gender and sexual orientation. Michigan is a purple state with a mix of Democrats and Republicans, often switching sides between the two parties. It also has one of the nation's largest Arab-American communities in Dearborn, besides various Christian denominations and other religions.

The groups that joined El-Sayed's campaign included "Michigan Jews for Democracy," who "come from a wide range of the political spectrum"; a volunteer grassroots coalition, "Women for Abdul"; another volunteer-led group, "LGBTQIA+ Michiganders," and others — all of whom wanted to elect him Michigan's next Senator. Groups such as Saath, a youth-led South Asian political organisation, also joined a Diwali-themed rally to support El-Sayed's candidacy among South Asians, including Indian Americans.

Himachal's apple farmers need a lifeline

SS CHAHAL

THE sharp decline in apple production in Himachal Pradesh is a cause of concern for this major apple-growing state. This year, the estimated output is almost half of last year's 6.99 lakh metric tonnes, a shocking development for the state's multi-crore rural economy.

The setback due to climate volatility is similar to the drastic reduction in wheat production because of terminal heat in March 2022 in Punjab as well as tea production this year in Darjeeling caused by a decline in annual rainfall, extreme heat, flash floods and climate-triggered pest outbreak. Previous setbacks to apple production in HP in 2011-12 and 2018-19 too were primarily driven by adverse and erratic weather conditions linked to climatic change.



Most of the apple varieties grown in mid-hills of Himachal Pradesh require 1,000 to 1,600 chilling hours at or below 7°C temperature during the winter for optimum sprouting, flowering and normal fruit development. A significant drop in the accumulated chilling hours in 2025-26, particularly in lower elevations, where it even fell to below 300 hours, has impacted the production of the fruit. Frequent increase up to 10°C above normal and an average 1°C increase in the maximum temperature during the winter, erratic rainfall and prolonged cloudy weather caused shift in ecological conditions.

It altered the rhythm of physiological processes and led to the emergence of pests, diseases, aphids and mites. The activity of pollinator insects, including honey bees, is also altered during the crucial period of various plant growth phases. It causes disturbance in the timely availability of pollen from pollinator varieties adversely affecting flowering, fertilisation, fruit- setting, retention and quality.

The development and popularisation of low and moderate chill varieties is pivotal to countering the climate challenge. Other countries are aggressively developing low-chill varieties that require only 200-to-600 chill hours. Israel's low-chill varieties are being used as genetic foundation material worldwide. New Zealand and Spain, under the Hot Climate Partnership programme, have produced cross-bred apples which can withstand high temperatures. The US is utilising 'rapid cycle breeding' and gene editing to develop climate-resilient varieties. Australia has developed varieties that require less than 100 chill hours. China is further modifying its moderate-chill elite commercial varieties to low-chill varieties while maintaining high organoleptic qualities. Himachal Pradesh must also expand its low-chill varietal base for mitigating the climate challenge to apple crop. Apple farmers must also be sensitised and trained to practise climate-resilient orchard management and enhance the plantation of pollinisers that are resistant to weather variables.

Himachal Pradesh and J&K are shifting towards high-density plantation. Orchardists are importing high-yield varieties and root stocks from Italy, the Netherlands, the US and New Zealand to replace ageing orchards. But the rapid and unregulated influx, mainly through private importers from within and outside the states, bypassing safety quarantine requirements, has exposed the crop in these states to a possible invasion of dangerous exotic pests and pathogens like fire blight, codling moth, fruit flies, mites, viroid and viruses. Already, 34 invasive insect pests have been recorded in India.

A lesson must be learnt from the entry of incorrigible weeds and pests through global trade. They include parthenium (congress grass) alongside imported seed lots, Mikania and Siam weeds in plantation crops, papaya mealy bug, white fly, banana bunchy top virus, potato late blight and wart and the devastating coffee rust. There is an urgent need to strictly enforce the provisions of Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ) by the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage and the inspection authorities of these states. They are authorised to periodically monitor, uproot and destroy the infected/infested apple plants and accord final clearance for the introduction of the foreign biological material. The state governments must expand infra at designated research centres to carry out PEQ checks of large quantity of import consignments.

To protect the crop from pests and pathogens, the apple growers apply chemical sprays 6-12 times in a season. Sadly, rampant penetration of spurious pesticides has emerged as a major cause for uncontrolled outbreaks and prevalence of serious pests and pathogens.

Having often fallen prey to pests, frustrated farmers switch to a harmful mixing of multiple pesticides, fungicides and micronutrients in a single cocktail spray, leading to toxicity, leaf-scorching and poor sets.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Eisenkot gains Arab Joint List backing to form Israeli government



DUBAI, Nov 5 (Way to News): Israeli opposition leader Gadi Eisenkot is expected to receive the backing of 67 lawmakers to form the country's next government after two Arab-led parties endorsed him on Thursday. Israel's largest Arab party grouping, the Joint List, said Thursday it would recommend Eisenkot for the formation of a new government after last week's election. The Joint List, which won 11 seats in last week's parliamentary election, announced that it would recommend Eisenkot to President Isaac Herzog, joining the eight-seat United Arab List, also known as Ra'am, which backed him earlier in the day. Arab-majority lists won an unprecedented 19 parliamentary seats in the election out of 120, making them potential kingmakers in Israel's next government.

The endorsements give the former military chief, who leads the centrist Yashar party, the support of factions holding a majority of seats in Israel's 120-member Knesset. The alliance said the decision was intended to strengthen efforts to replace Benjamin Netanyahu and respond to public demands to prevent his government from returning to power, despite concerns over the opposition's failure to adequately challenge policies affecting Arab citizens.

The announcement came as Herzog continued consultations with newly elected parliamentary factions to determine who should be tasked with forming the next government following the inconclusive Oct. 27 election. The president began the consultation process on Wednesday night and told party leaders that "not every commitment and promise can be fulfilled" if they wanted to avoid a new election.

Three factions aligned with Netanyahu's religious-nationalist base recommended that he be given a chance to form a coalition, while a fourth, led by a former Netanyahu ally, backed Eisenkot. Eight more paties, including the two Arab-led factions, are scheduled to meet with the president on Thursday, with Eisenkot's Yashar party and Netanyahu's Likud going last.

Israel's elections last week saw no clear winner as the blocs of neither Netanyahu nor Eisenkot secured a parliamentary majority.

Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party and its far-right and ultra-Orthodox Jewish allies won 53 seats in the 120-seat Knesset, while Eisenkot's centrist Yashar party and three other Jewish opposition parties in his bloc won 48. The largest Arab-Israeli bloc on Wednesday denounced "political persecution," after one of its lawmakers was accused of accepting foreign money before last week's elections, where the community turned out in record numbers. Netanyahu doubled down on the accusations of foreign interference in the Oct. 27 vote. "There are serious suspicions that foreign states have spent considerable sums to influence the outcome of the elections in Israel," he said in a video, speaking in front of an Israeli flag and the slogan "Prime Minister's Office."

Trump's Israel aid pledge faces new scrutiny after Democratic midterm sweep



CHICAGO, Nov 5 (Way to News): President Donald Trump's election-day pledge to end almost $4 billion in annual US military aid to Israel has come under renewed scrutiny after Democrats won control of both chambers of Congress and Abdul El-Sayed, the Michigan Senate candidate Trump singled out over the issue, defeated his Republican opponent.

El-Sayed won the state's open Senate seat against Mike Rogers with about 52.5 percent of the vote to Rogers' 45.5 percent, according to results reported on Wednesday, becoming the first Muslim elected to the US Senate. His victory came amid broader Democratic gains in Tuesday's midterm elections, which will give the party control of the House and Senate when the new Congress convenes in January.

The results shift attention from whether Trump's announcement could influence voters to how his administration intends to carry it out. The president has offered no detailed plan for ending the assistance ahead of an existing agreement that runs through 2028, while the incoming Democratic majorities are expected to increase scrutiny of US support for Israel.

Trump announced the proposed cutoff in a telephone interview with Fox News on Tuesday morning, saying he and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had reached an understanding months earlier and that Israel no longer needed American grants. "The left uses the $4 billion payment — that everybody knows about, it's no secret — as a signal of unfairness," Trump said. "And we can't allow that to happen. I don't like that, because it's too easy. It's almost too easy a target. And Bibi and I have been talking, and we've agreed. He was very understanding of it."

Trump specifically mentioned El-Sayed, whose criticism of unconditional US support for Israel had become a major issue in Michigan's Senate contest. His comments came just hours before voters delivered a victory to the Democrat, despite Republican attacks and an unusual endorsement of Rogers by El-Sayed's former Democratic primary rival, Rep. Haley Stevens. Stevens, a staunch supporter of Israel who had benefited from spending by pro-Israel groups during the Democratic primary, endorsed Rogers two days before the general election following a public dispute with El-Sayed. Her endorsement did not prevent the Democrat from winning the seat.

Melania Trump urges 'humanity over war' with Ukraine, Russia officials



WASHINGTON, Nov 5 (Way to News): US first lady Melania Trump brought Russian and Ukrainian officials together at the White House on Thursday and urged both sides to choose "humanity over war" ahead of talks next week in Abu Dhabi. Russian President Vladimir Putin's special envoy Kirill Dmitriev was among the officials at the rare face-to-face event with Ukrainian representatives, staged to mark a six-day ceasefire that Melania Trump helped broker in the Russian-controlled city of Oleshky. The deal expired on Sunday. President Donald Trump's administration is ramping up efforts to end Russia's war in Ukraine, which began when Russian forces invaded Ukraine in early 2022. A trilateral meeting with officials from the US, Ukraine and Russia is planned for November 10-11 in Abu Dhabi.

"We have chosen humanity over war," the first lady said at the event. "We must use the courage we brought to Oleshky to find common ground through a shared concern for the suffering of innocent people," she added. Melania Trump said she was "involved in every stage of the planning" of the temporary ceasefire, including reviewing aerial images and assessing roadways and hospital access.

President Trump, who did not attend the event, lauded his wife's role in the Oleshky ceasefire, telling reporters in October that "she does better than our professionals."

RUSSIAN ENVOY SET TO MEET US OFFICIALS

Dmitriev was expected to meet with US officials while in Washington, two people familiar with his plans said. Ukrainian lawmaker David Arakhamia and Dmytro Lubinets, the country's human rights ombudsman, also attended the event.

They urged Slovenian-born Melania Trump to keep up her peace efforts. Both sides presented the first lady with thank-you gifts. Russia's Dmitriev gave her a drawing of pink hearts from an Oleshky girl and said the child "chose to live with her family in Russia," nodding to the fight over displaced Ukrainian children in Russia. "I love Melania," the drawing read.

The Ukrainians presented the first lady with a state award "for your brave heart, for saving our people, and for returning back Ukrainian children." She handed the visiting delegations letters addressed to Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

The visit marked the first in-person contact between Russian and US officials since Tuesday's midterm elections, when Democrats ousted Republicans from control of Congress in a blow to President Trump.

The Democratic majority in Congress starting in January is widely expected to push for more aid for Ukraine and to question the Republican president's decisions to strike a diesel deal with Russia and ease some sanctions on Moscow.

Trump has increased his criticism of Zelensky in recent weeks. The Kremlin has said it hopes Trump will continue his peacemaking efforts despite the Republican Party's defeat. It has also said preparations were under way for a meeting of Putin, Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit November 18 to 19 in Shenzhen, China.

Italy's Meloni blasts Europe's 'disarray' on Ukraine talks



BRUSSELS, Nov 5 (Way to News): Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has slammed Europe's "disorderly" approach to Ukraine negotiations and demanded the EU decide who speaks on its behalf, in a letter seen by AFP Thursday. In the message to European Council chief Antonio Costa, who chairs summits of EU leaders, Meloni complained about the recent proliferation of meetings in different formats for talks on Russia's war on Ukraine. "All this is making us look utterly lacking in credibility in handling one of the most complicated dossiers our nations are facing," the Italian leader wrote.

"I am convinced that we all realize how, by giving the image of a Europe that is proceeding in disarray, we are doing nothing but serving the interests of those who want this war to continue." As examples she cited recent talks in Miami and Oslo as well as meetings this week in Brussels between representatives of Ukraine, the United States, several European countries, NATO and the EU.

She also mentioned a call between the leaders of Norway and Finland and Russian President Vladimir Putin. "I want it on record that I will not go along with this dynamic, nor do I intend to stand by and watch it unfold," Meloni wrote. "Proceeding in disarray, with initiatives that chase and overlap one another, will not help us, neither with our partners nor with those we must convince to stop a senseless aggression."

Bangladesh garment protests continue despite wage board move



DHAKA, Nov 5 (Way to News): Garment workers staged fresh protests in Bangladesh on Thursday, forcing factories to suspend operations despite a wage board move to introduce a revised pay structure from December. The protests, which began on Saturday, have forced the closure of hundreds of factories, disrupting production and raising concerns about export shipment delays in Bangladesh, the world's second-largest garment exporter after China.

Workers initially reported to work early on Thursday in Ashulia, a major garment manufacturing hub on the outskirts of the capital Dhaka. But they later walked out and blocked a major highway, demanding a clear announcement on the proposed wage increase. "We had to use tear gas and sound grenades after protesters threw bricks at police and vandalized police vehicles," Ashulia Industrial Police Superintendent Mohammad Mominul Islam Bhuiyan said.

More than 100 factories suspended operations in the area on Thursday, he said, adding that additional police and Border Guard Bangladesh personnel had been deployed across the industrial zone to prevent further unrest. The situation was, meanwhile, relatively calm in other industrial hubs, including Savar and Gazipur where many workers returned to their jobs, though some factories remained temporarily closed. Authorities have urged factory employees to come back to work as security forces remain on high alert across major industrial zones. The wage board agreed on Wednesday to implement a revised wage structure from December, with workers set to receive their first pay under the new scale in January. But it has yet to determine the size of the increase. Workers are demanding that the minimum monthly wage be more than doubled to 30,000 taka ($241.55) from 12,500 taka currently, saying rising food, housing and transport costs have eroded their purchasing power.

"The prices of everything have gone up, but wages have not. It is becoming harder and harder to make ends meet," said Shilpi Khatun, a garment worker who did not join Thursday's protest. Low wages and duty-free access to key Western markets helped fuel the growth of Bangladesh's garment industry, which generates more than 80 percent of the South Asian nation's export earnings, but the unrest is testing its low-cost advantage.

France extends maritime patrol plane's stay in Black Sea after cargo ship attacks



BUCHAREST, Nov 5 (Way to News): A French maritime patrol aircraft deployed to Romania to bolster surveillance after a series of deadly strikes on merchant ships in the Black Sea on the edge of NATO's eastern flank will extend its stay by several weeks, its commander said on Thursday. The attacks have shown how the escalating maritime war between Russia and Ukraine is expanding into a major challenge for NATO in the Black Sea that has left member states such as Romania and Bulgaria exposed.

The Black Sea is crucial for shipments of grain, oil and oil products and is shared by Bulgaria, Romania, Georgia and Turkiye, as well as Ukraine and Russia. Russia has denied targeting Ukraine's neighbors. France temporarily relocated the Atlantique 2 aircraft — designed to detect submarines, warships and small threats including sea drones and mines — to the Romanian Mihail Kogalniceanu air base on October 18 after NATO members Romania and Bulgaria asked NATO for reinforcements.

"The Atlantique 2 presence will be maintained for a few weeks from now on. We are here to ensure the safety of navigation of the commercial traffic in the Black Sea," said the aircraft's commander, whose identity was not given by the French naval forces for security purposes.

It had initially been deployed to Romania until November 6. At least nine cargo ships were hit near the coast of Romania and Bulgaria in October, with some 34 sailors reported dead or missing.

The plane was able to detect the three sea drones which ultimately struck and sank the Greek-owned container vessel Contship Jet in Bulgaria's exclusive economic zone on October 28.

The commander said they notified Bulgarian authorities and the vessel an hour before the sea drones struck, enabling the crew in that instance to come away unscathed. "We are a surveillance aircraft," the plane's commander said. "We are able to detect. We are not able to neutralize and intercept these kind of drones."

NATO said this week the alliance had committed to investing more than $40 billion in counter-drone capabilities in the next five years. It said its commitment to defending all its members, including those on the Black Sea, was "ironclad."

Are Yemen's Houthis Iranian lackeys or strategic allies?



CAIRO, Nov 5 (Way to News): In an extraordinary letter to the UN Security Council in February 2025, Iran's ambassador to the UN denied what the rest of the world knew to be true.

Amir Saeid Iravani was responding to a statement by Dorothy Shea, the US charge d'affaires to the UN, during a debate on the situation in the Middle East.

The Houthis, Shea said, had launched "numerous attacks on civilian infrastructure, fired at US Navy warships dozens of times since 2023 and attacked commercial vessels indiscriminately," and they had done so "with materiel and financial support from Iran." Every member of the Security Council, she added, "should press Iran's leaders to stop arming, funding and training the Houthis, without which they would not be able to launch attacks that disrupt navigational rights and freedoms and put innocent civilians in harm's way."

In his same-day response, Iravani dismissed the charges as "baseless accusations," part of an "orchestrated campaign" which "seeks to demonize Iran, distort realities by reversing the roles of aggressor and victim and fuel the US-driven Iranophobic narrative by falsely portraying Iran as a threat to international peace and security." In fact, the evidence of Iranian support for the Houthis — extending well beyond ideological sympathy to encompass the supply of weapons, military training, technical expertise, financial assistance and intelligence cooperation — is overwhelming.

In its final report, published in February 2024, the Security Council-appointed independent Panel of Experts on Yemen concluded that the Houthis had received technical assistance, training, weapons and financial support from the Islamic Republic of Iran on a scale that was "unprecedented."

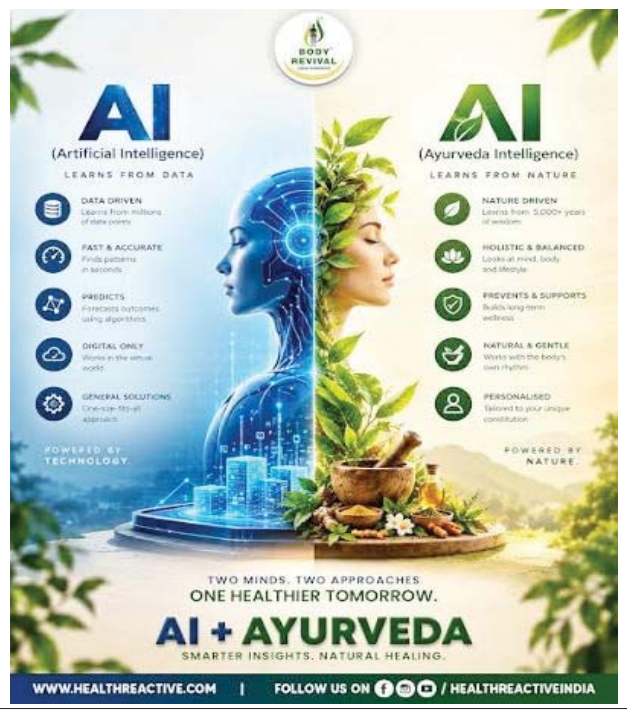
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National and international experts deliberate on responsible AI and digital innovation in ayurveda at ITRA Jamnagar

New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News): A national conference on "AI and Ayurveda" was held under "Ayu-Tech Navonmesh 2026" on the occasion of the 6th Foundation Day of the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA), Jamnagar. The conference held extensive deliberations on integrating Ayurveda with modern digital technology, the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in research, and the possibilities for its responsible use in healthcare services.

In a conversation with ITRA's channel Ayush Next Communication Network (ANCN) on the sidelines of the event, Dr. Geetha Krishnan, Head of the Traditional Medicine Research, Data and Innovation Unit, WHO-GTMC, said: "Artificial Intelligence (AI) holds immense potential to understand Ayurveda better and make its application more effective. However, before adopting any new technology, a deep understanding of the fundamental principles of Ayurveda science is essential. AI should work as a complement to Ayurveda, not replace its core knowledge and wisdom. Maintaining the authenticity of Ayurveda while exploring the possibilities of modern technologies is an important responsibility of the Ayurveda world. By adopting a balanced approach, we can harness the potential of AI without compromising the core principles of Ayurveda. Establishing the right balance between tradition and innovation is our collective responsibility. Only by doing so can we take Ayurveda forward in a meaningful, effective and sustainable manner" Prof. Dr. Tanuja Nesari, Director, ITRA Jamnagar, said that Ayu-Tech Navonmesh 2026 has proved to be an important platform for innovation and collaboration for the future of Ayurveda. She said it provided an important platform to encourage dialogue between traditional Ayurvedic knowledge and advanced technology, and furthered discussion on the ethical, scientific and practical aspects of the potential use of AI in Ayurvedic research, education, drug development and healthcare services.

Sameer Pujari, AI Lead, Digital Health and Innovation (DHI), WHO Headquarters, highlighted the potential of AI in the preservation of knowledge. He emphasised the global collaboration among WHO, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), ongoing since 2018, to advance AI applications in health.



Thematic Sessions and Expert Participation
Sessions and expert discussions were held on the following themes

- Artificial Intelligence, digital knowledge and global transformation in traditional medicine systems
- Responsible AI for Ayurveda: ethics, scientific evidence and innovation
- The potential of AI-based Ayurveda, from traditional practices to intelligent healthcare services
- Use of AI for innovation, product development and responsible clinical trials in Ayurveda

APEDA Facilitates Export of 1.755 MT of Organic Palmyra Jaggery Powder from Tamil Nadu to Bulgaria

New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News): The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, facilitated the flag-off of the maiden export consignment of 1.755 MT of NPOP- and EU-certified organic Palmyra Jaggery Powder (Palmyra Blossom Nectar) from Gobichettipalayam in Erode district of Tamil Nadu to Varna, Bulgaria, on 15 October 2026. The consignment marks an important step towards introducing India's traditional Palmyra-based products to international markets and diversifying the country's organic export basket.



The consignment, manufactured and exported by M/s Wellbeing Foods, Erode, in collaboration with M/s Chetty Exports Private Limited, Chennai, will be shipped by sea through Chennai Port. The overseas importer and distributor is M/s Sow Life Ltd, Bulgaria, based in Bulgaria. The initiative aims to strengthen market linkages for Tamil Nadu's traditional Palmyra-based products and create new opportunities for producers engaged in organic cultivation. The initiative covers 137 acres under organic cultivation and is expected to benefit farmers through improved market access and export-oriented value chains. The reported price realisation is approximately 15-22% for farmers and 17% higher for the manufacturer, as compared to the domestic market, thereby offering an opportunity to improve returns for participating farmers and support sustainable livelihoods.

Palmyra Jaggery Powder, derived from Palmyra blossom nectar, is a traditional Indian sweetener with potential for value addition and wider international market acceptance. As an alternative to refined sugar, it offers potential nutritional benefits, including vitamins and minerals.

BHASHINI and IISc Bangaluru : Text-to-Speech Model for Sourashtra Language

New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News): In a significant step towards strengthening language technology for low-resource Indian languages, the Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), under Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, has developed Text-to-Speech (TTS) models for Sourashtra, a minority Indo-Aryan language spoken predominantly by the Sourashtra community in Tamil Nadu.



The initiative aims to expand the availability of speech technology for languages that have limited digital resources and support their use in digital applications, language learning, accessibility solutions, documentation and research. The newly developed models use the VITS (Variational Inference with adversarial learning for end-to-end Text-to-Speech) architecture and are capable of generating Sourashtra speech directly from text. The models include male and female voices, with each voice available for text written in both Tamil script and Sourashtra script.

Fisheries Department Participates in Special Campaign 6

New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News): The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, is actively implementing Special Campaign 6 from 2nd to 31st October 2026, focusing on institutionalizing Swachhata, reducing pendency, improving record management, promoting scientific disposal of e-waste and ensuring optimum utilization of office space. The Campaign is being undertaken in coordination with the Department's subordinate offices and autonomous bodies, in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).



During the preparatory phase, action plans and measurable targets were identified, with emphasis on cleanliness, review and weeding of redundant records, responsible waste management and expeditious disposal of pending references.

Progress under the Campaign is reviewed regularly by the Secretary (Fisheries) in meetings with senior officers. The officers are encouraged to promote Swachhata in their work places and minimize pendencies. As part of the Campaign, nodal officer of the Department inspected the office complex located at Chanderlok Building, New Delhi on 15th October 2026. The autonomous bodies and subordinate institutes and organisations under the Department of Fisheries are undertaking various activities for promoting awareness of cleanliness and efficient office management under the campaign. As the ongoing cleanliness campaign enters its mid-phase, the Department has recorded significant progress across key areas.

Union Minister urges students to build Indian institutions and global enterprises capable of earning international trust

New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News): Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, delivered the Valedictory Address at the two day National Conference titled 'Pathways to Viksit Bharat: A Centenary Conclave', organized by Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC), University of Delhi, at the Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi today.



Addressing distinguished faculty members, economic experts, policymakers and students, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri reflected on the critical interplay between continuity and change in India's developmental journey. Commemorating SRCC's centenary year, the Minister emphasized how the institution founded during colonial rule, now prepares young Indians to lead global enterprises and shape public policy in a nation of vastly expanded possibilities. Invoking philosopher Alfred North Whitehead, Shri Puri remarked, "The task of a university is to weld together imagination and experience. An institution that sustains this exchange keeps renewing its intellectual life. That is how knowledge advances and how societies acquire the capacity to change." He urged students to leverage their academic training in commerce and economics to exercise critical judgment, question assumptions and transform practical challenges into productive enterprises.

The Government of India has approved the Samudra Manthan Scheme (National Offshore Exploration Scheme) with an outlay of 84,084 crore. This scheme aims to unlock India's vast offshore hydrocarbon potential and strengthen energy security. It focuses on accelerating exploration, deploying modern technology, creating shared infrastructure, and strengthening domestic manufacturing.

Focusing on the energy sector and sustainable economic development, Shri Puri cited the GOBARdhan scheme launched on 1 October, underscoring Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Waste to Wealth' and 'Annadata to Urjadata'. He stated that converting agricultural residue and organic waste into domestic energy is a practical commercial opportunity that serves farmers, generates economic returns and strengthens national energy security. Highlighting India's resilience amidst global economic turbulence and geopolitical disruptions, the Minister noted that India successfully maintained the continuity of essential fuel supplies during recent West Asian crises by diversifying energy sources and bolstering domestic capacities.

Reiterating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call during his recent visit to SRCC, Shri Puri asked the young audience why Indian enterprises should not lead the world when Indian talent already leads major global corporations. He challenged the youth to build world-class Indian institutions and enterprises rooted in reliability, innovation, and international trust. Concluding his address, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri expressed firm confidence that the youth entering their professional prime will drive India towards becoming a developed nation Viksit Bharat by 2047.

India's premium housing drives market recovery as sales rise 6 PC in January-September

New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News): Home sales across India's seven major residential markets rose 6 per cent year-on-year to 2,14,562 units during January-September 2026, reversing the 12 per cent decline recorded in the corresponding period of 2025, led by demand for premium housing, a report said on Thursday.



The report from JLL said that recovery was led decisively by premium housing with apartments priced at Rs 1 crore and above posting 23 per cent Y-o-Y growth and capturing 72 per cent of total sales during the period, up from 62 per cent a year earlier.

The recovery was driven by sustained urban migration, upgrades to infrastructure, and shifting lifestyle preferences among homebuyers, the report noted. Developers continued to align new supply with the prevailing premium-led demand pattern, with residential launches across the top seven cities rising 15 per cent YoY to 2,59,425 units during January–September 2026.

The sub-Rs 1 crore mass housing segment continued to lose ground, with sales falling 23 per cent YoY as affordability pressures and a continued shift in buyer preference toward larger, higher-specification homes reshaped the demand mix. "Sales momentum has been led decisively by the Rs 1.5-3 crore segment, which grew 54 per cent year-on-year, while developers have matched this demand with a massive 70 per cent increase in launches," said Siva Krishnan, Senior Managing Director and Head of Residential Services, India, JLL.

Sales in the third quarter rose 12 per cent quarter-on-quarter to 76,181 units, led by Hyderabad with 70 per cent growth, followed by Kolkata at 28 per cent and Bengaluru at 13 per cent. Sales declined marginally in Delhi-NCR and Mumbai, by 5 per cent and 2 per cent respectively.

Adani Ports to acquire europe's evos for 2.56 bn euros in major global expansion

New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News): As part of Special Campaign 6, the Ministry of Textiles organised workshops on E-Waste Management Awareness and Cyber Security & Secure Digital Disposal on 15 October 2026, with the participation of over 85 officials, including all Nodal Officers. The workshops aimed to promote responsible e-waste management, strengthen cyber security awareness and encourage safe digital practices in the workplace.



A dedicated Cyber Security Awareness Session was organised to familiarise officials and staff with emerging cyber threats, including phishing attacks, malware, fraudulent WhatsApp messages and digital arrest scams. The session highlighted the importance of identifying suspicious emails, links, attachments and messages, particularly those impersonating known contacts or seeking money, one-time passwords (OTPs) or personal information.

Participants were advised to exercise caution while handling digital communications, refrain from clicking on unknown links or downloading unverified files, avoid sharing sensitive information, and verify the authenticity of suspicious communications before taking any action. The session also emphasised the importance of cyber hygiene, vigilance and the timely reporting of cyber incidents to safeguard official and personal information.

The E-Waste Management Awareness session sensitised officials to the adverse environmental impact of improper e-waste disposal, including soil and water contamination and the release of hazardous substances that may pose risks to human health and ecosystems.

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PM Modi interacts with Para Asian Games participants

New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday interacted with members of India's Para Asian Games 2026 contingent at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, where athletes from several disciplines presented him with special mementoes to celebrate their achievements at the Aichi-Nagoya Games.



During the interaction, sprinter Simran Sharma, who won gold medals in the women's 100m and 200m T12 events, presented a pair of shoes to the Prime Minister as a memento.

Shot putter Sachin Sarjerao, who clinched gold in the F45/46 category, also presented a shot put ball to PM Modi, highlighting the achievements of Indian para-athletes at the continental event. The interaction brought together athletes, coaches, support staff and officials from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), national sports federations and the Sports Ministry. India delivered its best-ever performance at the Asian Para Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, with 97 Indian para-athletes winning a total of 114 medals, including 30 gold. The contingent finished its campaign with 30 gold, 35 silver and 49 bronze medals, surpassing its previous best of 108 medals, including 27 gold, achieved at the 2023 edition in Hangzhou, China. India also crossed the 100-medal mark for the second consecutive edition. Para-athletics emerged as India's biggest medal contributor, accounting for 65 medals, including 22 gold, 19 silver and 24 bronze. Para-badminton followed with 16 medals, comprising three gold, five silver and eight bronze, while para-swimming athletes secured 11 medals, including three silver and eight bronze.

India also made a strong impact in para-archery, winning six medals, including three gold, while shooting contributed five medals, with two gold, two silver and one bronze. The contingent further added seven bronze medals in para-table tennis, two silver in powerlifting and two medals in judo, comprising one silver and one bronze. Among the standout performers, javelin thrower Sumit Antil successfully defended his gold medal in the men's F42-F44/F61-F64 category and was part of a podium sweep, underlining India's dominance in the discipline.

In shooting, Mona Agarwal won gold in the women's 50m rifle three positions SH1 event with record scores. India also secured two quotas in shooting for the 2028 Summer Paralympics.

The campaign featured achievements across age groups, with 50-year-old Jehan Dorab Madan becoming India's oldest medallist at the Games after securing bronze in para-table tennis. The record-breaking campaign further highlighted India's growing presence in para-sports and the country's continued progress across multiple disciplines.

Honda HRC announces Superbike ace Jake Dixon to replace Joan Mir in Qatar

New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News): Honda HRC have announced that their Superbike ace Jake Dixon will be replacing Joan Mir at this weekend's Qatar Grand Prix as the 2020 World champion continues his recovery.

Mir's return at the Malaysian Grand Prix was cut short due to an episode of dizziness and partial loss of vision in what has been a tough season for him due to health issues.



Honda confirmed that Dixon will partner Luca Marini in the factory team for the weekend as the British rider steps into the Premier class for the first time since he competed in two races in 2021. "First of all, I have to say thank you to Honda HRC for this opportunity. Getting the call to come ride one of these bikes is always mega, and I am looking forward to it. I think every rider dreams of racing for the Honda factory team in MotoGP when they're a kid.

"It's been a little bit since I last raced a MotoGP bike, so we need to take the weekend steady and go step by step," Dixon said, as quoted by MotoGP. He extended his wishes to Mir for a speedy recovery and empathised with him. "I want to wish Joan all the best and I hope to see him back on the bike soon. It hasn't been a straightforward year for me either, so I sympathise a lot with him. Let's make the most of this weekend," he added.

Dixon has been part of the World Championship paddock between 2019 and 2025, as he secured seven wins in Moto2. He raced two Grand Prix in MotoGP in 2021, coming in as a substitute for Franco Morbidelli at Petronas SRT. He has moved to Honda's factory team in the World Superbike Championship, although his own season has been hampered by injuries; hence, he sympathised with Mir.

'Once a King, Always A King': Wishes Pour In From Cricket Fraternity As Virat Kohli Turns 38

New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News): Birthday wishes poured in for Indian batting stalwart Virat Kohli as he turned 38 on Thursday, with former teammates, fellow cricketers, BCCI vice president and IPL franchises joining in to celebrate one of the most influential players of the modern era.

Former India opener Shikhar Dhawan was among the first to extend his wishes to Kohli, highlighting the batting stalwart's passion and hunger for the game.

"Happy Birthday, Virat Kohli! Your passion, hunger and love for the game continue to inspire millions. Have a fantastic year ahead, bro!" Dhawan wrote on X.

Former India batter Suresh Raina also wished Kohli, referring to him as



the 'King' while recalling the memorable moments he has given cricket fans over the years. "Happy Birthday, King Kohli! From breathtaking cover drives to unforgettable run chases, you've given cricket fans countless memories and emotions. Your passion, fighting spirit and hunger to win make you truly special. For me, watching you bat is pure joy. Keep inspiring, keep conquering and keep making India proud! Once a King, Always a King!" Raina posted on X.

Former India wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik, who shared the dressing room with Kohli at both international and franchise levels, also extended his greetings. "Same fire, every single year. 38 never looked this fit. Happy birthday, Virat," Karthik wrote. India pacer Mohammed Shami also took to Instagram to wish the batting stalwart, extending wishes for "many, many happy returns of the day." BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla praised Kohli's remarkable achievements and commitment to the sport, saying his contributions had set new benchmarks for aspiring sportspersons. "Your remarkable achievements, fighting spirit and commitment to the game have set new benchmarks and continue to motivate generations of aspiring sportspersons. "May you continue to scale greater heights, create many more memorable moments and inspire the nation with your brilliance both on and off the field. Wishing you a wonderful year ahead, filled with good health, happiness and continued success," Shukla wrote on X.

While the BCCI posted a creative poster showcasing Kohli sitting on the chair wearing his Test jersey, with his iconic photos hanging in frames on the wall.

"566 Intl. Matches & Counting, 28601 Intl. Runs & Counting, 86 Intl. Centuries & Counting. Winner of ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2011.

SAFF Championship 2026: Defending Champions India Beat Pakistan In Campaign Opener

Dhaka, Nov 5 (Way to News): Defending champions India began their SAFF Championship 2026 campaign with a 3-2 victory over Pakistan in their Group B opener at the National Stadium in Dhaka on Thursday. Suhail Ahmad Bhat scored twice in the first half before Manglenthang Kipgen added a third to give India a commanding 3-0 lead at the break. Pakistan scored twice in stoppage time through Najeeb Ullah and Alamgir Ghazi, but the Indian side held on to secure all three points.



India began cautiously, building patiently from the back and looking to establish control through the midfield, with Abhishek Suryavanshi operating in a deep role. Bhat thought he had opened the scoring in the 12th minute after getting on the end of an aerial ball from Kipgen, but the goal was ruled out for offside. The forward was not to be denied for long. A minute later, Muhammad Suhail collected the ball from a throw-in on the left and drove forward before delivering an inch-perfect ball into the penalty area. Bhat arrived at the six-yard box to turn it home and give India the lead.

India doubled their advantage in the 19th minute, with Suryavanshi providing the assist. As Pakistan dropped deeper, the midfielder found himself further up the pitch and played a precise, line-breaking pass through the defence. Bhat timed his run to perfection, got clear of the backline and calmly slotted a first-time finish into the far corner past goalkeeper Yousuf Butt. The Blue Tigers continued to find space behind the Pakistan defence and made it 3-0 in the 31st minute. Noufal PN carried the ball forward through the middle before releasing Kipgen with a pass in behind. The midfielder ran onto it and finished past the advancing Butt to extend India's lead. Pakistan had an opportunity to reduce the deficit when Suryavanshi brought down Hayyaan Khattak from behind inside the penalty area. However, Shayak Dost sent the resulting spot-kick over the crossbar, allowing India to preserve their three-goal advantage.

'Time To Give It To The Future': Ronaldo Announces Retirement From International Football

New Delhi, Nov 5 (Way to News): Cristiano Ronaldo has announced his retirement from international football, bringing the curtain down on an illustrious 23-year career with Portugal, during which he became the highest goalscorer and most-capped player in men's international football. The 41-year-old forward confirmed his decision through an emotional video posted on social media, reflecting on his journey since making his senior debut for Portugal in August 2003.



Ronaldo finished his international career with 146 goals in 234 appearances, setting records that have made him one of the greatest players in the history of the game. In his farewell message, Ronaldo described representing Portugal as the greatest privilege of his career, saying the time had come to hand over the iconic number seven jersey to the next generation.

"To the Portuguese, the day has come to return the number 7 jersey of the national team to all of us. I never felt like it was exclusively mine, but for 23 years I had the privilege and responsibility to wear it, to defend it and to take it with me to the stadiums all over the world. Today the time has come to give it to the future," he said in a video posted on X.

Reflecting on his journey, Ronaldo admitted that his career had been filled with unforgettable victories as well as difficult moments, but insisted that his commitment to the national team never wavered.

"There were perfect afternoons and nights; there were victories that I will never forget, and there were defeats that I still have a hard time remembering today. I also failed, I also suffered, there were also times when I was not able to give the Portuguese what they wanted so much. But I never gave up. And above all, I never stopped feeling proud to represent Portugal," he said. He also thanked his teammates, coaches, support staff and family for standing by him throughout his international journey.

"To all the coaches, directors, doctors, physiotherapists, dressers, employees, and so many people who have worked with me over the years, thank you. Many of you never appeared in the photos, but without you, none of these photos would have been possible. To my family, thank you for sharing this dream with me," he said. "Thank you for understanding the absences, sacrifices and moments when the national team had to occupy a space that also belonged to you. If I got so far, it was because we were always at hand," he added.

Asian Champions Trophy: India Summit Clash With Japan After Emphatic 8-1 Win Over South Korea

Mohali, Nov 5 (Way to News): Shilanand Lakra and Dilpreet Singh struck a brace each as the Indian men's hockey team booked their place in the final of the Asian Champions Trophy Punjab 2026 with a dominating 8-1 win over South Korea in the semifinal at the Olympian Balbir Singh Senior International Hockey Stadium in Mohali on Wednesday.

Shilanand Lakra scored in the 4th and 13th minutes, while Dilpreet Singh succeeded in the 21st and 25th minutes, and Harmanpreet Singh (9), Sukhjeet Singh (21), Angad Bir Singh (36) and Vivek Sagar Prasad (54) were also on target. Sangjun Han (9) scored Korea's only goal. The semifinal was India's first international match in the Mohali stadium and was played in front of a vociferous crowd. The five-time champions, who had finished the league stage unbeaten with five wins from five matches, carried that form into the knockout match and will now face Japan in Thursday's final. Japan edged Malaysia in a shootout after the first semifinal remained goalless through 60 minutes of regulation time.

India started on the front foot and took the lead in the fourth minute through a well-worked team goal. Dilpreet collected the ball around the nine-yard area in the striking circle and passed it to Sukhjeet before receiving it back. He then cut the ball across from the baseline for Shilanand to deflect it into the net from close range.

Korea responded in the ninth minute when Sangjun Han deflected a pass from the right past goalkeeper Suraj Karkera. Nonetheless, India restored their lead almost immediately through a penalty corner, with skipper Harmanpreet sending a powerful drag-flick into the net.



India earned another penalty corner in the 13th minute. Harmanpreet's first attempt was saved by goalkeeper Kim Jaehyeon, but Shilanand reacted quickly on the rebound to score his second goal. The second quarter began with five quiet minutes before India stepped up their attacking play. Sukhjeet made it 4-1 with a fine reverse-flick after controlling a sensational pass from Sanjay, turning past a defender and finding the net. India struck again in quick succession when Angad and Dilpreet combined in a neat one-two, with Dilpreet stretching to guide the ball into the net.

Dilpreet added his second goal in the 25th minute, controlling Harmanpreet's long aerial pass into the circle before beating the goalkeeper with a reverse-flick. India went into the half-time break with a commanding 6-1 lead.

The proceedings after the break started bizarrely when Korea captain Kim Yong Bok received a five-minute yellow card because the visitors fielded more than 11 players on the pitch. Things got worse for them in the 36th minute as Angad added India's seventh goal after Jarmanpreet Singh made a strong run down the right and sent the ball into the circle. India also earned a penalty corner after Shilanand was struck by a rebound, but Amandeep Lakra's attempt was saved by the Korean goalkeeper. The visitors struggled to create chances in the final quarter; although they earned a penalty corner, Park Geunwoo's attempt went wide.

Soon after, Vivek added India's eighth goal in the 54th minute with a fine solo effort, carrying the ball from the right into the circle before beating the goalkeeper with a reverse hit. And as soon as the hooter went off, the packed stands erupted, and the fireworks lit up the venue. Dilpreet was named Player of the Match for his two goals. He credited teamwork for India scoring eight goals against Korea in a second consecutive game.

"Our aim was to execute our plans. It doesn't matter who scores and who doesn't. It is very special to play in Punjab, with our families in the stands and represent India in front of them. Thanks to all the fans for their energy. We look forward to seeing the fans in the final as well," he said. Earlier, Japan booked their place in the final after beating Malaysia 5-3 in a shootout following a goalless draw in the first semifinal. Before that, in the classification match for the 5th-6th place between China and Bangladesh, the Chinese team finished their tournament with a 3-1 win. India, defending champions and five-time winners of the Asian Champions Trophy, will now look to secure a record-extending sixth title when they meet Japan in the final on Thursday in Mohali.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Dhanush, Mammootty-starrer Om's makers release mellifluous single 'Senjudare' from film

The makers of director Rajkumar Periasamy's eagerly awaited action entertainer 'Om', featuring actors Dhanush and Mammootty in the lead, have now released the mellifluous single Senjudare from the film, much to the delight of fans and film buffs. RTake Studios, the production house producing the film along with Dhanush's Wunderbar Films, wrote, "She brings in warmth, grace and pure love. Senjudare - third single from #OM out now. Worldwide in cinemas from November 20. A @Rajkumar_KP Film. A @SaiAbhyankkar Musical. Lyrics by @tatvaman.Sung by #SaiAbhyankkar." The mellifluous single, which has a devotional touch to it, has been picturised on Sree Leela's character Roja in the film. Set to tune by Sai Abhyankar, the melodious song, which has a high retention value, has lyrics by Adesh Krishna and has been rendered by Sai Abhyankar himself.

It may be recalled thar only recently, the makers had revealed that actress Sai Pallavi plays an IPS officer called Nithya Reddy in the film. Director Rajkumar Periasamy, while sharing the link to the video introducing Sai Pallavi's character on X, had said, "HER! The PERFORMER@Sai_Pallavi92, You will never cease to amaze! Here's #SaiPallavi as #NithyaReddy, IPS, Naidupeta Ammayi frOM #OM." Responding to this post, Sai Pallavi wrote, "Dear @Rajkumar_KP sir, Thank you so much for choosing me again and this time play to play Nithya Reddy!I see my alter ego in her."

For the unaware, Rajkumar Periasamy had worked with Sai Pallavi in his earlier film, 'Amaran', as well. In the video that the makers released, Nithya Reddy is an IPS officer from the Andhra Pradesh cadre. After having worked with the Andhra Pradesh Police, Nithya Reddy gets inducted into the Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI) as Additional Superintendent to work with Interpol. Her higher ups rate her highly as she is honest, smart and has experience at a young age. More significantly, she is the person running the operation 'OM'. The film is slated to hit screens on November 20 this year. The makers had originally planned to release the film on October 16. However, actor Dhanush, in a statement, had announced the film's postponement. He had said that they had chosen to postpone the release of their film out of respect for Superstar Rajinikanth, whose film Jailer 2 hit screens on October 15.



Dhanush had also made it clear that their film would not be releasing for Deepavali as Suriya's film had already been announced for the same date. The actor and producer later announced November 20 as the date of release for their film. The film has triggered huge interest in fans and film buffs as this is the first time that Dhanush and Mammootty are collaborating on a project. Director Rajkumar Periasamy had disclosed earlier that Mammootty plays a character called Karthikeyan the film. Participating in the title teaser launch event of the film which was held in June this year, Rajkumar Periasamy had disclosed that Malayalam superstar Mammootty played a character called Karthikeyan in the film and that 60 to 65 per cent of filming had then been completed. For the unaware, the unit of the film had recently shot in Malaysia. Mammootty had also jointly celebrated his recent National Award win with three other National Award winners -- Dhanush, director Rajkumar Periasamy and editor Kalaivanan -- on the sets of the film.

Bollywood star Naseeruddin Shah too is a part of this film. The film's title has a tagline called Chapter 1 indicating that there could be a sequel. A title teaser that the makers had released some time back had showed that the story revolves around those cutting red sanders for a living. Dhanush himself plays a woodcutter in the film. The teaser showed police personnel rounding up woodcutters chopping red sanders illegally. As they hold the workers hostage at gunpoint, Dhanush was seen coming to their rescue.

Wunderbar Films Head Sreyas, while speaking at the title teaser launch event, had disclosed that this would be one of the biggest budget films in Dhanush's career. He had also said that this film would bring back the mass vintage Dhanush that fans had longed to see.

The film, which features Sai Pallavi and Sreeleela as the heroines, has music by Sai Abhyankkar. Cinematography for the film is by Ezhil Arasu. Editing for the film is by Kalaivanan R and costumes are by Kavya Sriram.

Sharvari spots 'Wagh in the nature'

AS SHE ENJOYS SAFARI WITH HER SISTER



Actress Sharvari, who was recently seen in 'Alpha', went on a safari along with her elder sister, Kasturi Wagh. the actress took to her Instagram, and shared a series of pictures and videos from her outing. The siblings also spotted a tiger during their safari. She wrote in the caption, "Wagh in the nature" referring to her last name.

In one of the videos, the actress can be seen casually sleeping while her vehicle treads the off-road during the safari. Meanwhile, on the work front, the actress is awaiting the release of her upcoming film 'Yeh Prem Mol Liya' in which she stars opposite Ayushmann Khurrana. Earlier, the actress had shared a heartwarming glimpse of her bond with her mother as she revealed how she turned her mother's treasured pink Patola saree into a special outfit for the promotions of 'Yeh Prem Mol Liya'. She took to her Instagram, and recalled how her mother gifted her the saree after watching 'Jhumka Patola' for the first time. Sharvari said she was touched by the love and pride reflected in her mother's eyes, who then handed over the beautiful saree to her as a blessing.

Sharing the story behind the outfit, Sharvari revealed that the pink Patola saree was a cherished family heirloom that her mother had worn over the years and associated with several special memories. "When my Aai watched #JhumkaPatola for the first time, I will never forget the love and pride in her eyes.. she gave me her beautiful pink Patola saree as a blessing! An heirloom she has adorned over the years and made so many beautiful memories in", she wrote. The actress said reinventing something so precious to her mother and wearing it during the film promotions made the experience even more meaningful.

The safari outing offered a refreshing break for the actress, who appeared to enjoy spending quality time with her sister amid her busy professional schedule. The pictures and videos shared on social media gave fans a glimpse of the sisters' fun-filled adventure, with the tiger sighting emerging as one of the highlights of the trip.

Sharvari has been steadily building her presence in the film industry with a mix of diverse roles and commercial projects.

THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE FILM TO BE A LENGTHY ONE

Sivakarthikeyan to Resume Seyon Shoot Soon

If sources in the industry are to be believed, actor Sivakarthikeyan will resume shooting for Director Sivakumar Murugesan's upcoming film 'Seyon', shortly and that the makers had planned for the film's next schedule to be a long one. Sources close to the actor told that Sivakarthikeyan would shortly be leaving for Madurai where the third schedule of the film had been planned. "The third schedule will be a lengthy one. It will be for a period of about 25 to 30 days," informs a source. It may be recalled that Sivakarthikeyan is simultaneously shooting for director Ramkumar Balakrishnan's upcoming film as well. The film, which is yet to be titled and which is tentatively being referred to as #SK27, had gone on floors on September 25 this year.

Meanwhile, the shooting of 'Seyon' is to resume shortly with cinematographer Vidhu Ayyana cranking the camera. A few days ago, director Sivakumar Murugesan had clarified that they had to bring in a new cinematographer as cinematographer Vivek Vijayakumar, who was originally chosen as the film's cameraman, had to leave due to date issues.

Director Sivakumar Murugesan, while responding to a question from a fan on X, sought to to put an end to speculation that some portions of the film had been reshot. He wrote, "No brother. Vivek is an excellent cinematographer. This change is being made solely due to date issues, as the shooting schedules of the two films he had already signed (sic). Seyon is shaping up exceptionally well. Thank you."

Vidhu Ayyanna, who has replaced Vivek Vijayakumar as the cinematographer of the film, is best known for having shot the Sivakarthikeyan-starrer 'Maaveeran'. The makers of the film had recently announced that the unit of the film had wrapped up its second schedule of shooting.



Raaj Kamal Films International, the production house of actor Kamal Haasan which is producing the film, took to its social media timelines to put out a video clip announcing the completion of the film's second schedule. Sivakarthikeyan had taken a short break in Ooty ahead of the gruelling second schedule.

The actor had a few days ago posted pictures of himself seated alone on a jeep and enjoying the serenity offered by the mist-surrounded mountains in Ooty. Posting the pictures on Instagram, he had said, "A pause. A breeze. A little peace."

The makers of the film had on June 10 this year announced that the unit had wrapped up the first schedule of shooting. The film officially went on floors in Madurai with a grand pooja ceremony that was graced by several celebrities including actor Kamal Haasan on May 18 this year.

Produced by Kamal Haasan's RaajKamal Films International and Turmeric Media, the film features actress Baghyashrii Borse as the female lead.

Interestingly, this will be Baghyashrii Borse's first direct Tamil film.

The film, which will feature Sakarthikeyan in a power-packed and dynamic new role, will be a grand rural commercial entertainer.

The film marks a significant reunion between Sivakarthikeyan and Raaj Kamal Films International. Their collaboration for this film comes on the heels of the blockbuster success of their earlier film 'Amaran', which garnered both critical acclaim and commercial triumph.

Produced by Kamal Haasan and R. Mahendran, the film brings together powerful storytelling and a co+mpelling cinematic vision. Adding to the excitement, this project will mark the first-ever collaboration between RaajKamal Films International, Sivakarthikeyan, and acclaimed composer Santhosh Narayanan. The film has editing by San Lokesh. Art direction for the film is by R K Nagu while Keerthy Sampath and Joshua Maxwell are its costume designers.

Kritika Visits New Zealand with Husband Gaurav

Kritika Kamra recently travelled to New Zealand with her husband Gaurav Kapur, as he was there for his professional cricket commitments. The actress said that "it was also nice to spend some quality time together." Talking about her New Zealand visit, Kritika said: "It was my first time in New Zealand, and I really enjoyed the experience. The weather was lovely, and I loved getting to see the country."

"Since Gaurav was here for work, it was also nice to spend some quality time together. Celebrating my birthday in Christchurch and experiencing the cricket atmosphere made the trip even more special," the actress said. Kritika made her acting debut in 2007, with Yahan Ke Hum Sikandar. In 2009, she played a singer, Arohi in Kitani Mohabbat Hai opposite Karan. She was then seen in Pyaar Ka Bandhan, Kitani Mohabbat Hai 2, Kuch Toh Log Kahenge, In 2015, Kritika played a reporter, Ananya Kashyap, opposite Rajeev Khandelwal, in Reporters. She was then seen as Princess Chandrakanta in Prem Ya Paheli – Chandrakanta.

Kritika made her film debut in 2018, with Mitron. In 2021, she played a college student Sana in the web series Tandav. In 2022, she first played a princess Kamini in Kaun Banegi Shikharwati. Next, she played Dolly, a woman in a troubled marriage in Hush Hush. The actress played a reporter Vidhi, in the 2023 film Bheed. In the same year, she played Habiba, in Bambai Meri Jaan. Her most recent release, Gyaarah Gyaarah.

Kritika and Gaurav got married in March earlier this year. The couple hosted intimate wedding celebrations with their families and a close circle of friends.



Sunny Deol Gets Emotional at Father's Farmhouse

Actor visits Dharmendra's farmhouse with son Karan, remembers his father

Actor Sunny Deol took to social media to express how much he misses his father, veteran actor Dharmendra, as he visited his farmhouse with his son Karan Deol. Sharing a glimpse of the visit, the 'Gadar' actor penned an emotional note that read, "Missing you Papa." Sunny shared a video from the farmhouse, showing crop-related activities taking place in the fields. In the clip, the actor can be seen standing alongside Karan as the two watch the activities. Sunny is also heard referring to the property as "Papa's farm." The actor's post reflected his longing for his father, who passed away recently. He also added the title track of his film "Apne" to the video, making the post even more emotional as he remembered his father and shared a glimpse of the farmhouse that holds special memories of Dharmendra.

Dharmendra owned a sprawling farmhouse spread across nearly 100 acres in the picturesque Lonavala-Khandala hills of Maharashtra, close to Mumbai. The property served as a peaceful retreat for the veteran actor, where he used to spent time away from the busy film industry. The expansive estate is known for its natural surroundings and rustic design, with elements of wood and stone giving it a countryside feel. It also features a spacious sitting area and a heated swimming pool. Dharmendra reportedly enjoyed spending time at the farmhouse, where he personally grew fruits and vegetables. The property has also featured in several of his social media videos, offering a glimpse into his life away from the spotlight. For the unversed, veteran actor Dharmendra passed away on November 24, 2025 at the age of 89 at his residence in Mumbai.

Sunny Deol had earlier expressed his love and admiration for his father through a social media post dedicated to Dharmendra. The actor had shared the trailer of his father's film 'Ikkis' on Instagram and penned an affectionate note, writing, "Love you papa." "Ikkis" marked Dharmendra's final appearance on the big screen.



Bhuvan Bam to return with 'Dhindora' Season 2 on November 20

Actor and creator Bhuvan Bam is coming back with the second season of his show 'Dhindora', which will premiere on Netflix on November 20 this year. Produced by Rohit Raj and Bhuvan Bam, the latest season will revolve around the lovable Titu Mama trying to make peace with his in-laws, leading to a whole new storm.

The primary season of 'Dhindora' marked the way for creator-led storytelling in India, with multiple characters being brought to life by a single person forming one interconnected universe. Revealing what the audience can expect from season two, Bhuvan Bam shared, "Dhindora began on as a chaotic, and deeply relatable world, and Season 2 takes that heart and humour to a much bigger canvas."

"Bringing it to Netflix lets us share these characters with a wider audience without losing the cultural specificity that made the show feel like home. I'm so excited for long-time fans and new viewers to dive into this next chapter," he added. Tanya Bami, Series Head, Netflix India, added, "We are excited to welcome to Netflix a never-before-seen ensemble featuring Titu Mama, Babloo ji, Janki, Sameer, and Bancho, and every avatar played by Bhuvan Bam in his cult fan-favourite, Dhindora. This is a unique dimension within our slate and the comedy genre and it crystallizes key fan favourite tones, styles and punches from BBK Vines across the 8 episodes of this series." "What excites us about this partnership is Bhuvan's instinct for storytelling, how deeply he understands his audience and how versatile he is as an actor, to be able to pull off 9 characters himself in this series. With Dhindora 2 returning after 5 years we wanted to give that voice a bigger canvas while keeping the humour, heart and irreverence that make Dhindora unmistakably his," she added. 'Dhindora Season 2' is expected to premiere on November 20, only on Netflix.



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