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Previous Govt Treated Naxalism As Incurable Disease, Left It Unaddressed: PM Modi





Jagdalpur/Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Nov 8 (Way to News): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that the country's prolonged battle against Maoist terror and Naxalism had been extremely challenging, recalling how nearly 230 districts across around 20 states were once affected by Left-Wing Extremism (LWE).

Addressing security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bastar on the occasion of Diwali, PM Modi said that there was a time when the situation in Naxal-affected areas had become so severe that people were unable to step out of their homes after sunset.

"The battle against Maoist terror and Naxalism was not an easy one. There was a time when nearly 230 districts across around 20 states were affected by Naxalism. Life would come to a standstill after sunset, and stepping out of homes became nearly impossible. People were stripped of their voting rights. Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh — a large part of the country was in the grip of Left-Wing Extremism," the Prime Minister said. He further highlighted the scale of violence during that period, stating that the country witnessed as many as 2,000 Maoist attacks in a single year. Recalling some of the deadliest incidents of Maoist violence in 2010, PM Modi referred to the Dantewada attacks in which a large number of security personnel and civilians lost their lives. He said that 76 CRPF personnel were martyred during an encounter with Naxalites in the neighbouring Dantewada region. In another attack in the district during the same year, 44 innocent civilians were killed. "This land was soaked in the blood of our bravehearts. However, not a single tear fell from the eyes of any of the high-born residents of the palaces," he said, criticising the then leadership over its response to the violence.

The Prime Minister said that such deadly attacks were not isolated incidents, as violence continued to occur almost every day in different parts of the country and remained a persistent challenge for several decades.

Prez Murmu urges youth to contribute to Viksit Bharat



New Delhi, Nov 8 (Way to News): President Droupadi Murmu extended warm Diwali greetings to the countrymen on Sunday and wished for the "patriotic youth" of the nation to contribute "enormously" towards the goal of Viksit Bharat. People across India are celebrating Diwali on Sunday with traditional fervour and enthusiasm, illuminating their homes, streets and public spaces with diyas, decorative lights and colourful decorations.

In a statement, the President said, "On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, I extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all Indians living in India and abroad." "The joyous celebrations followed Bhagwan Shri Ram's return to Ayodhya after his victory over Ravana. Bhagwan Shri Ram beheld the beautiful rows of illuminated lamps. This forms the cultural and devotional significance of Diwali. The festival also symbolises the auspicious beginning of Ram Rajya," she added.

President Murmu said that the festival of Diwali marks the "victory of virtues over negative tendencies", while also signifying the "end of suffering and the beginning of a joyful and prosperous life". "On this occasion, people worship Bhagwan Ganesh for auspicious beginnings and well-being, and Mahalakshmi Mata for prosperity. Prayers are offered for the happiness of all," she said.

"I wish good health, happiness and prosperity to every citizen of our country. May we preserve the environment, live with harmony and may our patriotic youth, guided by Indian values, contribute enthusiastically to building a Viksit Bharat," the President added. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also extended heartfelt Diwali wishes to the countrymen, wishing everyone happiness, well-being, and prosperity on the occasion of the festival of lights.

Taking to social media platform X, the Prime Minister shared his wishes with citizens and conveyed his greetings to people celebrating the festival across the country. "Diwali wishes to everyone! Boundless Diwali wishes to my family members across the country," PM Modi posted on X (in Hindi).

Continuing his tradition, the Prime Minister will celebrate Diwali with defence personnel this year too.

Congress to continue agitation until CEC Gyanesh Kumar is removed: Venugopal



New Delhi, Nov 8 (Way to News): The Congress will continue its agitation demanding the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, with the party planning to take its campaign to the panchayat level and appoint a 'Vote Rakshak' at every polling booth, AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said on Sunday.

Describing the pause in the agitation during Diwali as temporary, Venugopal said the party would withdraw its campaign only after Kumar was removed from office and steps were taken to ensure that India's electoral system was impartial and fair.

"We will withdraw from this agitation only after Gyanesh Kumar is removed from the post and steps are taken to make India's electoral system and processes flawless, impartial and fair," Venugopal told reporters. "This is not a struggle that we will abandon midway."

As part of its next phase, the Congress will launch a 'Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao' campaign at the panchayat level over the next month and a half. The party will also appoint a 'Vote Rakshak' at every polling booth to scrutinise electoral rolls, identify deleted names and visit the homes of affected voters to help them get their names restored.

Venugopal said Congress units were already organising programmes across states and districts. The party was also working on joint campaigns with other opposition parties, he added.

Describing the November 1 rally in New Delhi as one of the strongest protests the country had witnessed, Venugopal said the campaign was directed against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Assam expels 28 Bangladeshi nationals from Sribhumi, says CM Sarma



Guwahati, Nov 8 (Way to News): Police in Assam's Sribhumi district apprehended and expelled 28 Bangladeshi nationals allegedly staying in the state illegally, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Saturday.

"Assam's patience with illegal infiltration is over. 28 illegal migrants detected by Sribhumi Police were expelled," Sarma posted on X. "We will continue this mission with unwavering determination. No compromise on our borders. No compromise on the security and identity of Assam."

Sribhumi, the state's southernmost district, was renamed from Karimganj in November 2024. It borders Bangladesh's Sylhet division and is one of four Assam districts on the international boundary, along with Dhubri, South Salmara-Mankachar and Cachar. Assam has an integrated checkpost in Sribhumi and a land customs station at Mankachar.

The expulsions are carried out under the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950. The state cabinet approved a standard operating procedure under the Act in September last year, empowering district commissioners to issue expulsion orders against anyone they hold to be a foreigner. "Push-back" drives along the border have run since May last year, several of them at night and announced by the Chief Minister on social media.

The numbers are not marginal. In a written reply to the Assembly this year, Assam Accord Implementation Minister Atul Bora said 2,089 illegal foreigners were deported, sent back or expelled from the state between 2016 and June 30, 2026, of whom 2,023 were sent to Bangladesh. The single largest year accounted for 1,811 of them.

Indian Oil to buy ships to strengthen Oil, LPG import Chain



New Delhi, Nov 8 (Way to News): Oil marketing company Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) plans to buy some ships of its own for importing crude oil and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in order to establish a more reliable supply chain and minimise disruptions due to geopolitical uncertainties such as the West Asia conflict.

Indian Oil's Director, Finance, Anuj Jain, said during the company's earnings call last week that tenders for the purchase of a few vessels were issued some months ago. The company currently has three crude oil tankers and nine LPG carriers on time charter, which have helped it manage shipping costs during the West Asia conflict when spot rates for shipping have soared.

Freight rates for LPG have also increased sharply. Spot rates have risen to around $160–$180 per tonne from normal levels of about $40 per tonne. The increase comes amid the increasing attacks on merchant ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz, a waterway through which 20 per cent of the world's energy exports transit during normal times.

During the October 31 earnings call, Jain said Indian Oil was working on three areas of its shipping operations. These include managing its existing chartered fleet, purchasing vessels, and exploring options to build ships in India.

Apart from buying ships, Indian Oil is also looking at options to place orders for ships with Indian shipyards under the government's Make in India policy.

The refiner had earlier explored plans to acquire four medium-range vessels through an arrangement involving Shipping Corporation of India and other state-run oil companies.

Indian Oil has long-term shipping contracts in place which have cushioned the company from the sharp hike in freight rates due to the Iran war.

Jantar Mantar ban pushes groups into permission maze



New Delhi, Nov 8 (Way to News): The denotification of Delhi's Jantar Mantar from the designated protest list has not just impacted the movement by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), but has also paralysed other protests that do not have the same pan-India bandwidth.

On October 12, following the growing intense protests demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar over the alleged irregularities in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and disagreements between the other two Election Commissioners, the Union Home Ministry denotified Jantar Mantar, the focal point of the protests. It named three alternatives: Burari Ground, Ramlila Ground and CBD Ground.

Small scale demonstrators protesting for big causes have been left scrambling for permissions. At least 15 demonstrations were lined up between October and December. These were Naga Students' Union protests against Manipur violence, LPG Distributors' Association (LDAI), Jaat Mahasabha and Citizen Vote Vigilance Committee, among others. Naga Students' Union protest was scheduled to take place on October 12 with 250 participants. Nearly two weeks ago, they submitted an application at Parliament Street Police Station, only to be rejected.

"We approached the police asking what to do next. They recommended that we go to Burari Ground. We were directed to Ashok Vihar Police Station for permission," said union president Chipika Zhimo. The Ashok Vihar Police told the students to approach the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) as the ground comes under their jurisdiction. "We then went to the DDA office. We were told we will have to fill out an online application.

Kumaraswamy accuses officials of corruption, cites WhatsApp chats



Bengaluru, Nov 8 (Way to News): Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy has accused officials in Hassan district and Minister Shivalingegowda of involvement in alleged bribery, presenting excerpts from purported WhatsApp conversations of Deputy Commissioner's personal assistant Shashikiran.

The Union Minister claimed that the messages exposed demands for money in connection with the clearance of three files relating to stone crushers. Reading out the alleged exchanges, he said the conversations indicated that payments were being collected and distributed among officials and staff.

One of the messages reportedly referred to payments made over three years and questioned why additional money was being sought. In response, the other party allegedly said that the amount collected had to be handed over to the DC, while a smaller share would be distributed among employees in the section. Kumaraswamy further claimed that the messages mentioned an alleged Rs 15 lakh payment for a particular task in April. He also referred to a demand for Rs 60 lakh to settle the three files, followed by an alleged agreement involving Rs 75 lakh.

According to the Union Minister's reading of the chat, the Deputy Commissioner was said to have discussed the matter with the Arsikere tahsildar, Santosh, after which the amount was allegedly arranged and paid.

Bangladesh calls Hasina 'convicted criminal', seeks extradition



Dhaka, Nov 8 (Way to News): Bangladesh's Law Minister Md Asaduzzaman on Sunday, November 8, described ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina as a "convicted criminal" and said Dhaka has requested India to extradite her, according to local media reports.

Responding to questions from journalists after inaugurating a training workshop in Dhaka, Asaduzzaman said the government was taking all necessary legal steps to bring Hasina back from India and would follow due process. "To me, she is a criminal. A criminal convicted by our tribunal. To us, this is her identity," he said, according to a report on bdnews24 website.

Asked about bringing Hasina back to Bangladesh, the law minister said the government would act in accordance with the law and would not be guided by emotion. "Although the Law Ministry is not directly involved in this matter, the Ministry of Home Affairs is concerned, as it relates to the extradition treaty with India. The matter will be dealt with in accordance with the law, leaving no room for emotions. We have requested her repatriation under the treaty and through due process," Asaduzzaman was quoted as saying by the state-run BSS news agency.

Bdnews24 also quoted Asaduzzaman as saying: "That is a matter for the Indian government. We have made requests to them under the extradition treaty."

Ayodhya Shines with 36 Lakh Diyas at Deepotsav

Ayodhya, Nov 8 (Way to News): Ayodhya, the birthplace of Lord Ram, was illuminated with over 36 lakh earthen lamps on Saturday, November 7, as the city celebrated the 10th edition of Deepotsav along the banks of the Saryu river, officials here said.

This year's celebrations saw nearly 10 lakh more earthen lamps lit than in 2025, when the event earned recognition from the Guinness World Records. In 2025, the ninth edition of Deepotsav set two Guinness World Records, with 26,17,215 earthen lamps illuminated simultaneously and 2,128 people performing 'aarti' together, according to the state government.

According to an official statement issued late Saturday evening, the illumination of over 36 lakh lamps across 56 ghats, including Ram Ki Paidi, created an atmosphere reminiscent of the Treta Yuga, the era associated with Lord Ram. Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath lit lamps at Ram Ki Paidi as part of the celebrations.

Fireworks were also held to mark the arrival of Lord Ram in Ayodhya.

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Revanth Reddy Highlights TG's Push to Empower 1 cr Women

Hyderabad, Nov 9 (Way to News): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said the Telangana government was working with the vision of "Women's Progress – Telangana's Progress", aiming to empower one crore women to become financially prosperous and ensuring that every woman lives with dignity and self-respect.

He said the Praja Palana government was striving to make Telangana a role model for the entire country in women's empowerment.

The Chief Minister recalled that in the past, women had to pledge their gold ornaments to obtain bank loans. However, banks have now extended loans worth more than 79,000 crore to women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The government has so far paid 1,903 crore towards interest to women's groups. Revanth Reddy alleged that the previous government had even misused women's savings, whereas his government was regularly paying interest to SHGs every month. With government support, women's groups have established 6.48 lakh businesses with investments amounting to 11,952 crore. The government aims to establish solar power plants with a minimum capacity of two megawatts in every district. Plants have already been inaugurated in Madhira, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Khammam, Vikarabad, Jangaon and Peddapalli districts. Each plant is expected to generate up to 5 lakh in monthly income for women's groups.



" Women's Self-Help Groups are also managing a fleet of 1,000 buses, with each bus generating approximately Rs 70,000 in monthly rental income. The government is further planning to establish petrol pumps under the management of women's groups in every district. Four petrol pumps have been inaugurated in Narayanpet, Sangareddy and two other districts, generating an estimated monthly income of Rs 5 lakh each."

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An Indira Mahila Shakti Bazaar with 106 shops has been established near Hitech City. Through the sale of products manufactured by women's groups, the bazaar is generating annual business worth more than 11 crore. Under the 10 lakh accident insurance scheme, 23.65 crore has been paid to 237 families. Similarly, under the 2 lakh loan insurance scheme, 23.73 crore has been paid to 3,000 women beneficiaries. As part of the initiative to establish a Mahila Shakti Bhavan in every village, foundation stones have been laid in 8,000 villages, while construction has been completed in 5,000 villages. In addition, 22 district-level Mahila Shakti Bhavans have been completed at a cost of 110 crore. The government has created several employment opportunities through different initiatives: Through this initiative, 12 lakh women are being provided educational opportunities in their respective localities. Special training and encouragement are also being provided to enable them to appear for the Class 10 examinations. The government is also planning to distribute one crore Indiramma sarees to one crore women every year.

Diwali is about spreading light and happiness in everyone's lives: Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla

Hyderabad, Nov 9 (Way to News): Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla has said that the true spirit of Diwali lies not merely in lighting lamps at home but also in bringing happiness and hope into the lives of others, particularly the poor and those in distress. Extending Diwali greetings to the people of Telangana, the Governor called upon everyone to celebrate the festival with love, compassion, a spirit of service and mutual cooperation.



The Governor and his wife, Janaki Shukla, celebrated advance Diwali with Lok Bhavan employees and their families at Lok Bhavan here on Saturday evening. They interacted with the staff, joined officials in bursting firecrackers to mark the triumph of good over evil, and distributed sweets and festive gifts. Addressing the employees, Mr. Shukla said Diwali symbolised the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance and good over evil. He said the festival should inspire people to eliminate hatred and negative thoughts and spread positivity in society. Even a few comforting words could bring happiness and emotional strength to those facing difficulties, he observed.

Referring to the grand Deepotsav celebrations in Ayodhya, where around 30 lakh diyas were being lit, the Governor said lighting lamps should become a tradition in every household. He urged people to prefer earthen lamps over candles to support indigenous products and provide livelihood opportunities to traditional artisans. The Governor also called upon people to celebrate Diwali safely, particularly advising parents to take extra care of children while bursting firecrackers. He emphasised the importance of punctuality and discipline in everyday life and official responsibilities.

Special Chief Secretary to the Governor M. Dana Kishore said Diwali symbolised the triumph of good over evil and appreciated the Governor's initiative in bringing Lok Bhavan employees and their families together for the celebrations.

The celebrations were attended by Special Chief Secretary M. Dana Kishore and his wife Aparna, Joint Secretary K. Shashi Kiran Chary, ADC Kanti Lal, Aman Kundu, OSD Seshagiri Rao, Deputy Secretary G. Pallavi, Assistant Secretary K. Murali Charyulu, Press Secretary M. Dasharatham and other officials and employees.

Telangana Plans Scientific Silo Network to Boost Farmers' Income

- Uttam Kumar Reddy Reviews Two Proposed Models for Modern Grain Storage Infrastructure
- Proposed Facilities to Prevent Distress Sales and Help Farmers Secure Better Prices for Premium Paddy



Hyderabad, Nov 9 (Way to News): In a major move to shield Telangana farmers from distress sales and post-harvest losses, the State government is working on plans for building a major scientific silo network, said the Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Saturday.

At a review meeting held in the State Secretariat, the Minister discussed two proposed models for establishing the silo infrastructure. Under the first model, the Telangana State Civil Supplies Corporation (TSCSC) would directly establish silos in a big way by mobilising loans from reputed financial institutions.

Under the second model, modern storage capacity would be created through private sector participation. The government would encourage private entrepreneurs to establish silo facilities at around 20 locations to be identified across the State initially, with the Civil Supplies Corporation providing a rental guarantee to make the investments financially viable.

It is aimed at transforming grain storage, preserving quality and helping cultivators secure higher returns from premium paddy varieties. The initiative aims to prevent post-harvest storage losses while protecting farmers from distress sales and enable them to realise better prices for Telangana's increasingly popular premium paddy varieties.

The Minister wanted the proposals finalised expeditiously, including the financial implications, financing arrangements and rental commitments. He wanted possibility of securing institutional finance at competitive interest rates to be explored.

Explaining the importance of the proposed infrastructure, Uttam Kumar Reddy said farmers growing premium varieties of paddy in Telangana were not getting the full value of their produce because of inadequate scientific storage facilities. Freshly harvested paddy generally contains around 25 per cent moisture, making it difficult for farmers to store their produce safely. Consequently, many farmers are forced to sell their harvest immediately, sometimes within 24 hours, regardless of prevailing market prices. The proposed silo system would provide scientific drying and storage facilities, allowing farmers to preserve their produce for longer periods and sell it when market conditions are favourable.

The Minister pointed out that premium paddy varieties currently fetched around Rs 3,500 to Rs 4,500 per quintal when moisture content was approximately 25 per cent. The same produce, after scientific drying to around 12 per cent moisture, could command prices ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 5,500 per quintal.

Uttam Kumar Reddy observed that Telangana had emerged as one of the country's leading paddy-producing States, with several locally cultivated varieties gaining recognition in premium rice markets even overseas. Varieties such as JSR, RNR and HMT were increasingly commanding higher market values.

Collector, MLA celebrate Diwali with Indiramma Beneficiaries

Ranga Reddy Officials Celebrate Diwali with Beneficiaries in Kanakamamidi Villageto Housing and Welfare

Ranga Reddy, Nov 9 (Way to News): As part of the state government's flagship initiative, "Diwali Celebrations in Indiramma Homes," Ranga Reddy District Collector C. Narayana Reddy and Chevella MLA Kale Yadaiah participated in Diwali festivities on Sunday at the homes of 'Indiramma' housing scheme beneficiaries—Andalu and Ragichettu Bhaskar—in Kanakamamidi village, Moinabad Mandal.



During the visit, the Collector and the MLA interacted warmly with the family members of the beneficiaries and inquired about their well-being. They joined the families in bursting firecrackers and participated in the Diwali celebrations with great enthusiasm, sharing in the joy of the festival. The beneficiary families expressed their happiness at having public representatives and senior officials visit their homes to celebrate the festival with them.

Speaking on the occasion, District Collector C. Narayana Reddy stated:

The state government is implementing the 'Indiramma' housing scheme as a prestigious initiative, with the goal of realizing the dream of homeownership for poor and middle-class families. He noted that owning a home provides every family with a sense of self-respect, security, and assurance. The government is working to improve the living standards of eligible poor families by sanctioning 'Indiramma' houses for them.

It is a matter of great joy to celebrate Diwali at the homes of 'Indiramma' housing scheme beneficiaries; the primary objective of this initiative is to bring light into the lives of poor families through government welfare schemes. Beneficiaries are urged to make the best use of the financial assistance provided by the government and ensure that the construction of their homes meets quality standards.

This initiative is being carried out across all assembly constituencies in the district, with the participation of ministers, MLAs, and other public representatives. In every village, Sarpanches, local public representatives, officials, and villagers are joining the families of the 'Indiramma' housing beneficiaries to celebrate Diwali.

were extended for everyone to celebrate the festival of Diwali with happiness, prosperity, good health, and longevity. Speaking on the occasion, Chevella MLA Kale Yadaiah stated:

Indiramma Housing Scheme Bringing Stability to Poor Families: Jupally

Hyderabad, Nov 9 (Way to News): Telangana Tourism and Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao has said that the state government's objective is to bring light into the lives of poor families by providing them with permanent houses through the Indiramma Housing Scheme.



As part of the 'Maa Indiramma Intlo Deepavali' celebrations, the minister participated in Diwali festivities at beneficiary Aadi Bakkamma's house in Koderu mandal of Kollapur constituency in Nagarkurnool district. He presented new clothes to the family and extended Diwali greetings, sharing their happiness at celebrating the festival in their own home.

On the occasion, Jupally distributed sanction proceedings for the second phase of Indiramma houses to poor families living in huts. He said the government, under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, was implementing the housing scheme on a priority basis.

The minister stated that 4.5 lakh houses were sanctioned in the first phase across Telangana. Of these, 2.25 lakh houses have been completed, while another 1.9 lakh are at various stages of construction. The government is undertaking house construction works with an estimated expenditure of around 40,000 crore across the state. He added that financial assistance is being transferred directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts to ensure transparency. The government aims to provide eligible poor families with secure and stable housing, he said.

District Collector Hemanth Keshav Patil, Nagarkurnool District Housing Project Director Gopal Naik, Wanaparthy District Housing Project Director Vithoba and other officials attended the programme. Jupally said the government was committed to ensuring that no eligible poor family remained without a permanent home. He urged beneficiaries to utilise the financial assistance effectively and complete construction works as per prescribed standards.

NCRTC Celebrates Namo Bharat Diwas 2026, Marking Three Successful Years of Namo Bharat Operations

Hyderabad, Nov 9 (Way to News): NCRTC celebrated 'Namo Bharat Diwas 2026', marking three successful years of Namo Bharat operations and a transformative journey in regional mobility on 17th October 2026 in New Delhi. The occasion was graced by Hon'ble Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs and Power, Shri Manohar Lal; Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Tokhan Sahu; Secretary, Department of Capital Development, MoHUA, and Chairperson, NCRTC, Smt. D. Thara; and Secretary, Department of Urban Development, Shri Satendra Singh. Managing Director, NCRTC, Shri Shalabh Goel, along with the Directors and senior officials, welcomed the dignitaries.



On this occasion, NCRTC reflected on the remarkable journey of Namo Bharat, highlighting key milestones, initiatives to strengthen multimodal connectivity, first- and last-mile connectivity to enhance the commuter experience, and initiatives such as Solar on Track and the development of a 110 MW captive solar power plant to promote the environmental and financial sustainability of the project. These achievements and the progress made by the project were showcased through a film, highlighting the efforts, innovations and initiatives that continue to shape Namo Bharat's journey.

Speaking on the occasion, Hon'ble Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs and Power, Shri Manohar Lal, said, "Namo Bharat' is not merely a name; it embodies the spirit of putting the nation first, along with the values of dedication, culture and traditions. Namo Bharat rapid rail is ushering in a new era of regional connectivity in India, giving a new dimension to the future of urban transportation. Since its inauguration by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 20 October 2023, the 82-km-long Delhi–Ghaziabad–Meerut corridor has recorded over 4.5 crore passenger journeys. This achievement reflects the growing trust of the people in modern, safe and seamless transportation."

He also added, "I believe that better transportation does not merely reduce distances between cities but also connects people with new opportunities, thereby accelerating regional development and economic progress.

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Congress, SP's politics will be buried if development works continue: CM Yogi

Gorakhpur, Nov 8 (Way to News): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said the politics of the Congress and the Samajwadi Party (SP) will be "buried" if the BJP-led government continues its development work and that they might even face an "existential crisis".

Addressing the 'Van Tangiya' community in Gorakhpur on the occasion of the Diwali festival, the Chief Minister alleged that the Opposition is now defaming Ayodhya because they are anxious about the development work in the state.

"It is because they know that if such development works continue, the politics of the SP and Congress will be buried forever. They will face an existential crisis, similar to what they reduced the state to (during their tenure in UP and at the Centre, respectively). That is why they have started seeking to defame Ayodhya," he said

Emphasising that festivals are meant to be celebrated with family and are not for drug addiction or gambling, CM Adityanath advised people to refrain from these evils.

"Gambling leads to destruction; don't run after it. Families get destroyed due to drugs and gambling, so stay away from it," he said.

The Chief Minister said the government has launched a drive to crack down on drug dealers.



"After the elimination of the mafia, our next strike has begun against the drug dealers. Those who destroy the lives of others won't be allowed to roam free," he said while reiterating his advice to youths to stay away from drug addiction.

"There are many opportunities for the youth, and we have come here to make it available for them."

Meanwhile, CM Adityanath also accused the Congress and the SP of not taking care of the 'Van Tangiya' community in the state.

"Lord Ram spent 14 years in exile; however, first the British, then the Congress, and subsequently the Samajwadi Party left you and your ancestors to wander in these forests for over a century, condemning you to a life of hardship and neglect. Uttar Pradesh had 56 Vantangiya (forest-dwelling) villages that were left completely abandoned and uncared for. Although the country gained independence in 1947, these forest villages never truly attained freedom," he said.

The UP CM added that the community's villagers had neither their names on voter lists nor ration cards or pensions, and there were no water, electricity, or health facilities there.

"But today we can say that there is 'Jungel mein mangal' in Vantangiya village," he remarked.

Noting that he has been celebrating Diwali with the community every year for 10 years now, CM Adityanath said: "For us, Uttar Pradesh, with its population of 25 crore, is one single family, regardless of caste, region, whether in a village or a city, rich or poor. This is the difference."

Asserting that the community has all facilities today, he said: "This is the difference between BJP-led NDA and Congress and SP."

Eliminating Naxalism Not The End, India Still Has A Long Way To Go: PM Modi



Jagdalpur/Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Nov 8 (Way to News): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that the elimination of Naxalism (Maoism) is not the final destination and that the country still has a long journey ahead.

Interacting with security forces personnel in Bastar, on the occasion of Diwali, he emphasised that recent victories must serve as a foundation for greater national ambitions. "Today's achievements inspire us, but this is not the end of the journey — I repeat, this is not the end," PM Modi said.

He described the successes against Naxalism and poverty as a launchpad for a new ascent—one that would help realise the dreams generations of Indians have cherished for centuries. These, he said, are the dreams of the freedom fighters who made countless sacrifices for independence, the valiant soldiers who laid down their lives for Mother India at the borders, and the brave personnel who gave their lives in the fight against Naxalism and terrorism.

The Prime Minister recalled the spirit with which security personnel live every day: "May your glory remain eternal, O Mother; whether we remain for a few days or not, may your glory endure forever."

He said the time has now come for this sentiment to transform into a renewed sense of conviction.

"Now is the time to live for the nation—to elevate it to new heights," he added.

PM Modi expressed full confidence in the country's ability to fulfil every resolve it undertakes. He cited past commitments that were successfully delivered: the abrogation of Article 370 in Kashmir, the construction of toilets in every household, and the expansion of the vaccination drive.

"Therefore, today, as we speak of eradicating poverty, building a drug-free India, creating a Viksit Bharat and fostering an Atmanirbhar Bharat—rest assured, the nation will achieve these goals as well," he said.

The Prime Minister affirmed his faith in the security forces, the youth of the nation and all fellow citizens. He said the sacrifices and hard work of the personnel would form the solid foundation for the magnificent edifice of a developed India. With this conviction, PM Modi once again extended his heartfelt Diwali greetings to the forces.

Man Beats Friend to Death, Severs His Legs

PUNE, Nov 8 (Way to News): A 44 year old man, resident of Pune allegedly killed his friend with a baseball bat over a dispute while they were drinking alcohol. The incident happened on November 06, Friday in the city's pimple gurav area. After hitting the victim's head, the accused later severed both his legs and dumped them in the garbage site.

A case was registered on Saturday under sections 103(1) and 238 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The accused has been arrested by the police. According to authorities, the victim identified as Anil Khade was living away from his family for the past two years. And the accused, Vishnu Tanaji Kumbhar and Khade lived together. According to police, Civic workers found the severed human legs in a plastic sack at a garbage site on the roadside.

A number found near the dumping site led the police to Khade's family's home. And a picture on his son's phone helped the police identify the victim. Further investigation led them to Vishnu's residence where the police found the victim's torso. Later, Kumbhar was taken into custody by the police.

Police said the accused allegedly attacked Khade during an argument while the two were consuming alcohol. Investigators are examining the circumstances that led to the murder and the subsequent disposal of the victim's body parts.

10-Month global manhunt led to arrest of gangster from ethiopia, says Punjab DGP

Chandigarh, Nov 8 (Way to News): A 10-month intelligence-led international manhunt involving spanning across Asia, South America and Africa in coordination with national and international agencies led to the arrest of gangster Gurwinder Singh alias Afridi from Ethiopia, Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav said here on Sunday.

Yadav told the media here that Afridi, one of the key kingpins of the Doni Bal-Prabh Dassuwal gang, carried a reward of Rs 5 lakh announced by the state government on information leading to his arrest.

He is facing charges of directing targeted killings, extortion-related firing incidents, and organised criminal networks in Punjab while operating from abroad.



The DGP said the accused is wanted in more than 30 heinous criminal cases, including five murder cases, attempt to murder, extortion, and Arms Act offences.

Saying that his arrest is a major breakthrough against transnational organised crime amid the ongoing campaign 'Gangstran Te Vaar' launched by Punjab Police's Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF), in coordination with the Overseas Fugitive Tracking and Extradition Cell (OFTEC) of Counter Intelligence and support of central agencies, the DGP added that the arrest was secured following his deportation from Ethiopia. "This marks the first-ever deportation of a fugitive secured by Punjab Police from an African country, heralding a new chapter in the state's relentless crackdown against organised crime," DGP Yadav said, accompanying Special DGP (AGTF) Promod Ban and Special DGP (Counter Intelligence) Amit Prasad.

His arrest marked the successful culmination of 'Operation SHAHID' — a 10-month-manhunt involving sustained surveillance, strategic intelligence gathering, and tracking across multiple countries, he added. Sharing operational details, the DGP said that accused Afridi had fled abroad from the Mumbai airport to the UAE on March 31, 2025, using a fake passport obtained under the particulars of a Gorakhpur resident and issued from Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh on February 12, 2025. The accused was constantly evading law enforcement agencies across several continents.

TDP-led NDA secures majority in Andhra local body polls across Krishna and NTR districts

VIJAYAWADA, Nov 8 (Way to News): The Telugu Desam Party-led NDA alliance has secured a decisive majority in the rural local body elections in Andhra Pradesh's Krishna and NTR districts, winning 494 of the 619 Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) seats and 37 of the 42 Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) seats. The results give the alliance control of both Zilla Parishads and a majority of the Mandal Parishad president positions in the two districts.



In NTR district, the TDP won 201 of the 276 MPTC seats. Its allies Jana Sena Party (JSP) and the BJP secured 22 and one seat respectively. The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) won 50 seats, while the Bahujan Samaj Party and CPI(M) secured one seat each. Of the 16 ZPTC seats in NTR, the TDP won 13, the YSRCP secured two and the BJP won one. In neighbouring Krishna district, the TDP won 202 of the 343 MPTC seats. The JSP secured 64 and the BJP four. The YSRCP won 63 seats, while independents secured eight and the CPI won two. In the ZPTC elections in Krishna, the TDP won 20 of the 26 seats. The JSP secured two, while the BJP, YSRCP and an independent candidate won one each. Across the two districts, the TDP accounted for 403 MPTC seats, followed by the JSP with 86 and the BJP with five. The YSRCP secured 113 seats, while independents won eight. The CPI secured two seats, with the CPI(M) and BSP winning one each. In the combined ZPTC tally, the TDP won 33 seats, the JSP two and the BJP two. The YSRCP secured three seats and an independent candidate won one.

Odisha PG medical seats rise to 938, Andhra Pradesh to 4,196 as NMC approves 742 more

BHUBANESWAR, Nov 8 (Way to News): Postgraduate medical education has received a major boost in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, with both states adding hundreds of seats for the 2026-27 academic year. Odisha's total PG medical seats have increased from 620 to 938 following the National Medical Commission's (NMC) approval of 318 additional seats. Andhra Pradesh, meanwhile, has secured 424 more seats, taking its total to 4,196.



In Odisha, the newly approved seats cover 14 medical disciplines, including anatomy, anaesthesiology, general medicine, general surgery, paediatrics, psychiatry and respiratory medicine. According to an official statement, 153 seats have also been sanctioned across five newly established government medical colleges that are set to introduce postgraduate courses.

Dharanidhar Medical College and Hospital in Keonjhar received 44 seats across ten departments, Pabitra Mohan Pradhan Government Medical College and Hospital in Talcher 32 across ten, Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College and Hospital in Koraput 28 across nine, Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati Government Medical College and Hospital in Phulbani 27 across eight, and Government Medical College and Hospital in Sundargarh 22 across eight. Several existing institutions have also seen their intake rise. At Pandit Raghunath Murmu Medical College and Hospital in Baripada rose from 20 seats to 53. Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital in Balangir from 10 to 54 and Fakir Mohan Medical College and Hospital in Balasore from 8 to 54.

SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack received 17 additional seats, VIMSAR in Burla 11, PGIMER and Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar 11, and Acharya Harihar Post Graduate Institute of Cancer 3.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling said the approval was a significant step for medical education and healthcare in the state, crediting the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the leadership of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

He said 'a new chapter' had been added to Odisha's health and medical education sector.

200 Nations To Gather In Turkey's Resort City To Scale Up Clean Energy, Climate Finance

New Delhi, Nov 8 (Way to News): As leaders, scientists, civil society representatives, activists and others from nearly 200 countries, comprising India, are gathering for two weeks in Turkey's Mediterranean resort city of Antalya for the 31st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31), beginning on Monday, with aim to accelerate clean energy, scale up climate finance and strengthen resilience.



The Conference of the Parties (COP), the highest-level global climate summit held annually under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), is bringing together heads of state, Ministers, scientists, business leaders, and civil society representatives from around the world and serves as the primary platform for negotiating and advancing collective action to combat climate change.

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UNEP's "2026 Adaptation Gap Report: Ready? Not" finds that expanded, effective and well-financed adaptation will be crucial to reduce risks, strengthen resilience and support more inclusive development. However, international public adaptation finance flows from developed to developing countries are far below estimated needs of $305 billion annually by 2035.

Even if the COP30 aspiration to triple international public finance flows to developing countries by 2035 is achieved, this would only cover 20-29 per cent of what they need to deal with intensifying climate impacts.

At COP31, the World Metrological Organisation (WMO) will support countries by providing authoritative scientific observations and information on the state of the global climate system, including through the launch of its flagship State of Climate update 2026, a science-based annual assessment of climate indicators and impacts on the first day of the summit that will last till November 20.

Turkey holds the COP31 host Presidency, with responsibility to leads the global climate action agenda, while Australia has exclusive authority over the political negotiations, with Minister Chris Bowen serving as President of Negotiations. Leading NGO Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe outlines the key political tests facing governments at this year's UN climate negotiations. It says governents have already agreed on much of the direction of travel. What is missing is delivery: transitioning away from fossil fuels, scaling up electrification powered by renewable energy, making the just transition real, and providing the finance developing countries need to implement climate action and protect people from worsening climate impacts.

The UN's annual review of national climate plans (aka NDCs) released on October 27 with 154 countries have lodged 2035 targets with the UN. Submitted plans cover 71 per cent of global emissions, excluding land use. "The good is that the quality of plans is much better, legislation is tighter, tracking is clearer. The bad is that the progress in lowering projected emissions from the 1.5 degree Celsius targets and remains substantially off track," the UN warned.

"No single COP can fix this global crisis, but each takes meaningful steps forward," UN climate chief Simon Stiell said on September 21.

Despite the shadow of record heat, lethal glacier collapse and extreme weather, progress in Antalya will be incremental, observed a negotiator commenting on adaptation finance, where action is needed as UNEP adaptation report exposes climate finance injustice.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Editorial

Pahalgam massacre and political accountability

Blend of prudence and discretion warrants that one must be forthright and mustering reasonably enough courage to speak the truth about anything one is required to say , comment or opine. Yes, for speaking the truth , one needs to have a clear conscience , ethics and courage to speak . If not , and if conveniently chosen to beat around the bush , it is better , for God's sake , to remain silent especially when it is about the extreme end of a thing-known as death and death caused by cold blooded murder . Snatching any innocent's life is the greatest crime on the surface of this earth , even the God feels His domain was intruded and definitely He punishes . In other words, if Hindu tourists coming from different Indian States, regions, speaking different Indian languages and with varied cultural identities, were shot dead one by one at Baisarin Pahalgam right in presence of their wives and children who found themselves unexpectedly but abruptly in a state of utter shock and disbelief , horrified and paralysed with fear, why should surmises, probabilities, conjectures, speculations and assumptions be made about how the killers executed the massacre. Is it all by design to achieve some petty dirty political gain out of the innocents' spilled blood ? Is it not , therefore, tantamount to rubbing of salt into the burning wounds of the devastated bereaved Hindu family members? Is it because propounders of such theories, as a result of their perverted mindset, lost none of their dear ones in the carnage?

How much this myopic indoctrinated terror is barbaric can be seen and even felt by those who value humanity and have any regard for right to live, that a young woman sitting on ground , dazed and bewildered, was looking at her "fallen" husband during the very short process of succumbing to the lethal attack from point blank range from the terrorist who killed him because he was a Hindu which was duly confirmed before pumping bullet into his body. That heart piercing picture can become the trademark or ensign of what terrorism is all about or what does it achieve as its ultimate objective. Just kindly recall the picture of a Hindu toddler who, while sleeping in his mother's lap , was shot in the head at Nadimarg village in Kashmir on March 23, 2003 along with other 24 Kashmiri Pandits, the impact of the bullet opening his one eye while the other still in sleeping mode, too deserves to be the "logo and the stamp" of the "philosophy" of the Jehadi terror. These are the "badges" earned by these killers as a testimony of their "bravery" of killing in cold blood unarmed innocents because they were not of the same religion or did not obey their diktats. The immediate aftermath of the Pahalgam massacre of 26 innocents is shockingly interesting. Many are wailing for tourism to be affected on account of this carnage, others are sorry for a possibility of not a massive Amarnath pilgrimage this year, while some others are feeling it bad for " Kashmiryat". So the priority is tourism , the money, the proceeds of a good footfall of tourists , the economy , the hypothetical Kashmiryat etc and not the precious lives . By the way, an MP from Kashmir terms tourism as "cultural invasion" , and he says, "The tourism that is now happening….I won't call it tourism…in my eyes it is cultural invasion , by purpose and by design. " So, now , the very concept of tourism needs to be clarified before huge hullabaloo is made by some over tourism getting some type of a slight blow on account of Pahalgam killings. The main question as to why the innocent harmless Hindu tourists were killed after ascertaining faith , some even after pulling down their trousers to doubly ensure the faith factor.

Court ruling focuses on procedural aspects, reaffirms judicial review power

Kaleeswaram Raj



In a democracy, there is nothing unusual about a fissure between the executive and the judiciary. There could even be a healthy discourse between the two branches. Yet, the criticism of the Supreme Court's activist posture in the Tamil Nadu governor's case has attained a larger dimension. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar chose to remind the country about Montesquieu's principle of the separation of powers. To drive home his point, he criticised not only the judgement, but also Article 142 of the Constitution, which enables the court to pass orders 'for doing complete justice'. In exercise of the power, the court fixed a time limit for presidential and gubernatorial actions on bills passed by state legislatures. Being dissatisfied with this gesture, the vice president feels that the provision resembles a 'missile' available with the Supreme Court that could be used against 'democratic forces'. There is an inherent irony in labelling the 'forces' that torpedo the decisions of people's representatives at states as 'democratic'. The same irony is perpetuated when the vice president, by implication, endorses the arbitrary action or inaction of a governor. Equally fallacious is his dissatisfaction about the Supreme Court not placing the case before a Constitution bench by invoking Article 145(3).

Article 142 is an indispensable device that equips the Supreme Court to determine the impact of adjudication on the ground, in concrete terms. The court cannot resolve disputes in a vacuum, or in purely theoretical or propositional terms. Judicial pragmatism is not alien to constitutional adjudication. A two-judge bench in the A G Perarivalan case (2022) ordered the release of a convict in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case after incarceration of about 30 years. This was done without relegating the matter again to the president, who holds pardoning power under Article 72. The court did so on finding that much time had already lapsed over communication between constitutional functionaries. In that case, the court invoked Article 142 for releasing the convict forthwith. This was done when the Tamil Nadu governor chose to sit on the state government's recommendation to release Perarivalan.

The Supreme Court applies Article 142 in many other cases that are neither sensitive nor of public importance. It enables the court to decide the legal issues and meet the requirements of justice. The situations that call for invocation of the provision could be innumerable.

Then there is the criticism that the Tamil Nadu case should have been referred to a Constitution bench, instead of the two-judge dealing with it. The vice president, by implication, has supported this criticism. This line of thought is unfounded for several reasons. First, there was no such request either from the petitioner's side or from the Centre's. The Centre was effectively represented by the attorney general, who placed all possible contentions before the bench. Secondly, given the number of Constitution bench matters pending before the Supreme Court, the possibility for an early decision in the case is bleak. In all probability, by the time a Constitution bench decides the case, the tenure of the assembly would end, which would practically nullify the whole exercise. This would result in aborting the bills passed by the elected representatives, due to gubernatorial and judicial lethargy. Thus, the reference argument lacks practical wisdom.

Thirdly, and more importantly, the matter did not raise questions of interpretation of any substantial provisions of the Constitution. True, it warranted an interpretive exercise on Article 200 dealing with the duties of the governor and Article 201 dealing with the president's powers on bills passed by state legislatures. The court's interpretive exercise was, essentially, on the procedural aspects in the provision, and not on any sustentative part of the articles. Even the fixing of a time limit for high constitutional functionaries was essentially procedural. The meaning of these provisions was not a matter of serious controversy in the case. The power of judicial review vested with constitutional courts is a basic feature of India's Constitution. It is unalterable, even by a legislative majority. In India, a strong executive has often faced a 'weaker' judiciary. On the other hand, the judiciary has at times appeared stronger to a 'weaker' executive.

The relationship between the court and parliament or the executive has been dialectical and asymmetrical in history. It started with the Golak Nath case (1967), where the Supreme Court endorsed the court's power to review the laws made by parliament that infringe on the citizen's fundamental rights. In Kesavananda Bharati (1973), the court asserted against legislative majoritarianism by holding that even parliament cannot pass a law damaging the basic structure of the Constitution. Thereafter, a mighty executive under Indira Gandhi blatantly interfered with the affairs of the judiciary even in the case of elevations, transfers and postings.

Rana Case, Munir's Remarks Spark Concerns



M K Bhadrakumar

There have been incipient signs of late that all is not quiet on the western front, as India and Pakistan marked the anniversary of the ceasefire understanding of February 25, 2021 on the Line of Control (LoC) and other parts of the international border. True, the ceasefire never really meant any fundamental shift in Pakistan's state policy of sponsoring and waging a proxy war against India. Delhi, nonetheless, has been a stakeholder in the ceasefire agreement for as long as possible, even as its focus was on the Line of Actual Control with China. Pakistan, too, had its hands full, faced with a looming default crisis, internal security issues, and the deepening political instability that followed the overthrow of the Imran Khan government, which was masterminded by the military.

At any rate, the first major breach of the ceasefire agreement came on April 1, when Pakistan Army intruded into Indian territory and opened fire along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district and our troops "responded effectively in a controlled and calibrated manner" while reaffirming commitment to the ceasefire agreement. That was a deliberate attempt to undermine the remarkable stability that was achieved in the Kashmir zone since 2019 after the abrogation of Article 370 and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir.

The surge in terrorist activities has been "an issue of concern" for some time, to quote army chief General Manoj Pande. The south of the Pir Panjal range, which connects Kashmir Valley with Rajouri and Poonch via Mughal Road, has historically been a hotbed of militancy between 1997 and 2003. Hilly features, tough terrain, dense foliage and the prevalence of natural caves on Pir Panjal (where the army's footprint is lighter) make the region an attractive sanctuary for terrorists to carry out surprise attacks. Intelligence gathering is a big challenge, as the terrorists, mostly foreigners, avoid making contact with civilians and stick to guerrilla tactics, making it difficult for security forces to gather information about their movement. Possibly, the deployment of troops out of the region to Ladakh following the tensions with China emboldened the terrorists to move in. The hill station of Gulmarg lies in the Pir Panjal range.

That said, there is also the 'big picture' to be weighed in. The incursion on April 1 in Poonch sector, which was indeed a grave provocation by the Pakistani military, came in the downstream of the US administration's green-lighting of the extradition of Tahawwur Rana, a key plotter of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, to India. It was on February 13, during a joint press conference with PM Narendra Modi, that President Donald Trump personally announced Rana's extradition to India. Can it be a coincidence that the terrorist strike on Pahalgam on April 22 coincided with the visit by Vice President J D Vance to India? It must be a matter of exceptional concern to the General Headquarters of Pakistan Army in Rawalpindi that Delhi's policy of 'zero tolerance' toward terrorism is getting unprecedented support today under the stewardship of the FBI by Kash Patel and Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard. Pakistan has put on a brave face and washed its hands of Rana, a Canadian citizen. But things are not as simple as that once he begins to narrate how the terror ecosystem operates in Pakistan under the direct supervision of the military leadership. These are early days.

Although the extradition treaty of 1997 stipulates India must ensure that Rana will not be tortured, will be provided adequate protection in prison, and will only be tried for the offences for which he has been extradited—limiting India's legal options—the fact remains that he has been under US detention for the past 16 years alongside David Headley. A second aspect of immense relevance here collaterally is the belligerent outburst, out of the blue.

Changing Face of Civil Services in India

Dr Jitendra Singh



In a small village nestled in the hills of Jharkhand, a young woman sits under the dim light of a single bulb, her smartphone propped against a stack of books as she watches a lecture on Constitutional Law. Two decades ago, her ambition to join the Indian Administrative Service would have required migration to Delhi, expensive coaching, and resources far beyond her family's means. Today, she represents the new face of India's civil services aspirants-determined, digitally connected, and undeterred by geographical or social barriers. This transformation from an elitist bureaucracy to an increasingly representative administrative framework marks one of the most significant democratizing shifts in modern India's governance structure.

If PM Narendra Modi gave the Mantra of "Reform, Perform and Transform", this is perhaps a major transformation witnessed over the last one decade.

The Indian Civil Services, with their roots in the colonial-era Indian Civil Service (ICS), were initially designed as instruments of imperial control rather than vehicles of public service. Post-independence, despite deliberate reforms, the services remained largely accessible to a privileged few. The archetypal civil servant came predominantly from specific geographical strongholds-Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Bihar, and parts of Uttar Pradesh. They were typically from urban centres, educated in elite institutions, and overwhelmingly male.

For decades, this demographic homogeneity perpetuated an administrative culture that, while professionally competent, often lacked the lived experiences of India's diverse population. This exclusivity created what scholars have termed an "administrative aristocracy"-officers tasked with implementing inclusive policies while coming from backgrounds that offered limited exposure to the very challenges they were appointed to address.

Today, that narrative has fundamentally changed. The civil services in India are undergoing a quiet revolution-becoming more inclusive, diverse, and representative of the nation they serve. This transformation isn't merely cosmetic or incidental; it is structural, substantive, and increasingly irreversible.

At the heart of this democratization lies technology. The proliferation of affordable smartphones, expanding 4G and now 5G connectivity, and the rise of digital learning platforms have dismantled geographical monopolies on quality preparation resources. An aspirant in Manipur's remote districts now has access to the same lectures, study materials, and mock tests as someone in Delhi's Rajinder Nagar or Hyderabad's Ashok Nagar-long considered the coaching capitals for civil services.

Geographic Diversification: New States, New Stories The geographical diversity of successful candidates reflects this democratization vividly. States that were previously underrepresented in the civil services are now producing toppers. Haryana, which barely featured in UPSC results a decade ago, saw Pradeep Singh secure the first rank in 2019. Similarly, after nearly half a century, Punjab has reasserted itself on the civil services map with multiple candidates securing top ranks in recent years. The Northeast, long considered peripheral in the national administrative framework, has seen a remarkable surge in successful candidates. In 2023, Chhattisgarh contributed six successful candidates to the civil services, showcasing how regions previously at the margins are now moving to the mainstream. This geographic diversification brings invaluable lived experiences into the administrative machinery, enriching policy formulation and implementation with perspectives from India's diverse regions. The Rise of Women Officers: Breaking the Glass Ceiling Perhaps the most striking indicator of change is the dramatic increase in women's representation in the civil services. From being barely visible in earlier decades, women constituted a record 41% of the IAS batch of 2023. This upward trajectory continued in 2024, with women securing three of the top five ranks in the UPSC Civil Services Examination, including Shakti Dubey who topped the list, followed by Harshita Goyal at rank 2 and Shah Margi Chirag at rank 4.The increased representation of women in the civil services carries profound implications for governance. Research consistently shows that gender-diverse administrative structures tend to prioritize health, education, and social welfare more effectively. Women officers often bring different communication styles and problem-solving approaches, enhancing the overall effectiveness of governance.

The democratization of civil services extends beyond gender and geography to socio-economic backgrounds. Increasingly, successful candidates come from humble origins-children of farmers, small traders, daily wage workers, and first-generation learners.

Take the case of Garima Lohia, who secured the second rank in the 2022 Civil Services Examination. Coming from rural Bihar, her journey represents the triumph of determination over disadvantage. Similarly, the success of 16 alumni from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas-schools specifically designed to nurture talent from rural India-in a single year's examination demonstrates how institutional support can help transcend socio-economic barriers.

Pakistan's disinformation campaign

Harsha Kakar

Who can ever forget Pakistan's ambassador to the UN, Maleeha Lodi in 2017, responding to India's criticism of Pak PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's address to the General Assembly, naming India as 'the mother of terrorism in South Asia,' while displaying a photograph of a girl, scarred by pellets, claiming her to be from Kashmir. Maleeha's lie was exposed. The photograph was of a 17-year-old Palestinian girl, taken in Gaza in 2014 by award-winning photographer, Heidi Levine. Maleeha Lodhi earned the nickname of 'gaffe queen.' Pakistan had attempted to lower India's global image but the exercise backfired, embarrassing Islamabad. Maleeha Lodhi was subsequently replaced. On multiple occasions, Pakistan has been called out for lying or pushing fake narratives as part of its disinformation campaign.



> *"The number of days in a year marked for Kashmir by the Pak government will indicate how desperate they are to keep the issue alive at the global level, while reminding its people that their army exists solely to regain Kashmir. A few include marking 05 Feb each year as Kashmir solidarity day, 08 Jul, the day Burhan Wani was eliminated, as Resistance Day and 13th July as Martyr's Day. It has even named a chowk in Muzaffarabad as Burhan Wani chowk. Pakistan marks 1st Sept, the day Syed Ali Geelani died, as Baba-i-Hurriyat (Father of Freedom) Day and 05 Aug, the day article 370 was abrogated, as Youm-e-Istehsal, which when translated means 'Day of Exploitation.' 27th Oct, the day of accession of J and K to India is 'Black Day' in Pakistan. While Pakistan organizes marches and speeches on these days, occasionally declaring a national holiday, life in Kashmir is normal, with not a single protest, bandh or market closed."*

Pakistan's disinformation campaign against India has multiple aims. The first is to play on India's social fabric, leading to religious violence, enhancing internal instability. Pakistan leaders commented on the Citizenship Amendment Act claiming it to be discriminatory against Muslims leading to protests, few turning violent, fuelled by its sleeper cells. It recently stated that the Wakf amendment bill will dispossess a number of Mosques, resulting in limited violence. Pakistan has employed every card to instigate the Sikh community into taking up arms for Khalistan. Its fake reports of successful Khalistan referendums in different parts of the globe, as also partnering with Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) is an attempt to gain trust of the community. Post Pahalgam, Pakistan shut its borders with India, only leaving the Kartarpur corridor open, conveying the message that it considers Sikhs as an independent nation. It met with failure.

The second aim is to undermine India's global standing. The third is projecting Kashmir as disputed with locals resisting the Indian government, preferring to join militant ranks. Both of these are closely linked. In Aug 2023, Pak media outlets and proxy organizations released a report highlighting the existence of mass graves in Kashmir. They even circulated horrifying images, claiming them to be of Kashmiri civilians killed by Indian security forces. In reality these images were of the Bosnian war and specifically the 1995 Srebrenica Massacre. Once their fake disinformation attempt was called out, these were hurriedly withdrawn. This occurred just a couple of months after India successfully conducted a G 20 event in Srinagar, which was a success and proved Pakistan's claims on Kashmir to be fake.

The number of days in a year marked for Kashmir by the Pak government will indicate how desperate they are to keep the issue alive at the global level, while reminding its people that their army exists solely to regain Kashmir. A few include marking 05 Feb each year as Kashmir solidarity day, 08 Jul, the day Burhan Wani was eliminated, as Resistance Day and 13th July as Martyr's Day. It has even named a chowk in Muzaffarabad as Burhan Wani chowk. Pakistan marks 1st Sept, the day Syed Ali Geelani died, as Baba-i-Hurriyat (Father of Freedom) Day and 05 Aug, the day article 370 was abrogated, as Youm-e-Istehsal, which when translated means 'Day of Exploitation.' 27th Oct, the day of accession of J and K to India is 'Black Day' in Pakistan. While Pakistan organizes marches and speeches on these days, occasionally declaring a national holiday, life in Kashmir is normal, with not a single protest, bandh or market closed. For Kashmiris, these days mean nothing. However, Pakistan's disinformation campaign mentions Kashmir shutting down with anti-India protests and violence. Islamabad terms terrorists killed in Kashmir as innocents.

The fourth intent is to damage the morale of Indian forces and security agencies. Post the Pulwama attack, Pakistan's disinformation networks went into overdrive claiming it was an internal action and in retaliation, India killed innocent Kashmiris. It released fake videos to build anger against Indian security forces. Fact checks subsequently confirmed these videos were extracted from footages of Iraq, Syria or Palestine. To hide the success of the Balakote strike, Pakistani handles pushed the narrative that the Indian air force had destroyed a Madrassa and killed a few civilians, hoping to incite inter-community violence. This disinformation was exposed by multiple news networks employing satellite images including Reuters and New York Times. Recently Pakistan handles uploaded a video of a supposed Indian soldier named Ashok Kumar, who while wearing Indian army fatigues mentioned that the Pahalgam incident was an 'inside job.' Once Pakistan's disinformation claims were called out as fake, its handles deleted the picture. Pakistan also falsely mentioned that India's Northern Army Commander, Lt Gen MV Suchendra Kumar, was removed from his post for failure to prevent the Pahalgam attack. The reality was that the officer retired on 30th Apr. It attempted similar claims against other senior military officers, all fake. In 2011, Pakistan's navy proudly released pictures of Indian war ships on exercise, on their official media handle, claiming them to be of their navy. The embarrassment was immense when their lies were caught.

Recently, in the midst of the post-Pahalgam crisis, Pakistan's air force published a three-minute video on its official DGISPR website, showcasing its preparedness and bravery. A fact-checking team of X found the same to copied from SpaceX videos, including footage from a video game 'Call of Duty' as also clips of Turkish drones. It busted the reality of Pakistan's military preparedness.

Finally, Pakistan's disinformation campaign gains steam whenever their army faces national anger for political interference as also its failure and losses in containing freedom movements in Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It shifts blame onto India for supporting these actions. Interestingly, whenever India accuses Pak of supporting terrorism, proof of India being involved in Pak's internal problems magically emerges, as it recently did in the DGISPR press conference, where he accused India of being involved in 'state-sponsored cross-border terrorism against Pakistan.'

Multiple independent institutions have debunked Pakistan's fake propaganda. The EU Disinfo Lab, an independent non-profit organisation, has mentioned that Pakistan runs 750+ fake media websites across 119 countries promoting anti-India narratives apart from fake NGOs impersonating real organizations, one such being the fake 'European Parliament Friends of Gilgit-Baltistan.' Its report adds that Pakistan has on occasions even 'resurrected' deceased human rights activists to push their agenda. Their detailed exposure, published a few years ago, embarrassed Pakistan.

The Global Disinformation Index (GDI), a non profit entity, identified state sponsored Pakistani networks flooding disinformation during incidents like the Balakot airstrike, abrogation of Article 370 etc. Several Pakistani troll networks were banned by Facebook and Twitter following GDI reports. Other independent organizations which have made similar claims include the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab and the International Fact-Checking Network, which is a network of global fact-checking organizations under common ethical standards.

Their reports have boosted global trust in Indian fact-checking results as also enabled foreign governments, media, and organizations to verify facts independently without relying on Pakistani narratives. Even the UN has rejected multiple Pakistan's claims and its fake dossiers stating these lack 'independent corroboration.' Pakistan's systematic weaponization of disinformation as an extension of its state policy, intending to discredit India, has failed to achieve results due to exposures by international agencies and Indian fact-checking actions. These have eroded Pakistan's international credibility and isolated its propaganda machinery while reinforcing India's stand as a transparent, responsible democracy. At the end of the day, Pakistan remains globally classified as the state sponsor of terrorism, while India a respected and responsible global power.

Red Cross devoted to Humanity

O P Sharma

The Red Cross society is now faced with numerous challenges in the changed situation by gaining greater dynamism in its humanitarian activities across the globe, especially in the disturbed areas. So it has to gain better momentum and garner active public support for serving the ailing humanity.

Significantly, this year's Red Cross Day theme is " On the Side of Humanity" which is aimed at serving the humanity with zeal and devotion. The Jammu and Kashmir, like other parts of the country is observing the spirit of the theme during this year and the Indian Red Cross Society, J&K branch is fully prepared for the tasks ahead by working with a missionary spirit and size up to the challenges with public cooperation of one and all: students, youth, men and women from all regions, faiths, gender or class.Jammu travel guide



> *This branch has taken initiative to activate JRC/YRC at school and colleges to make a strong contingent of volunteers to serve the humanity during peace and disaster. To make the adolescent female aware of their health and well being regarding menstrual hygiene , Red Cross distributed free sanitary napkins and imparted awareness. "Free Sanitary Napkins" were distributed among the females for cleanliness and safety. Besides, blankets, kitchen sets, tarpaulin and other essential items are provided to the poor and destitute during the winter season and free tea served to the school students. In addition Pathological laboratory services are provided to the needy.*

Already efforts are afoot for creating awareness about its missionary works by gearing up resource mobilisation in terms of men, money, material and motivation for mitigating multiple hardships of the victims of natural or man-made calamities in UT of Jammu and Kashmir. A sustained campaign has been launched to sensitise the people, particularly the students and youth by actively involving them in the various plans and programmes for help to the helpless victims, especially the disadvantaged womenfolk or other sections in the urban as well as rural areas in the sensitive and border areas of Jammu and Kashmir. Needed assistance is extended among the needy without any discriminations of caste ,creed, colour or gender in true principles of the Red Cross Society.

The general secretary, IRCS -J&K branch, has infused a spirit and dynamism to its missionary work among the general public in the entire Jammu and Kashmir UT for prompt humanitarian rescue and relief operation for victims of calamities and also arranging prompt necessary assistance to the needy by various agencies: official and non-official , for implementing the mission of the Red Cross Society. It is worth mentioning that this sensitive, border and tough terrain in the prevailing situation is confronted by numerous problems and hardships which always require special initiatives to lend a helping hand to the helpless in the true spirit of this missionary organisation(Red Cross Society) by playing a pivotal role in mitigating the miseries in event of emergency situations.

It is noteworthy that the Indian Red Cross Society spread its wings in J&K State during 1947 (Partition period) with its first Secretary, Col (retd) Hiranand Dubey ,who played "legendary role to meet the challenging conditions" created due to Pak aggression against India by grabbing one-third area of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State, which had already linked its fate with India through Instrument of Accession and become part of largest democracy of the world. Subsequently, a number of distinguished persons served in various capacities in this branch which played a crucial role in mitigating the sufferings of the conflict-affected influx of refugees / adversely affected or disadvantaged people who were provided " balm of relief and rehabilitation and other measures of humanitarian aid". This J&K branch has been rendering yeoman's service over the years with a remarkable record during all calamities and other harsh conditions by mobilising resources of men, money and material. Of course, the Central Red Cross Society, New Delhi provides all necessary support to the J&K branch which stands out as "a centre of singular service".Jammu travel guide According to official record, tangible work has been performed by this noble organisation in Jammu and Kashmir at the two Divisional , districts and other branches with positive outcome. Many stalwarts and committed persons rendered their valuable service to Red Cross in Jammu and Kashmir as well as all over our country and the entire humanity. Presently , In Jammu and Kashmir UT, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha , chief patron, is keeping keen eye on efficient and effective overall functioning of J&K Red Cross branch. In an exclusive interview with me, Secretary General of IRCS-J&K UT, Rohit Khajuria explained in details the stepped-up functioning of this missionary organisation , in this part of the country , to the -needy sections of the people.

Answering a question, Mr Khajuria disclosed that " Blood Banks are being established both at Jammu and Srinagar by organising blood donation camps to meet the ever- growing demand .of the people. It will certainly be beneficial for the needy patients to save their precious lives and also concerted efforts are already on, in this and other spheres, as per sources. Touching upon the significant service being rendered by this organisation is modern and decent multi-storey " Attendants Sarai" functioning at Maheshpura Chowk, Jammu which is provided to the attendants of patients admitted in the GMC, Jammu. The attendants are charged "nominal rates" but free lodging and boarding is given to the cancer patients along with one attendant. This facility is benefitting the people belonging to weaker sections and those hailing from far-flung areas of this part of the country . Dispensaries were operational at Srinagar and Jammu cities; but now a bold initiative for the wellbeing of the people is setting up of one dispensary in each and every district for providing medical care to the people. Besides, under the Pardhan Mantri Jan Aushadi Kendras, run by the Society, provide medicines at subsidised rates facilitating the treatment of patients.Jammu travel guide

This branch has taken initiative to activate JRC/YRC at school and colleges to make a strong contingent of volunteers to serve the humanity during peace and disaster. To make the adolescent female aware of their health and well being regarding menstrual hygiene , Red Cross distributed free sanitary napkins and imparted awareness. "Free Sanitary Napkins" were distributed among the females for cleanliness and safety. Besides, blankets, kitchen sets, tarpaulin and other essential items are provided to the poor and destitute during the winter season and free tea served to the school students. In addition Pathological laboratory services are provided to the needy.

IRCCS of J&K organises Blood Donation camps periodically with the collaboration of social organisations, institutions and Belt-forces to save the precious human lives in Jammu and Kashmir. From time to time Medical Camps are organised for medical check-up, treatment, immunisation for the down-trodden people. It is noteworthy that the J&K Society extends financial aid to the poor and needy patients suffering from cancer, kidney failure, heart diseases t.To raise resources various efforts are made and besides collection of voluntary donations, other options like Raffle Draws are arrange. The involvement of the official machinery and support of general public, particularly the students and youth is being ensured for optimal results in rescue and relief measures of victims of natural and man-made calamities.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Space Technology Is Driving Development on Earth, from Infrastructure Monitoring to Agriculture and Disaster Management: Dr. Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, Nov 8 (Way to News): India's Space economy, currently valued at around USD 9 billion, is expected to reach USD 40–45 billion over the next seven to eight years, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, said during a media Roundtable here on "Space, Sovereignty and New Economy".

The Minister said India must now move beyond demonstrating its technological capabilities to building globally competitive commercial space companies. He stressed that greater domestic and international investment, predictable demand, faster regulatory approvals and sustainable business models would be essential to scaling up Indian enterprises and expanding their presence in global markets.

The Minister participated in the Roundtable organised by the 'Bloomberg New Economy Forum', being held in New Delhi. The discussion examined how countries can translate sovereign Space capabilities into commercially competitive industries, attract private capital and develop stronger supply chains while safeguarding national interests. Participants also discussed the evolving global



space economy, the role of international partnerships and the challenges of scaling up private space enterprises.

Among the other prominent participants were Vinod Kumar, Director (Promotion), Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe); and Aisha Bowe, Founder and CEO of STEMBoard and LINGO, former NASA engineer and Blue Origin astronaut. The session brought together representatives from the Space industry, entrepreneurship, academia and the international space community. The Minister said the opening of India's Space sector to private participation in 2019–2020 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi had produced significant results within just five to six years. India's experience demonstrates the potential of bringing government institutions and private industry together in a sector that requires substantial technological expertise, investment and long-term commitment. The priority now, he said, is to convert these capabilities into commercially viable businesses with the scale to compete internationally.

Dr. Jitendra Singh stressed that generating demand is essential for the growth of private space companies. Referring to the Government's use-case-based approach, he said anchor government customers and support for proof-of-concept projects can help enterprises demonstrate their technologies and move towards commercial deployment. A predictable customer base can give companies the confidence to invest in production, develop market-ready products and build sustainable revenue streams. He also stressed the need for timely regulatory approvals, lower business costs and stronger supply-chain integration. Companies seeking installation or export licences should be able to obtain the necessary approvals within defined timeframes.

Centre launches major Jaipur outreach initiative to boost exporters' use of free trade agreements

New Delhi, Nov 8 (Way to News): The Department of Commerce organised an outreach programme "Leveraging FTAs – Outreach Programme" in Jaipur, Rajasthan, to create awareness about the benefits available under India's Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and facilitate their effective utilisation by exporters. The programme was addressed by Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Shri Mohit Yadav, and witnessed participation from exporters across sectors and representatives of the Government of Rajasthan, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Jaipur Special Economic Zone and the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC).

The programme aimed to help Indian enterprises translate preferential market access under FTAs



into export opportunities through targeted information, capacity building, practical guidance and coordination among the Department of Commerce, State Governments, industry associations and exporters. The programme assumed significance in the context of India's expanding engagement with the global economy. At the Bloomberg New Economy Forum in New Delhi, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stated, "Our constant endeavour is to ensure that India's capabilities open new doors of opportunity for other countries as well." In his Independence Day address on 15 August 2026 and on other occasions, the Prime Minister has highlighted the opportunities created by FTAs for Indian producers, farmers and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), while emphasising the importance of meeting international quality standards to access global markets.

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal has emphasised the commercial opportunities from India's FTAs. The Minister has noted that India's agreements provide preferential access to markets accounting for a major share of global trade This will create numerous jobs and huge opportunities for farmers, women entrepreneurs, youth, MSMEs, artisans and industry. He urged them to make use of reduced- or zero-duty access by focusing on quality. He has highlighted the new market opportunities for Indian industry and businesses opened through India's recently concluded FTAs. The objective of the outreach programme is to move beyond negotiating market access to helping enterprises actually use it, with targeted information, capacity building, practical guidance and coordination among the Department of Commerce, the State Government, industry associations and exporters.

India's exports of merchandise and services have continued to register growth. Cumulative exports during April–September 2026–27 are estimated at US$ 476.20 billion, compared with US$ 418.31 billion during the corresponding period of 2025–26, registering estimated growth of 13.84%. Major drivers of merchandise export growth in September 2026 included electronic goods, petroleum products, organic and inorganic chemicals, engineering goods, and cotton yarn, fabrics, made-ups and handloom products.

Exhibition celebrates India's rich sculptural heritage and contem-

New Delhi, Nov 7 (Way to News): Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurated TAKSHANAM, a major exhibition featuring over 250 sculptures by 150 participating artists representing diverse generations, artistic backgrounds and approaches to sculptural expression, at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi. Shri Vivek Aggarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, was also present on the occasion. Conceived as a shared platform for artistic encounter and exchange, the exhibition explores the continuities, transitions and new possibilities shaping the evolving landscape of Indian sculpture.

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

Vivek Aggarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, said, "The Ministry of Culture remains committed to encouraging artistic excellence and creating meaningful opportunities for artists across the country. TAKSHANAM brings together diverse artistic voices and provides a platform for their work to reach wider audiences. The initiative to offer artworks for sale is also a noteworthy step towards strengthening engagement between artists, collectors and art enthusiasts." Speaking about the exhibition, Dr. Sanjeev Kishor Goutam, Director General, National Gallery of Modern Art, highlighted India's longstanding sculptural tradition and the need to recognise and support contemporary practitioners. He said, "India has an extraordinary sculptural heritage that reflects its history, cultural achievements and artistic vision. From the Harappan and Mohenjo-daro civilisations, with their terracotta and metal objects and iconic works such as the Dancing Girl and the Priest-King sculpture, to the magnificent sculptural traditions associated with temple architecture and sites such as Ajanta, Ellora and Khajuraho, sculpture has played a significant role in expressing India's cultural identity.

This legacy continues in contemporary practice, with Indian artists such as Anish

IITM Holds First National Stakeholder Meet to Strengthen Climate Services in India

New Delhi, Nov 8 (Way to News): The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), organised the First Stakeholder Consultation Meeting of the Climate Science into Services for India Forum (CSSIF) on 17 October 2026 at its campus in Pune. This meet brought together more than 150 participants from over 80 institutions across various states of the country which comprises of stakeholders from government ministries and departments, operational agencies, research and academic institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society and the private sector.

The consultation focused on the role of climate science in developing rel-



evant climate services and strengthening the application of weather and climate information across different sectors. The programme commenced with the welcoming and felicitation of dignitaries, followed by the welcome address by Dr. A. Suryachandra Rao, Director, IITM, Prof. V. K. Dadhwal, Former Director, Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), addressed the gathering as the Chief Guest. Dr. Suvarna Fadnavis, Project Director, Centre for Climate Change Research (CCCR), IITM, presented an overview of the stakeholder consultation meeting.

The technical session featured an introductory talk by Dr. Rupa Kumar Kolli, Former Chief of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Climate Applications and Services Division, on the need for a Climate Services Information System for the nation. Shri Amardeep Raju, Scientist, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), delivered an invited talk on the need for policy-relevant climate change information. The session also covered weather and climate products at IITM-MoES and climate models, data and products, presented by Dr. Swapna Panickal, Senior Scientist at CCCR, IITM.

The sectoral consultation featured thematic breakout groups to encourage brainstorming and interactive discussions on the application of climate science.

Clarification on Legislative Developments concerning Government's shareholding in IDBI

New Delhi, Nov 8 (Way to News): Certain sections of press and media have brought out reports, which inter alia have comments/ views regarding the legislative developments in 2003 concerning the Government's shareholding in IDBI. It is reiterted that during the disucssions of Union Budget, 2003 and the parliamentary debate on the IDBI (Repeal) Act, 2003, an amendment seeking to restrict the dilution of the Government's stake was moved but was ultimately rejected and did not form part of the enacted legislation.

The matter was subsequently examined by the Delhi High Court in All India IDBI Officers' Association v. Union of India & Others, decided on 17 December 2018.



The Court, while dismissing the writ petition, adjudicated in paragraphs 41 and 42 as follows: "This Court is of the view that the statements made before the House almost 15 years earlier, in a debate relating to a legislative activity, would not preclude the Central Government from diluting its stake in IDBI Ltd. Indisputably, the legislation enacted by the Parliament after the debate did not contain the amendment that was sought to be introduced. The statements made before the House cannot substitute or override the statue so enacted by the Parliament. Surely, the Parliament was conscious of the import of not including the proviso as proposed. The principles of promissory estoppel are wholly inapplicable in the aforesaid context. It is not possible to accept that the statements made in Parliament amounted to a representation made to the employees and they had acted to their prejudice based on such representation. The statements made before the House were in the context of enacting a legislation (the IDBI Repeal Act, 2003), and the said Act has to be interpreted in conformity with the settled principles of statutory interpretation."

Efforts underway under the Prime Minister's guidance to develop one lakh young leaders across the country : Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya

New Delhi, Nov 8 (Way to News): Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports and Member of Parliament from Porbandar, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, called upon young people to take a leading role in nation-building and contribute actively towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Addressing the Viksit Bharat Yuva Samvaad programme at S. M. Jadeja Arts and Commerce College, Kutiyana, in Porbandar district of Gujarat, on 17 October 2026, he emphasised the importance of youth leadership, patriotism, civic responsibilities and collective action in building a developed and drug-free India.

Highlighting the significance of the 25-year Amrit Kaal leading up to the centenary of India's Independence in 2047, Dr. Mandaviya said that the realisation of a developed and self-reliant India required the collective commitment of citizens. Referring to the five pledges (Panch Pran) articulated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi from the Red Fort, he underscored the importance of the resolve for a developed India, freedom from the colonial mindset, pride in India's heritage, unity and solidarity, and the fulfilment of civic duties. He urged young people to remain aware of national and global developments and contribute meaningfully to the country's progress.

Emphasising the decisive role of young people in India's development journey, the Minister encouraged the youth to cultivate character, discipline, service, dedication, respect for elders, self-reliance and hard work. He observed that nation-building did not require individuals to hold positions of authority; every student, teacher, employee and citizen could contribute by performing their duties sincerely and placing national interest above all else. Dr. Mandaviya highlighted that efforts were being undertaken under the leadership of the Prime Minister to develop one lakh young leaders across the country. He underlined the role of the MY Bharat portal in providing opportunities for youth participation, career guidance and leadership development. Initiatives such as visits to border villages and interactions with personnel serving in challenging locations, including the Siachen Glacier, were highlighted as opportunities to foster courage, responsibility, patriotism and a spirit of national service among young people. Addressing the callenges of the digital age, the Minister urged young people to exercise caution while consuming and sharing information on social media. He emphasised the importance of avoiding rumours, relying on credible news sources and remaining vigilant against misinformation and attempts to undermine national unity and stability. Reiterating the importance of Nasha Mukt Bharat, Dr. Mandaviya called upon young people to take an active role in building a drug-free India. He emphasised that the country's development aspirations must be supported by a healthy and responsible youth population. Encouraging young citizens to embrace the principle of 'Nation First', he urged them to contribute to creating a society free from substance abuse and to work collectively towards the goal of a fully developed India by 2047, guided by the resolve: "We Will Do It."



The Viksit Bharat Yuva Samvaad programme highlighted the importance of empowering young citizens with leadership skills, civic values and a sense of national responsibility to advance India's journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, through MY Bharat and the National Service Scheme (NSS), launched Month 2 of the Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat 100 Week Sankalp Abhiyan with the nationwide observance of "Yoga evam Aatm-Suraksha Diwas" (Yoga and Self-Defence Day) on October 16, 2026. Inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the campaign has entered its second month under the theme "Fit Youth, Addiction-Free Youth (Shakti evam Seva)," focusing on physical fitness, mental resilience, discipline and self-confidence as key elements of a healthy, addiction-free society.

The Week 5 intervention witnessed the participation of 91,179 people across 183 educational institutions, NSS units and adopted villages nationwide. The activities brought together local leaders, police officials, sports authorities, medical experts and certified yoga instructors to promote healthy lifestyles, personal safety and awareness about substance abuse. As part of the initiative, 332 yoga sessions engaged 34,290 participants, including 19,882 women, while 311 self-defence demonstrations reached 31,507 participants, including 18,364 women. An additional 180 community awareness activities engaged 25,391 participants.

The yoga sessions incorporated the Common Yoga Protocol and relaxation techniques to highlight the importance of physical well-being and stress management. Self-defence demonstrations focused on practical safety techniques, situational awareness and personal security, particularly for young women.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

He is the most dangerous bowler for Team India in the nets: Ajinkya Rahane

New Delhi, Nov 8 (Way to News) Indian cricket team's senior pace bowler Mohammed Shami announced his retirement from the longest format of Test cricket on Friday. This brings an end to his 13-year-long Test career. It is noteworthy that Shami, who made his Test debut against the West Indies exactly 13 years ago on November 6, 2013, announced his retirement on the same day. With the farewell of this veteran pacer, who has given many memorable victories in his career, an era in Indian Test cricket has come to an end.



However, in the wake of Shami's retirement, his senior teammate Ajinkya Rahane reacted. Speaking to the 'Sony Sports' network, Shami praised his greatness. "Be it Tests or ODIs, Shami has bowled and won many matches. Despite facing many challenges personally, the commitment and perseverance he has shown on the field is amazing. We are lucky to have such a player in our team," said Rahane.

Sharing his experiences with Shami, Rahane recalled, "Shami is the most dangerous bowler to face in the nets. His seam position is amazing. When the team was in trouble, he would say boldly, 'I will win the match'. That was his attitude." Rahane

believes that Shami should have been given another chance in the Test team. "A player with so much experience has returned to domestic cricket and given his all. You can't expect an experienced player to excel every time. That's where experience comes in handy. I was hoping that Shami would get a chance again like Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

He has skill and magic in his hands. He has taken wickets in the Ranji Trophy too. I wanted to see him play Test cricket again at least once, given the hardships he has gone through," Rahane expressed his grief. Shami's departure leaves a veteran warrior in the Indian pace force.

KL Rahul gifts award phone to ground staff

New Delhi, Nov 8 (Way to News) Indian wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul won hearts with a thoughtful gesture as he gifted his Game Changer of the Match award, a mobile phone, to a ground staff member following the rain-affected second ODI between India and New Zealand in Wellington on Saturday. Rahul's gesture left the staff member pleasantly surprised, with the cricketer earning appreciation from fans and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for his kind act.



The BCCI shared a video of the incident on its official social media handle X, with the caption, 'Big player. Bigger heart', highlighting Rahul's gesture after the match. In the video, the ground staff member can be seen expressing her surprise and gratitude after receiving the phone from the Indian batter. "He just gave me his phone that he won. I am a bit shocked. But it was very kind of him to hand it over to me. I wasn't expecting it. That's for sure," she said in the video. Rahul, meanwhile, was seen smiling towards the staff member as she acknowledged his gesture with a nod.

The 34-year-old was named the Game Changer of the Match after his unbeaten contribution helped India stay ahead of New Zealand on the DLS par score in the rain-hit contest. India secured a four-run victory under the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method after persistent rain brought an end to the second ODI with the visitors at 113/7 in 26 overs while chasing a target of 135. Rahul remained unbeaten on 26 off 34 deliveries, striking two boundaries and a six.

Khawaja claims entire Australian team knew about 2018 ball-tampering scandal

London, Nov 8 (Way to News): Former Australian opener Usman Khawaja has made sensational allegations about the 2018 'Sandpaper Gate' incident that brought disrepute to Australian cricket worldwide. He bombshelled that not just three players but the entire touring team knew about the ball-tampering conspiracy. He revealed these things in his autobiography 'Sabr'. The eight-year-old controversy has once again come to the fore after Australian newspapers published some key parts of the book.

Khawaja clearly stated in his book.. "It's all our fault. Not just the batters, bowlers or support staff. We are all partners in it." It is known that Cameron Bancroft was caught on camera rubbing the ball with sandpaper in the Cape Town Test against South Africa in 2018. However, Khawaja alleged that the



team had used sandpaper in the Test held in Port Elizabeth (now Geberha) before this incident. He explained that there were open discussions in the dressing room to roughen the ball on one side, and sandpaper was found to be an effective way. Khawaja recalled that after learning about this, then-captain Steve Smith commented that he did not need to know the full details.

An investigation conducted by Cricket Australia (CA) at the time concluded that only captain Steve Smith, vice-captain David Warner and Bancroft had prior knowledge of the conspiracy. Action was taken against these three. Smith and Warner were banned for 12 months, while Bancroft was suspended for 9 months. Smith also lost his captaincy. Bowlers who were in the team at that time, such as current Test captain Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Nathan Lyon, have previously made it clear that they knew nothing about the conspiracy.

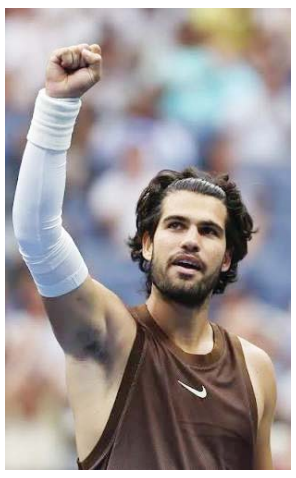
Khawaja said it was unfair to blame just three players after the Cape Town Test and that he had asked his teammates to take collective responsibility. "We all did this as a team. We all knew what was going to happen," he said in the dressing room. He said he had expected the full truth to come out many years ago and did not want anyone to expose it.

Alcaraz saves 2 match points against Fritz to reach Paris Masters semifinal

London, Nov 8 (Way to News): Carlos Alcaraz saved two match points against Taylor Fritz to reach the Paris Masters semifinals on Friday and the field for the ATP Finals was settled.

Alcaraz was match point down in the second set at 5-3 and 5-4, saving the second with a forehand pass. He finally won 6-7 (10), 7-5, 6-3. "I tried not to let myself down in the difficult moments in the second set," Alcaraz said. "I tried to stay strong mentally and save those break points and match points.

"I would say 3-5 serving, that game we played incredible tennis. I used the people and the energy and gave them what they really wanted to watch and I am really happy to play for one and a half hours more to entertain them. The feeling I have today is unmatched."



Alcaraz will feature in the Paris semifinals for the first time. The seven-time Grand Slam champion has been hampered by injury and fatigue this year. But he won the Vienna title last week and looks fresher than many of his rivals at this stage of the season. Ben Shelton also reached his first Paris semifinal after winning an all-American matchup against Tommy Paul 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

Shelton, with 19 aces, converted two of four break points. It was his third win in five meetings between them. Shelton ended Paul's hopes of qualifying for the ATP Finals in Turin this month. As a result, another American player, Frances Tiafoe, clinched a spot and will debut at the tournament. Fritz's loss qualified Rafael Jodar in the eighth and last spot.

The other qualifiers for the Finals are top-ranked Alexander Zverev, Alcaraz, Shelton, Daniil Medvedev, Flavio Cobolli and Arthur Fils. Shelton will next play local Luca Van Assche, who took almost three hours to defeat qualifier Rinky Hijikata 6-4, 6-7 (4), 7-5. Alcaraz will take on Casper Ruud, who beat lucky loser Nuno Borges 7-6 (5), 6-4 to reverse their result last week in Basel.

Ravi Shastri slams selectors over Mohammed Shami's test retirement



New Delhi, Nov 8 (Way to News) Former head coach Ravi Shastri has reacted to the sudden retirement of senior Indian pacer Mohammed Shami from Test cricket. He said that Shami took this tough decision after being sidelined by the selectors for a long time, which is very painful. He expressed his deep dissatisfaction with the attitude adopted by the selectors in Shami's case. It is known that Shami ended his red-ball career after not getting a place in the Test team for the last three years.

Speaking about this decision during the second ODI between India and New Zealand, Ravi Shastri said, "It is sad that a player who has played brilliantly for the country has left like this. I definitely felt that he still had the potential to take 30 to 40 Test wickets. He should have been given a chance in the last 12 months. He should have been in the team as a Test match bowler."

Shastri also criticized the reliance on gym-based tests alone to assess the fitness of players. "What's the point of being fit in the gym if you can't bowl 10 or 12 overs in a match? You have a workhorse here. I'm very disappointed that he wasn't given another chance," Shastri lamented. Shastri also dismissed reports on Shami's fitness. "I've seen some press reports that he's not fit. But he played all the domestic matches for Bengal. He bowled 15-20 overs in every match. What more can a player do to prove his fitness?" he asked.

Despite being in excellent form in the last Ranji Trophy season, taking 37 wickets in 7 matches, Shami was not called up by the selectors. It was this disappointment that led him to bid farewell to the longer format. However, Shami made it clear that he will continue playing white-ball cricket like ODIs and T20s.

Shastri further pointed out that Shami's experience and ability to deliver under pressure made him a valuable asset to the Indian Test side. He said experienced bowlers should be backed when they demonstrate their ability to perform, adding that opportunities should not be denied solely on the basis of fitness assessments. Shami's retirement has sparked discussions among cricket experts and fans about the selectors' approach towards senior players and the importance of managing experienced fast bowlers.

Rinku Named Vice-Captain After Patidar's Withdrawal

New Delhi, Nov 8 (Way to News): Rinku Singh has been named vice-captain of the India A squad for the ACC Rising Stars Asia Cup after Rajat Patidar withdrew from the team due to existing injury concerns, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced on Sunday. Patidar informed the BCCI that he should not be considered for selection in the 50-over format as he manages his existing injuries. Consequently, he has been withdrawn from the India A squad for the tournament. The Men's Selection Committee has appointed Rinku as the new vice-captain, while Ayush Badoni has been included in the squad as Patidar's replacement.

'Rajat Patidar has communicated to the BCCI that he should not be considered for selection in the 50-over format as he manages his existing injuries. Accordingly, he has been withdrawn from the India A squad for the ACC Rising Stars Asia Cup. The Men's Selection Committee has named Rinku Singh as vice-captain, while Ayush Badoni has been added to the squad in Patidar's place,' the BCCI media release read.

The updated 15-member India A squad will be led by Tilak Varma, with Rinku Singh serving as his deputy. Abhishek Sharma, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Prabhsimran Singh and Kumar Kushagra are among the other players named in the squad. The squad also features Suryansh Shedge, Shahbaz Ahmed, Vipraj Nigam, Harsh Dubey, Tanush Kotian, Harshit Rana, Prince Yadav and Arshad Khan.

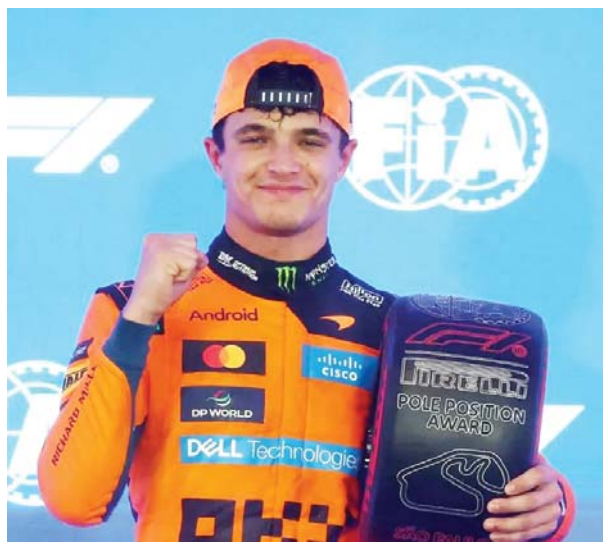
Norris takes pole from Russell as midfield teams enjoy rain-hit Sao Paulo qualifying

New Delhi, Nov 8 (Way to News): McLaren driver Lando Norris took his third consecutive pole position at the Sao Paulo qualifying in a rain-hit session at Autodromo Jose Carlos Pace.

Further penalties to top drivers - Max Verstappen, Lewis Hamilton, Leclerc and Russell - only hands them more places further on the grid for the Sunday race in Brazil.

Racing Bulls' Liam Lawson took P5 ahead of Audi's Nico Hulkenberg in P6 and Red Bull's Isack Hadjar and P7, as the other Haas of Oliver Bearman, Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso and Williams' Alexander Albon wrapped up the top 10 in the qualifying.

Meanwhile, Russell has a five-place penalty for a fresh internal combustion



engine, while Leclerc has a 10-place penalty for his fifth ICE. This will elevate the likes of Lawson and Hulkenberg to the second row in P3 and P4 on the grid. Hamilton and Verstappen will also be starting their races from the back of the grid and were P11 and P16, respectively in the qualifying. Q1 saw Franco Colapinto, Pierre Gasly, Lance Stroll, Valtteri Bottas, Sergio Perez, Gabriel Bortoleto getting knocked out. Q2 saw six more drivers failing to progress further as Hamilton, Oscar Piastri, Rafael Camara, Arvid Lindblad, Carlos Sainz and Verstappen were knocked out.

Norris, who took pole in Brazil in 2024 and 2025 as well, reflected on yet another top start at Sao Paulo.

Q1 saw Franco Colapinto, Pierre Gasly, Lance Stroll, Valtteri Bottas, Sergio Perez, Gabriel Bortoleto getting knocked out. Q2 saw six more drivers failing to progress further as Hamilton, Oscar Piastri, Rafael Camara, Arvid Lindblad, Carlos Sainz and Verstappen were knocked out.

La Liga: Eric Garcia, Christensen return as Barcelona name squad for

Madrid, Nov 8 (Way to News): Barcelona have received a timely boost ahead of their La Liga encounter against Atletico Madrid, with defenders Eric Garcia and Andreas Christensen returning to the squad after receiving medical clearance. The return of the defensive duo comes as Barcelona continue to deal with several injury concerns. Former Atletico Madrid player Rodri, Dani Olmo, Jules Kounde and Xavi Espart are among those unavailable for the contest.

Youngster Ebrima Tunkara has also earned a place in the travelling squad as Barcelona look to maintain their momentum across competitions. Gavi, Fermin Lopez, Frenkie de Jong, Pedri and Marc Bernal are also included in Flick's selection. Barcelona head into the encounter on the back of two convinc-



ing victories. They registered a 6-1 win over Alaves in La Liga before defeating Aston Villa 3-0 in the Champions League on Tuesday. However, Atletico Madrid are expected to provide a stern challenge, particularly given their impressive run in the domestic competition. Diego Simeone's side have won their last seven La Liga matches, including a 2-1 victory over Real Madrid.

Atletico have collected nine wins, one draw and one defeat from their opening 11 league fixtures and boast the division's best defensive record, having conceded just eight goals.

Their European campaign, though, has been less encouraging, with the Madrid-based club suffering a 2-0 home defeat against Bayern Munich in their latest Champions League outing. Barcelona, meanwhile, have been particularly prolific in front of goal, scoring 46 times in 11 league matches. Only Athletic Club, with 49 goals in the 1930-31 campaign, had scored more at the same stage of a Spanish league season. Their European campaign, though, has been less encouraging, with the Madrid-based club suffering a 2-0 home defeat against Bayern Munich in their latest Champions League outing.

Barcelona manager Hansi Flick will be hoping the returning defenders provide greater stability at the back as his side prepare for a crucial test against Atletico. The encounter is expected to be a closely contested battle, with Barcelona's attacking strength facing Atletico's defensive discipline.

'Used qualifying as a test': Hamilton reflects on grid penalties in Brazil

Sao Paulo, Nov 8 (Way to News): Ferrari driver Lewis Hamilton admitted that he used the Sao Paulo qualifying session as a test as he braces for a back-of-the-grid start due to a full power unit change.

Hamilton was P11 in Saturday qualifying but will start Sunday's race from P20, ahead of Max Verstappen, who starts P21 due to his power unit penalty.

Speaking after qualifying, Hamilton reflected on the rain-hit session and admitted he had saved tyres for a potentially wet race on Sunday. "It was a lot of fun out there. It's always fun in the rain. It's very, very tricky, but I had just a lot of fun, just in the few laps that we got," said Hamilton.

"I wish I was still out there battling with the guys, but unfortunately,



saving the tyres for tomorrow." "That's what we're trying to do, yeah," said Hamilton when asked if a charge through the field from P20 was possible.

"It's going to be really tricky conditions, but I love racing in the rain. I was basically using the Qualifying session as a test in making sure the engine is working and making sure that the car felt good, so I feel good for tomorrow."

Meanwhile, Verstappen also opened up about his back-of-the-grid start, saying it was the best place for him to take the penalties. "I know that I have to start from the back, so we don't want to take too much risk and (we) just put a lap on the board in Q1," Verstappen explained. "And yeah, that's what we did." "I mean, we saw an issue, and we decided to take the penalty here. Maybe it's the best place to take it, but who knows. We'll see tomorrow how far we can move up to the front. (We'll) try and have a bit of fun out there."

Meanwhile, Verstappen also opened up about his back-of-the-grid start, saying it was the best place for him to take the penalties. "I know that I have to start from the back, so we don't want to take too much risk and (we) just put a lap on the board in Q1," Verstappen explained. "And yeah, that's what we did."

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Ram Charan, NTR, Allu Arjun wish fans on Diwali



On the occasion of Diwali, film celebrities have taken to social media to wish their fans and the public. Along with the top heroes of the South film industry, Bollywood actors have also shared festive messages by posting special posts through their official accounts.

Global star Ram Charan responded on his 'X' account.. "Happy Diwali to all of you. I wish this festival brings happiness, peace and prosperity to you and your family members. May everyone celebrate Diwali safely and beautifully." On the other hand, young tiger Jr. NTR responded in his own style.. "Happy Diwali to all of you." He posted a brief message. 'Pushpa' actor Allu Arjun shared a divine picture of Sri Mahalakshmi Ammavari.. "Happy Diwali to everyone" with a lamp emoji. Malayalam superstar Mohanlal also shared a photo of Pramidha shining with lights and extended his festive wishes to his fans.

Kollywood's leading actors Dhanush and Karthi also shared their messages with their fans through social media. "A heartfelt Diwali to everyone. I wish everyone's heart to be filled with happiness and the light of love to spread in every home," wrote Dhanush. Actor Karthi also responded.. "Happy Diwali to all my dear ones. May your life always shine brighter with happiness, success and endless blessings." 'Maa' president and actor Manchu Vishnu shared a beautiful photo with his family members on Instagram. "Happy Diwali to you and your family members. I wish you always have happiness and prosperity, and may your loved ones be with you. I always say.. Family comes first. Without family, we are nothing. All of you who constantly shower us with love are also a part of our family," said Vishnu emotionally. Bollywood actor Sidharth Malhotra shared a festive photo with a sweet box and wished his fans, "Happy Diwali filled with love, laughter and sweet sweets." As celebrities greeted their fans directly on the occasion, social media platforms were abuzz with festive art. Fans are also wishing their favorite actors a Happy Diwali through comments and retweets.

Ram Pothineni sets Tamil cinema debut with Rajinikanth-starrer 'Dharman'



Actor Ram Pothineni, who predominantly works in Telugu cinema, has joined the cast of the upcoming film 'Dharman'. The film is headlined by Superstar Rajinikanth. The film marks Ram Pothineni's debut in Tamil cinema, as he is set to share the screen space with the legendary Superstar Rajinikanth for the first time and promising an intriguing cinematic experience for audiences across languages.

The film is directed by Ashwath Marimuthu, and features music by Anirudh Ravichander, with action choreographed by Anbariv. The film is produced by Kamal Haasan and R. Mahendran under the prestigious banner of Raajkamal Films International. Ram Pothineni is known for his dynamic screen presence, captivating performances and distinctive energy, and has carved a special place for himself among audiences with a string of successful films across Telugu cinema. From making a memorable debut with Devadasu to delivering popular blockbusters such as 'Ready', 'Kandireega' and 'iSmart Shankar'.

Talking about 'Dharman', the film is an action-thriller, and promises Rajinikanth in a stylish and mysterious doctor, described as 'The Deadly Doctor'. The first-look poster showed him in a surgeon's outfit, holding a blood-stained surgical instrument. The film blends action, family emotions and Rajinikanth's trademark style. With an interesting storyline and a talented team, Dharman is one of the highly anticipated Tamil films. A few weeks ago, Nayanthara joined the starcast of the film. The director of the film welcomed Nayanthara to the team with a social media post. The makers of the drama, Raaj Kamal Films International, teased a new addition to the 'Dharman' cast, saying, "Some Eyes say it all (fire emoji) THE CHARISMA ARRIVES I Today at 7:02 PM". A few hours after that, reacting to the post, the director penned, "Welcome on board mam", followed by a red heart and hug emoji. In September, Ashwath Marimuthu had announced that the team had already wrapped up its third schedule of the film.

Keerthy Suresh on Bollywood-South Film Industry Differences



National Award winner Keerthy Suresh, who has earned recognition for her brilliant acting in the South film industry, is soon getting ready to entertain in Bollywood. On this occasion, she revealed interesting facts about the differences in performance between the South industry and the Hindi film industry. She explained that while pre-production is given utmost importance in Bollywood, the performance in the South film industry is very spontaneous. Keerthy spoke in an interview with co-star Radhika Apte as part of the promotions of her recent movie 'Akka'. "The working style in Bollywood is very different. Here, a lot of time is spent on pre-production work like script readings, pre-training of actors, coordination with other actors. When it comes to South, there is a lot of spontaneity. Unless there is a lot of work to be done for specific roles, there is usually not much preparation. Sometimes we meet other actors directly on the sets on the day of shooting. However, I like working in both these ways," explains Keerthy Suresh.

Directed by Dharmaraj Shetty, 'Akka' is produced by YRF Entertainment. Tanvi Azmi, Mahesh Manjrekar, Anshuman Pushkar, Monica Panwar and others play key roles in it. Talking about the character of 'Bhavani' she played in this story, Keerthy said that Bhavani is seen as a strong woman who takes tough decisions to protect her legacy. She said that working with Radhika Apte was a great experience and that this project, which came to the audience through Netflix, is impressing everyone.

Aadhi-starrer Maragadha Naanayam 2's first look out

The makers of director A R K Saravan's eagerly awaited fantasy comedy adventure 'Maragadha Naanayam 2', featuring actors Aadhi, Nikki Galrani and Priya Bhavani Shankar in the lead, on Saturday released the first look poster of the film, much to the delight of fans of the franchise. Sharing the first look poster of the film, production house Passion Studios wrote, "Chase. Heist. Mystery. Fantasy. People. All driven by one obsession - The Maragadha Naanayam. Presenting the first look of #MaragadhaNaanayam2 | #MaragadhaMani2. Written and Directed by @ArkSaravan_Dir. Starring @aadhiofficial @priya_Bshankar @nikkigalrani #Sathyaraj."

It may be recalled that in May this year, actor Daniel Annie Pope, who plays a pivotal role in the film, had disclosed that shooting for the film had been wrapped up. Taking to his Instagram page to pen a heartfelt post of appreciation for the unit of 'Maragadha Naanayam 2', Daniel Annie Pope had said, "From laughs between takes to memories that will stay forever… And just like that, the shoot of 'Maragatha Naanayam 2' is officially wrapped!"

He went on to say, "More than a film, this felt like a beautiful family reunion filled with chaos, fun, bonding, late-night shoots, endless smiles, and unforgettable moments. Every frame carried love, every day carried energy, and every person here made this journey special. @aadhiofficial @nikkigalrani @priyabhavanishankar — tired faces after long schedules, genuine smiles, crazy selfie angles, playful moments, and one big happy cinema family standing together with pride." He concluded the note saying, "Can't wait for everyone to witness the magic we created together. Until then… memories packed, emotions wrapped, and hearts full. #MaragathaNaanayam2 #ShootWrapped #CinemaFamily #FamilyReunion #BehindTheScenes TamilCinema MovieWrap TeamWork FunMoments MemoriesForLife Kollywood OnSetVibes Togetherness WrappingMemories MovieMagic." For the unaware, the film went on floors with a grand pooja ceremony here in the city in February this year. The 2017 fantasy comedy caper 'Maragadha Naanayam' went on to emerge a blockbuster, prompting its makers to announce a sequel. Earlier this year, one of the film's makers, Passion Studios, released a visual glimpse of the sequel.

Producer Sudhan Sundaram of Passion Studios, had, at that point, said,"I am delighted to produce Maragadha Naanayam 2, a project close to my heart, as I am a massive fan of the original blockbuster. This is a prestigious endeavor designed to draw universal crowds to theatres with its magical entertainment. Like the first part, Aadhi and Priya Bhavani Shankar play the lead roles. Shot on a grander canvas with an expanded star-cast, we are committed to delivering the ultimate entertainer."

'Maragadha Naanayam 2', directed by ARK Saravan and produced by Sudhan Sundaram, Manish Singhal, Durgaram Choudhary, Dev & KV Durai under Passion Studios, Dangal TV, RDC Media, Axess Film Factory & Good Show, will feature Aadhi and Priya Bhavani Shankar in the lead roles. The film will also feature actors Sathyaraj, Nikki Galrani Pinisetty, Munishkanth, Anandaraj, Daniel Annie Pope, Arunraja Kamaraj, and Muruganandam in pivotal roles. Dhibu Ninan Thomas has scored the music for this film, which has cinematography by PV Shankar. NK Rahul is the art director for this film and Thirumalai Rajan R is its editor. Rajesh Kannan has penned the dialogues for the fantasy adventure which has stunts choreographed by PC Stunts.



When Varun Dhawan recalled the time his father David Dhawan called him a 'nazuk Dharma hero'

Varun Dhawan once revealed how he was called a 'nazuk Dharma hero' by his father, director David Dhawan, as he appeared on 'Koffee With Karan season 8' with Sidharth Malhotra in 2023. During a fun episode, Varun recalled the time he fell off a bike while shooting 'Main Tera Hero', and his father, David Dhawan, who was the director of the movie, mocked him by calling him a 'delicate Dharma hero'. Sharing the fun incident, Varun said, "So, when I was shooting for 'Main Tera Hero', I had a bike shot entering the college, and I fell down. And my said on the mic, 'Aare yeh Dharma ka hero hai, bahut nazuk hai (He's a delicate Dharma hero)." Reacting to the story, KJo commented, "I'm making boys nazuk (delicate). I like that." While interacting with Karan and Sidharth, Varun also remembered the time Sidharth had broken his nose during his first action scene for their debut movie, 'Student of the Year'.

Admitting that it wasn't Sidharth's fault. KJo told, "First action sequence ever in life and just a mistake… Varun's father David and his brother Rohit came to see him in the hospital, and they were more concerned about Sidharth. They were only worried about Sid. They were like, 'Yeh Varun ki galti hogi, woh extra enthu hogaya hoga (It must have been Varun's fault, he must've become overethusiastic)'. And they were like, 'Is Sid okay? Tell him it's fine.'" Karan Johar's 'Student of the Year' marked the



Bollywood debut of Varun, Sidharth and Ali Bhatt. Later on, Sidharth shared screen space with Alia in the 2016 release, 'Kapoor & Sons'. Varun and Alia also worked together in 'Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania (2014)', 'Badrinath Ki Dulhania (2017)' and 'Kalank (2019)'. However, Varun and Sidharth did not share the screen after SOTY.

Radhika Apte once again makes sensational comments on the South film industry!

Bollywood actress Radhika Apte has once again made sensational comments about her experiences in the South film industry. She said that she faced severe difficulties while working in some films. She revealed that there were mostly men on the sets and she felt lonely because she did not know anyone. She said that the atmosphere there was male-dominated. It is known that Radhika Apte's recent comments that she had to romance an older hero in South India were controversial. Before it was forgotten, she made these comments again. Radhika shared these things in an interview with as part of the promotions of her latest film 'Akka', starring Keerthy Suresh. She said that working in some South films gave her a good feeling, while others were mentally difficult. She said that she had faced similar bitter experiences in Bollywood too.

Radhika said that she did not have any acquaintances during the shooting of South films. She said that she had to stay in new places without an agent or friends. She said that there were mostly men on the sets and that she did not understand the language they spoke. She revealed that in some cases there was no agreement and the script was not given in advance. She said that she was embarrassed not knowing what to ask? How to respond. She said that when she worked in Marathi films, she knew the language and had the opportunity to go home if necessary. But she said that she was completely alone during the shooting of South films. Radhika said that she has increased her self-confidence compared to the past. She said that she has learned to clearly state her boundaries and speak up when injustice is done to her. Radhika has acted in South films like 'Raktha Charitra', 'Dhoni', 'Endukante Premanta!', 'Legend', 'Lion', and 'Haram'.

She further explained that the lack of communication and clarity on certain film sets made her uncomfortable, particularly when scripts and work agreements were not provided beforehand. According to her, these experiences highlighted the importance of professional working conditions, transparency and mutual respect in the film industry.

Radhika also stressed that actors, especially women working away from their home regions, should feel safe and supported on film sets. She said she was now more confident about raising concerns and refusing to accept situations that made her uncomfortable. Her remarks have once again triggered discussion about workplace culture and gender dynamics in the Indian film industry. While acknowledging that she had positive experiences in some projects, Radhika's comments have renewed conversations about the need for better coordination, inclusivity and a comfortable working environment for women artists.



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