WAY TO NEWS

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CM Revanth announces statewide 'Praja Balam' Tour

CM unveils ₹9,053-crore projects, announces statewide 'Praja Balam' tour after Sankranti and urges farmers to adopt low-water crops amid El Niño concerns.



Hyderabad, Nov 9 (Way to News): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy reiterated his commitment to transforming Telangana into the number one developed state in the country. He stated that his government is working with a firm resolve to address existing challenges one by one, while simultaneously repaying the debts incurred by the previous administration. He posed a direct question: why should the Palamuru (Mahabubnagar) region—which suffered severe injustice over the last 70 years—not be developed now that the opportunity has arrived? He firmly pledged to develop the Palamuru region, which has long been plagued by drought and mass migration.

He took a solemn vow—invoking the deity Polepalli Ellamma—that it is his responsibility to ensure that the lands of Kodangal are irrigated with Krishna river water, enabling the cultivation of lush, green crops by December 2028.

In light of the prevailing conditions, including the impact of El Niño, he announced that he would launch a public outreach program called "Praja Balam" (People's Strength) after the upcoming Sankranti festival, through which he will tour every corner of the state. The Chief Minister participated in and addressed an interactive meeting with farmers at the Lagacharla Industrial Park, located in the Kodangal constituency of Vikarabad district. Prior to this, he unveiled foundation stones for various development projects in the constituency, with a total outlay of 9,053 crore.

The Chief Minister pointed out that projects such as Bhima, Nettempadu, Koilsagar, Jurala, and Palamuru-Rangareddy have failed to make any significant progress, even after decades. He expressed regret that there was no improvement in the situation even following the formation of Telangana. He further alleged that the Makthal–Narayanpet–Kodangal lift irrigation scheme had been neglected for ten years.

Before the event, he offered special prayers to Goddess Polepalli Ellamma at her temple, sought her blessings, and then joined the farmers in a *padyatra* (foot march) to reach the venue of the meeting.

This gathering was attended by a large number of people, including Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Damodara Raja Narasimha, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Jupally Krishna Rao, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Vivek Venkataswamy, Vakiti Srihari, and Mohammad Azharuddin; Advisor Sudarshan Reddy; MLC and PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud; as well as Members of Parliament, public representatives from the undivided Mahabubnagar district, and local farmers.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Minister highlighted the lack of development in the Palamuru (Mahabubnagar) region. He noted that despite the arrival of many leaders over the years, the issue of migration has persisted, and the land has remained deprived of successful harvests.

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Rahul Gandhi renews debate challenge after Modi's jibe



New Delhi, Nov 9 (Way to News): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his "Dimagi Naxals" remarks while addressing CRPF personnel, saying the jawans didn't buy his "lies", and challenged the PM again to debate him on who is anti-national and controlled by foreign forces.

The Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha said that the PM "called us Naxals" and asserted that after the debate, PM Modi "won't have the guts to stand in front of a single jawan again". In his post on X, addressed to the CRPF personnel, Gandhi said, "Dear @ crpfindia, Your faces said it all: you didn't buy the PM's lies." "He called us Naxals. My challenge stands. Let him debate me on who is anti-national and who is controlled by foreign forces. Any time, any place. My guarantee: after the debate, the PM won't have the guts to stand in front of a single jawan again," Gandhi said.

The former Congress chief's remarks came a day after Modi targeted political opponents, saying armed Maoists have been eliminated but "Dimagi Naxals" have infiltrated several political parties and organisations and are instigating people against the Constitution and democracy.

"We must identify and defeat such elements and secure the country," Modi said on Sunday, while celebrating Diwali with security personnel at a CRPF camp in Chhattisgarh's Bastar, continuing his tradition of spending the festival with India's brave men and women in uniform.

The Congress alleged that Prime Minister Modi is clearly distraught, disturbed and desperate, and his "jhola-picking-up time" is fast approaching.

In his Independence Day address in August, Modi had also referred to 'Dimagi Naxals' (people with a Naxal mindset), saying the country succeeded in removing armed Naxalism, but its ideological supporters were seeking opportunities to promote violence.

The opposition parties had accused Modi of using terms like "Dimagi Naxal" to intentionally brand and delegitimise democratic dissent. Gandhi has been repeatedly daring Prime Minister Modi to debate with him openly. The former Congress president has "guaranteed" that it would be proven in five minutes that the PM was a "traitor".

The BJP leaders have scoffed at Gandhi's challenge, alleging that he has been running away from debates in Parliament.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that while Gandhi is asking the PM to choose the venue for a debate, there already exists one in Parliament and called on him to show "some seriousness and responsibility" as the LoP in the Lok Sabha.

India, EU Review Strategic Partnership and FTA

New Delhi, Nov 9 (Way to News): India and the European Union (EU) held the seventh India-EU Strategic Partnership Review Meeting in New Delhi, reviewing the full spectrum of their Strategic Partnership, including trade and investment under the India-EU free trade agreement (FTA), the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

"Secretary (West) Sibi George co-chaired the 7th India-EU Strategic Partnership Review Meeting in New Delhi with Mr. Matti Maasikas, Deputy Secretary-General for Geoeconomics and Interinstitutional Issues of the European Union," the MEA posted on X.

The two sides reviewed the progress in implementing the Joint Comprehensive Strategic Agenda, adopted at the EU-India Summit in January 2026.

"The meeting reviewed the full spectrum of the India-EU Strategic Partnership and progress in implementing the Joint Comprehensive Strategic Agenda.

Modi, Zelenskyy Discuss Ukraine War and Bilateral Ties



New Delhi, Nov 9 (Way to News): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday spoke to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and offered India's assistance in efforts to secure a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. PMO sources said Zelenskyy shared his perspective on recent developments in the ongoing conflict. "PM Modi conveyed India's readiness to contribute to peaceful resolution of the conflict and the two leaders discussed ways to further strengthen India-Ukraine bilateral cooperation," official sources said.

Modi reaffirmed India's human-centric approach and reiterated its consistent position that the conflict should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy. "He conveyed India's readiness to contribute to all efforts aimed at peaceful resolution of the conflict. The two leaders also discussed measures to further strengthen India-Ukraine bilateral cooperation in various sectors for the mutual benefit of the two peoples," PMO officials said. After the conversation, PM Modi said, "Glad to have had a productive telephone conversation with President Zelenskyy. We reviewed our wide-ranging bilateral cooperation and agreed to further strengthen India-Ukraine ties. I thanked President Zelenskyy for sharing his perspectives on the ongoing conflict, its humanitarian aspects and various efforts to restore peace. I reiterated India's firm commitment to contributing in every possible way towards a peaceful resolution."

Earlier, India had formally proposed a comprehensive three-part framework for resolving the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Ukraine Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha had disclosed the proposal, describing it as the most comprehensive and broad-based among the proposals received so far, including those from the US, Turkey and Egypt.

Importantly, despite being a major buyer of Russian crude oil, India has kept diplomatic channels open with Ukraine. In August this year, Zelenskyy had said Kyiv was counting on India's contribution to ending the war with Russia.

Shah Sets 2028 Deadline for Drug-Free Gujarat



Ahmedabad, Nov 9 (Way to News): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday set a December 31, 2028 deadline for making Gujarat "drug-free", saying the state should not wait until the Centre's target of eliminating drug abuse in the country by December 31, 2029. Addressing a public gathering in Ahmedabad, Shah announced that a dedicated helpline, 1033, would become operational in Gujarat from December 1, allowing citizens to anonymously report the sale and consumption of drugs.

He said the identity of informants would be kept confidential and the state government would ensure action on information received through the helpline within three hours. "India has to become drug-free by December 31, 2029. But Gujarat should not wait until 2029. We have to take responsibility for making Gujarat drug-free before December 31, 2028," Shah said.

He appealed to residents to report instances of drug sales in their neighbourhoods and warned those involved in the trade of strict action and imprisonment. Shah said the Union Home Ministry had begun coordinated efforts with the Gujarat Home Department to strengthen the campaign against drugs. "A joint meeting held on Kali Chaudas discussed the implementation of three new criminal laws and modernisation of the Home Department, besides measures to make Gujarat drug-free," he added.

Goyal Urges Officials to Set New Year Resolutions



NEW DELHI, Nov 9 (Way to News): Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday said that every individual should pen down their resolutions, aspirations and commitments for the year ahead as India steps into a new year marked by fresh opportunities and renewed purpose.

In a post on social media platform X following Diwali celebrations at Vanijya Bhavan here, the minister said it was a pleasure to celebrate the festival with officials of the Department of Commerce and reflect on the achievements accomplished collectively over the past year. "It was a true pleasure celebrating Diwali with officials from the Department of Commerce at Vanijya Bhavan today," he said. Goyal described Diwali as a festival of new beginnings, renewed energy and fresh ideas, while also serving as an occasion to look back and celebrate shared accomplishments.

He appreciated officials and the entire team of the Department of Commerce for their continued dedication and contributions towards strengthening India's trade and investment ecosystem. "Diwali is a celebration of new beginnings, renewed energy and fresh ideas, while also giving us an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate all we have accomplished together," the minister stated.

"Also, appreciated the officials & the entire team for their continued dedication and contributions towards strengthening India's trade & investment ecosystem," Goyal noted.

Addressing officials during the celebration, the minister spoke about the importance of setting personal and professional goals for the coming year.

He encouraged everyone to write down their resolutions, aspirations and commitments as they prepare for the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Plea Seeks Clean Water, Medical Aid at Railway Stations



New Delhi, Nov 9 (Way to News): A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Centre and others to undertake time-bound corrective measures at railway stations to ensure hygienic drinking water, emergency medical facilities, functional toilets and accessibility for passengers. The plea has also sought directions to the concerned authorities to ensure comprehensive and periodic testing of all passenger drinking water sources at railway stations in accordance with the prescribed standards. According to the cause list of November 16 uploaded on the apex court website, the plea is scheduled to come up for hearing before a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana. The plea has sought directions to forthwith undertake time-bound corrective and remedial measures at railway stations to ensure hygienic drinking water, cleanliness and sanitation, functional toilets, proper waste management, accessibility, emergency medical facilities and all prescribed minimum essential amenities to safeguard the health, safety, dignity and life of railway passengers.

"Issue an appropriate writ, order or direction, directing the respondents to ensure comprehensive and periodic testing of all passenger drinking water sources in accordance with the prescribed standards, including for E. coli, total coliforms and other bacteriological and chemical parameters.

Punjab Stubble-Burning Incidents Drop 95%, Haryana 98% Since 2020



Chandigarh, Nov 9 (Way to News):Punjab and Haryana have recorded a dramatic decline in stubble-burning incidents, with satellite data showing a 95 per cent reduction in Punjab and 98 per cent in Haryana between 2020 and 2026, highlighting the impact of farm mechanisation, scientific interventions and increased farmer participation in crop residue management.

According to data monitored by the CREAMS Laboratory of the ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Punjab recorded 2,196 farm-fire incidents between September 15 and November 3 this year, compared with 43,994 during the corresponding period in 2020. Haryana witnessed an even sharper decline, from 2,699 incidents in 2020 to just 52 this year, it said.

The figures point to a significant shift in the management of paddy straw in the two states, which have traditionally been at the centre of the annual stubble-burning crisis and its contribution to air pollution in north India. "A major factor behind the improvement has been the Centre's scheme for promotion of agricultural mechanisation for in-situ management of crop residue, launched in 2018. The initiative provided financial and institutional support for specialised farm machinery and custom hiring centres (CHCs), allowing small and marginal farmers to access equipment without making substantial investments," Rajbir Singh, Deputy Director General (Agriculture Extension and Engineering,) ICAR, said. "By 2025-26, a cumulative 3,45,789 machines had been distributed across the country, supported by 43,276 CHCs. Punjab accounted for around 1.48 lakh machines and 25,917 centres, while Haryana established 6,775 CHCs," he said.

The data noted that the scale of in-situ management in Punjab has also increased considerably. Around 11.4 million tonnes of paddy straw were managed within fields during 2025-26, accounting for nearly three-fifths of the state's estimated straw generation, it said.

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The Chief Minister pointed out that projects such as Bhima, Nettempadu, Koilsagar, Jurala, and Palamuru-Rangareddy have failed to make any significant progress, even after decades. He expressed regret that there was no improvement in the situation even following the formation of Telangana. He further alleged that the Makthal–Narayanpet–Kodangal lift irrigation scheme had been neglected for ten years.

He questioned why the region should not pursue development when the opportunity arises. Industries involving investments worth thousands of crores are set to be established in the Kodangal area. He urged the public to extend their support for the development of this region. He stated that the government is moving forward by developing Telangana while simultaneously repaying the debts incurred by the previous administration.

He announced that an industrial zone would be developed in this region, and the establishment of industries would create job and employment opportunities for thousands of young people. He explained that, in addition to the development of roads connecting Rajendranagar to Chevella, Shabad, Parigi, and Kodangal, new industries are also set to be established in these areas.

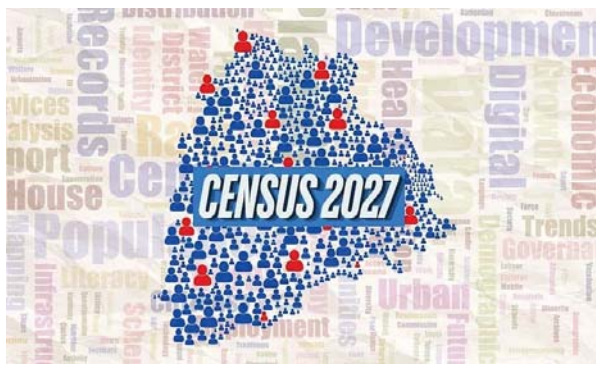
The Chief Minister once again appealed to the public to understand the impact of the El Niño phenomenon and the current situation. Noting that the lack of rainfall due to El Niño has led to a severe water shortage, he urged farmers to cultivate 'aru-tadi' (low-water-consuming/dry-land) crops.

He called for a collective effort to face the challenges posed by El Niño and announced that he would visit all regions under the "Praja Balam" (People's Strength) initiative following the upcoming Sankranti festival. Addressing concerns regarding the availability of fine-quality rice (sanna biyyam) under the current circumstances, the Chief Minister assured the public that there is no need to worry, as the government maintains sufficient stocks, even if paddy production falls short in a single season.

He said the government was committed to ensuring balanced development across all regions and would give priority to improving infrastructure, irrigation facilities and industrial connectivity. He emphasised that the proposed industrial corridor would transform the economic landscape of the region by attracting investments, strengthening local businesses and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for the youth. The Chief Minister also stressed the importance of public participation in achieving the state's development goals.

Census 2027 Phase 2 in Telangana from January 25 to February 28

Hyderabad, Nov 9 (Way to News): The state government has announced January 25 to February 28 as the period for conducting the second phase of the Census 2027 in Telangana, with a revisional round from March 1 to 5. According to a Government Order (GO) issued by the General Administration Department on Monday, November 9, citizens can do self-enumeration from January 10 to 24.



After that, the door-to-door population enumeration will begin an official will collect personal, demographic, and socio-economic data like caste and religion. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs issued the notification for the second phase of the 2027 census on October 30. All states will undergo the process except Manipur, Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Ladakh, and some parts of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

The second phase of Census 2027 will focus on collecting detailed information about the population, including demographic, social and economic characteristics of households. Enumerators will visit every household to record the required details, while citizens will also have the option of completing the self-enumeration process online before the door-to-door exercise begins. Officials said the self-enumeration facility is intended to make the census process more convenient and ensure greater public participation. Citizens will be able to submit their household details during the designated January 10–24 window, after which the information will be verified during the field enumeration.

The door-to-door exercise will be conducted by trained enumerators appointed by the government. They will visit residential premises across urban and rural areas and collect information from households using the prescribed census schedules. Residents are expected to cooperate with the officials and provide accurate information to ensure reliable population data. The collection of caste-related information is expected to be an important aspect of the second phase. The exercise will provide the government with comprehensive data on the social composition of the population, which could help in planning welfare programmes and development initiatives.

The information gathered through the census will serve as an important basis for policy formulation, allocation of resources and implementation of government schemes.

Telangana to Strengthen District Hospitals, Expand Specialist Healthcare Services

Hyderabad, Nov 9 (Way to News): Health Minister Damodara Raja Narasimha stated that the government's objective is to ensure that all types of medical services are accessible to the people within their own districts. He emphasized that Community Health Centres, Area Hospitals, and District Hospitals play a crucial role in achieving this goal. To this end, the government is strengthening these facilities by enhancing infrastructure, providing specialist medical services, ensuring adequate medical staff, and establishing diagnostic facilities. The Minister noted that by bolstering the secondary healthcare system, the need for patients to travel to Hyderabad or hospitals attached to medical colleges for minor health issues will be significantly reduced.



The Minister made these remarks on Monday during a high-level review meeting held at the Secretariat regarding the reorganization of the Directorate of Secondary Health Care (Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad - TVVP). He reviewed the proposals outlined in a study report prepared by the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) concerning the reorganization of the Directorate. The Minister further highlighted that 1,616 specialist doctors have recently been recruited for hospitals under the purview of the Directorate of Secondary Health Care, and that the necessary number of nurses and technicians have also been appointed. To ensure that the public truly benefits from the government's recent recruitment drives, it is essential to utilize the available staff in every hospital effectively.

Instructions have been issued to conduct a comprehensive, hospital-wise review to assess several key areas: which specialist medical services are currently available; which departments require additional doctors, nursing staff, or paramedical personnel.

; and what medical equipment or diagnostic facilities still need to be provided. It was emphasized that a situation where medical services cannot be delivered—despite the presence of specialist doctors—due to a lack of necessary equipment or support staff, must not be allowed to persist.

The Minister suggested defining the scope of medical services for hospitals—whether they have a capacity of 30, 50, 100, or more beds—in accordance with their respective tiers. Officials have been directed to formulate a clear plan regarding the specialty departments, medical services, bed capacity, operation theaters, laboratories, and other facilities that should be available at Community Health Centers (CHCs), Area Hospitals, and District Hospitals.

Owaisi, hotel owners meet TG SAFE head over raids

Hyderabad, Nov 9 (Way to News): Members of the Twin Cities Hotel Owners Association along with Hyderabad Lok Sabha Member of Parliament (MP) Asaduddin Owaisi met the commissioner of the Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG SAFE) on Monday, November 9, over the recent suspension of FSSAI licenses (leading to closures) of hotels for violation of food safety norms.



Representatives from the oldest and popular joins like Hotel Nayaab, Grand Hotel, Imperial Hotel etc were present at the meeting with TG SAFE commissioner Avinash Mohanty. Owaisi, on behalf of the hotel owners held the meeting wherein he said that the commissioner was requested to first issue notices and then give time to hotels in case of violations instead of simply closing the establishments directly.

The meeting comes just days after TG SAFE officials raided and suspended the FSSAI licenses of eight hotels including Nayaab on October 31. Officials inspected 22 restaurants and found unhygienic kitchens, cockroach and housefly infestations, spoiled vegetables, fungal contamination, expired food products and improper storage of raw and cooked food.

Several establishments were also found using cooking oil repeatedly, while food handlers were working without hairnets and aprons.Show-cause notices were issued to eight establishments, including Taj Falaknuma Palace at Engine Bowli, Hotel Sabzi at Charminar, Pista House at Shah Ali Banda, Sweekar Hotel at Santosh Nagar, Mandi@36 Arabian Kitchen at Charminar, Golconda Hotel and Resorts at Masab Tank, Imperial Multicuisine Restaurant at Tolichowki and Taiba Bakery at Bazarghat.

After the meeting, Owaisi, speaking to the media, said, "We told the commissioner that what they are doing is right, but to also first issue notices before shutting down a place immediately. Many of the affected places are old establishments and closures will affect their reputations. In one case we pointed out that the six points mentioned for closure was not even cited, so he called officers to check the issue."

The Hyderabad Lok Sabha MP also stated that cleanliness has to be maintained and that customers should get safe food. He added that all the hotel owners have said they will follow the food safety regulations and have hence requested the commissioner first to issue a notice and then give them a week to comply.

HMWSSB speeds up Godavari project to ease Hyderabad water woes

Hyderabad, Nov 9 (Way to News): The construction of Godavari Phase II and III projects, which is expected to reduce Hyderabad's drinking water woes, is progressing at a brisk pace.



On Monday, November 9, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) Managing Director K Ashok Reddy reviewed the works and enquired about the status of the tunnel construction, tunnel excavation, water treatment plant and membrane bioreactor reservoir works.

He directed officials to complete it by October 2027. Ashok Reddy also inspected the construction of an 80-million-litre capacity membrane bioreactor reservoir and the 1,170 million litres per day (MLD) capacity water treatment plant at Ghanpur, and asked officials to speed up the work. He has asked them to deploy additional machinery and labour teams if needed.

The Godavari Phase II and III projects are estimated at about Rs 7,360 crore. It aims to bring 20 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of Godavari water from Mallannasagar to Hyderabad. Of this, 17.5 TMC will be allocated for the city's drinking water needs, and the remaining 2.5 TMC will be used for the rejuvenation of the Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar reservoirs and the Musi River.

Telangana Agriculture University VC accused of sexual harassment, summoned

Hyderabad, Nov 9 (Way to News): The Telangana State Commission for Women (TGSCW), on Monday, November 9, summoned Aldas Janaiah, the Vice-Chancellor of Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University over sexual and mental harassment allegations levelled by an assistant professor. The assistant professor alleged there has been no action against him despite filing a complaint with the police and the Women Safety Department. At a press conference at the Hyderabad Press Club on Saturday, November 7, she said that the harassment began when she approached him to seek an extension of her PhD.



The Vice-Chancellor acted in ways that made her feel extremely uncomfortable. "If you had met 20 years earlier, I would have married you," she said he told her, adding that he pressured her to leave her husband, who is currently working abroad.

When she refused his advances, she was transferred to Nizamabad, which she alleges came out of spite. "I will not stoop low for favours. I would not sacrifice my self-respect for a transfer," the assistant professor said, her voice choking with emotion. She told the press that she hesitated at first to talk about the mental and sexual harassment.

Vice Chancellor Aldas Janaiah will appear before the Telangana State Commission for Women on Thursday, November 12. The assistant professor has received immense support from her female and male colleagues, who have expressed concern and anger over the management's handling of the case. One of the protestors said that a few non-teaching and teaching staff have been suspended. "Just because he (Vice-Chancellor) is in a higher position, there is no action. The state government should take cognisance of this serious matter," the protesting faculty member said. "You transfer people if they do not listen to your whims and fancies? This is unfair," she said.

"Where is the government's bharosa of the so-called protection for women of Telangana?" she added. The Commission is expected to examine the allegations, seek an explanation from the university authorities and assess the action taken on the assistant professor's complaint.

Simplify Alpha Opens AI Innovation Centre in Hyderabad, Plans 1,000 Jobs

Hyderabad, Nov 9 (Way to News): Telangana's IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu opened Simplify Alpha's new AI Innovation and Engineering Centre in Hyderabad on Monday, November 9.

Simplify Alpha is a global healthcare technology company that specialises in AI-powered automation and Solutions as a Service (SolaaS) for US health insurance organisations. Joining Babu at the inauguration were Venkatgiri Vandali, co-founder and CEO of Simplify Alpha, and other members of the senior leadership team at its HITEC City facility.



Taking to X, the IT minister wrote, "Inaugurated Simplify Alpha's new Hyderabad office today. Happy to welcome the company to Telangana." He said Simplify Alpha combines its expertise in healthcare payer operations with AI and automation to make processes simpler and more efficient. On the government's support for the company, the minister said, "We are always ready to listen, work together and support Simplify Alpha as it grows in Telangana. Congratulations and best wishes to the entire Simplify Alpha team." The minister said, "In the last two and a half years, we have brought in over 160 Global Innovation Centres, strengthening Hyderabad's position as a hub for global innovation and deep domain expertise. We welcome Simplify Alpha to this ecosystem. Partnerships like this create high-value jobs, build local expertise and help us develop solutions for the world." Simplify Alpha serves as the dedicated delivery wing of the Simplify Group, functioning alongside sister platform companies such as Simplify Healthcare and SimplifyX.

As shared on its website, the company has begun recruiting for its new centre, seeking specialised tech professionals, including Azure solutions architects, AI engineers, and technical leads, to scale its operations in Hyderabad. According to its press note, the company plans to scale headcount to 1,000 professionals over the next two years.

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US ambassador calls on Scindia, discusses advancing ties with India



New Delhi, Nov 9 (Way to News): US Ambassador to India, Sergio Gor, on Monday met Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia in New Delhi, holding discussions on advancing ties and identifying new opportunities for cooperation. "Great meeting with Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia to discuss advancing US-India ties and identifying new opportunities for cooperation. Looking forward to building on this momentum!," Gor wrote on X after the meeting. Scindia stated he and Gor discussed ways to further strengthen the strategic partnership between India and the US.

"A pleasure meeting US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor. Deliberated on avenues to advance our bilateral cooperation and further strengthen the Indo-US strategic partnership," Scindia posted on X.

Last month, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio was on an official visit to India, during which he met External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar in Mumbai. Rubio and EAM Jaishankar held discussions focusing on further advancing bilateral ties. The two sides also exchanged views on regional developments.

"Pleased to me t US Marco Rubio in Mumbai today. We shared views on further advancement of our ties, focusing on trade, energy, technology, defence and people-to-people ties.

Also exchanged views on regional developments," EAM Jaishankar stated on X after the meeting. Rubio said that he and EAM Jaishankar discussed energy security and defence cooperation. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor and other officials were also present at the meeting.

"In Mumbai, Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and I discussed energy security and defence cooperation while reaffirming the importance of advancing the US-India strategic partnership," the US Secretary of State posted on X. Marco Rubio, EAM Jaishankar, and UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan also held a trilateral meeting in Mumbai, exchanging perspectives on energy, connectivity and contemporary developments.

"Held a trilateral meeting with DPM and FM UAE Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Congress stages protests at Petrol Pumps across Bengaluru over alleged excess ethanol blending

Bengaluru, Nov 9 (Way to News): Congress workers staged protests at multiple petrol pumps across Bengaluru on Monday, opposing the alleged excessive blending of ethanol in petrol and demanding that the Centre ensure the supply of unblended fuel to consumers. Congress workers visited several petrol bunks carrying posters and raised slogans against the BJP-led Union government, alleging that motorists were being cheated through the blending of ethanol beyond the prescribed limits.



Speaking during the protest, Congress leader Manohar said Rahul Gandhi had already raised the issue and urged the Union government to take action. However, the Centre had maintained that ethanol blending in petrol was limited to 20 per cent. "Our state government got petrol samples tested in reputed laboratories, and the findings revealed that ethanol blending was as high as 32 per cent. The Congress has demanded that ethanol blending in fuel be stopped immediately and normal, unblended petrol be made available to consumers and motorists. The BJP government, which is itself involved in adulterated practices, is betraying consumers by allowing higher percentages of ethanol blending," he alleged. Meanwhile, BJP MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, speaking to the media, accused the Congress of diverting public attention from the issue of rising prices by repeatedly raising the ethanol blending controversy.

"The issue of ethanol blending has already been discussed. There is no truth in the allegations, and the Centre has provided explanations. Claims that engines would not function properly because of ethanol blending are also false. There is no need for further discussion on this issue," he said.

The protests come amid a controversy over the Karnataka government's claim that petrol sold in the state contains up to 31.2 per cent ethanol. Public sector oil marketing companies — Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) — have rejected the claim, maintaining that E20 petrol supplied across the country, including Karnataka, complies with the Bureau of Indian Standards' IS 17021 specification.

The oil companies and the Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry have also questioned the testing methodology adopted by the Karnataka government.

Gokul cooperative row: Supriya Sule backs Kolhapur protest, says Sharad Pawar monitoring developments

Mumbai, Nov 9 (Way to News): Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) leader Supriya Sule has backed the ongoing agitation in Kolhapur over the Gokul cooperative controversy, saying senior leader Sharad Pawar is closely monitoring developments and receiving regular updates on the situation.



Questioning the Maharashtra government's decision to appoint four members to the Kolhapur District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union despite the victory of the panel led by Congress leader Satej Patil, Sule questioned the move to take control of the institution and expressed solidarity with Kolhapur residents and milk producers demanding their rightful dues. In a post on X, Sule questioned the rationale behind the government's insistence on securing control of Gokul despite the electoral success of the panel led by Patil. She said the institution represented the interests of thousands of milk producers and that their democratic mandate and rightful share should not be overlooked.

"After the election results for the 'Gokul' Milk Producers' Cooperative Union, the government decided to appoint four members. In this election, the panel led by Congress leader Satej Patil has established an undisputed dominance. Yet the insistence on taking control of this institution under any circumstances is incomprehensible," Sule said.

She also shared a video of NCP-SP chief Sharad Pawar watching developments related to the Gokul controversy. Sule said Sharad Pawar was keeping a close watch on the situation and receiving regular updates. She also extended support to the protest being held by Kolhapur residents and Gokul's milk-producing farmers.

"Respected Pawar Saheb is keeping a close watch on all these developments and receiving updates at every moment. We support the struggle being waged by the people of Kolhapur and Gokul's milk-producing farmers for their rightful due," she said.

India, Myanmar Conclude Tri-Services HADR Exercise Rahat Mitra

Chennai, Nov 9 (Way to News): Indian and Myanmarese defence personnel participated in the inaugural bilateral tri-services Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise Rahat Mitra here last week, the Defence Ministry said on Monday. Personnel from the Indian Navy, the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force, along with a delegation from the Myanmar Defence Forces, participated in the two-day exercise, held on November 5-6, to enhance operational interoperability, improve coordination and facilitate the exchange of best practices in disaster response operations, according to the Defence Ministry statement.



The exercise started with a focus on joint planning and familiarisation with HADR capabilities. A Table-Top Exercise (TTX), based on a severe cyclone scenario, facilitated discussions on coordinated response mechanisms and joint disaster management protocols. The participating contingents witnessed demonstrations of obstacle clearance and bridge-laying capabilities by the Indian Army and visited INS Sukanya to gain insights into the Indian Navy's ship-borne HADR capabilities.

Manipur arms training case: US national Van Dyke says he will reveal 'shocking details' of imprisonment in India

New Delhi, Nov 9 (Way to News): US national Matthew Aaron Van Dyke, who was granted default bail in September after the National Investigation Agency (NIA) dropped terror charges against him and six Ukrainian nationals in the Manipur arms training case, has said he will reveal "shocking details" of his imprisonment in India over the next few months.



In a post on X on Monday evening (IST), Van Dyke said, "For over 6 months, India imprisoned several Ukrainians and I. This was part of Russia's war against Ukraine. I will reveal shocking details about this story over the next few months in both posts and media interviews." Van Dyke, whose X profile states that he has fought in Libya and Ukraine, claimed that his incarceration was part of Russia's war against "Follow to learn the truth about what happened and why," he added. In September, the NIA dropped charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) against Van Dyke and the six Ukrainians, who had initially been booked for their alleged involvement in the Manipur arms training case. The agency proceeded against them only under Sections 21 and 23 of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, which provide for offences that can be compounded before the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO).

Following this, a special NIA court granted all seven default bail after they had spent six months in jail.

At the last hearing on October 23, the court exempted all seven foreign nationals from personal appearance and allowed them to appear virtually at the next hearing, scheduled for February 24, 2027.

The court also granted the NIA three months to conduct further investigation into Van Dyke's alleged involvement in the case.

Earlier this year, the NIA had alleged that Van Dyke and the six Ukrainian nationals entered India on tourist visas, travelled to the northeastern region without the mandatory permits and subsequently crossed over from Mizoram into Myanmar, where they allegedly trained ethnic armed organisations. The agency had initially invoked provisions of the UAPA, including those relating to conspiracy. It had also alleged that the accused disclosed details about the network and were involved in assembling equipment and targeting a passenger aircraft in Myanmar.

Bhagwat recalls Muslim man who defended RSS against first ban attempt in 1930s

Nagpur, Nov 9 (Way to News): Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Monday recounted a little-known episode from the organisation's early history, recalling that a Muslim man named Ibrahim had spoken in defence of the RSS when an attempt was made to ban it in the Central Provinces Legislative Assembly in the 1930s.



Speaking at the inauguration of a newly constructed auditorium at the Nagpur Nagrik Sahakari Bank Limited headquarters, Bhagwat shared that during the early years of the Sangh, there were no Swayamsevaks present in the Assembly to defend it, nor was there anyone supporting the RSS ideology. "At that time, a person named Ibrahim raised his voice in support of the RSS, stating that the organisation should not be shut down as it is not communal," Bhagwat said. Quoting Ibrahim's address in the Assembly, he added, "I believe that those who say Hindustan is a 'Hindu Rashtra' should be sent to a mental hospital. However, I know Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar personally. He is not insane; he is a good person. Therefore, the RSS can never be communal."

Bhagwat noted that although the RSS was still relatively unknown in the 1930s, Hedgewar was a widely respected figure. "Since its inception, the organisation's identity has been shaped by its swayamsevaks. Today, after 100 years, Swayamsevaks continue to be the real identity of the RSS," he remarked. Highlighting the selfless life of RSS full-time workers (Pracharaks), Bhagwat said that individuals come with different abilities, skills, and human qualities, but what unites them is their complete dedication.

"I am a Pracharak myself. I have observed Pracharaks closely over the years, and their lifestyle has become second nature to me," he said. He added that people write about Pracharaks out of genuine affection and respect, not for any personal gain, as there are no material benefits associated with RSS work. Reflecting on the lifestyle of dedicated volunteers, Bhagwat said a true Swayamsevak lives a life free of ego and personal expectations, dedicated entirely to the welfare of society. He stated that out of roughly 7 to 7.5 million volunteers who identify as Swayamsevaks today, around 4,000 full-timers completely set aside personal desires to live entirely for the nation's future.

'India Doesn't Produce Enough Ethanol For 39% Blending': Union Minister Prahlad Joshi

Hubballi, Nov 9 (Way to News): Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi on Monday hit back at the Karnataka government over allegations that petrol sold in the state contained 26 to 39 per cent ethanol, claiming that such a quantity of ethanol was not even produced in India. Addressing reporters in Hubballi, Joshi accused the Congress of spreading false propaganda over ethanol blending and said the party was making irresponsible statements without basic knowledge of the issue.

"The Congress leaders have claimed that petrol contains 39 per cent ethanol. However, there is not even enough ethanol production in the country to support such a claim," he said, adding that the state government was deliberately making baseless allegations that petrol contained between 26 and 31 per cent ethanol. Joshi alleged that the Congress government was attempting to undermine the Centre's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative and its efforts to promote ethanol production in the interests of farmers.

Taking a dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Joshi said that Gandhi may have referred to the Karnataka Congress government as "420", alleging that the state government had failed on several issues, including the alleged sting operation conspiracy, price rise, EVMs and the SIR controversy.

Joshi maintained that oil marketing companies would incur losses if they used excessive quantities of ethanol, as ethanol was more expensive than petrol. He said petrol was priced at Rs 53, while ethanol cost Rs 56.70. "Despite ethanol being costlier, the Centre has encouraged ethanol production and blending in petrol to achieve self-reliance in the energy sector and protect the interests of farmers," he said.



The Union Minister alleged that the Karnataka government had collected 63 fuel samples but released the results of only 14 samples. Reports from six laboratories were made public, he said, adding that 11 samples reportedly showed ethanol content ranging from 1 to 39 per cent. "Such claims are being made by people who do not have even basic knowledge of the matter. There is simply not enough ethanol produced in the country for such levels of blending," Joshi charged.

He said that 896 fuel samples, including 56 from Karnataka, had been tested across the country and reports had been submitted.

Questioning the manner in which the Karnataka government conducted the tests, Joshi alleged that the samples were not tested through a legally valid procedure and that the report had not been officially published. He said representatives of petroleum companies and the Central government were not invited during the testing process. Under the law, he added, the petrol bunk owner and the concerned officials should be present during the collection and testing of samples. Joshi further questioned the credentials of the Shriram Research Institute, which the state government had said conducted the tests. He alleged that the institution was not included in the list of eligible laboratories for petrol sample testing under Schedule 3.

He said around 1.66 crore farmers had received payments related to ethanol production and claimed that ethanol blending in petrol had resulted in savings of Rs 1.94 lakh crore.

"Rahul Gandhi and the Karnataka Congress government, which are opposing ethanol production and blending, should answer whether they are against farmers," Joshi said.

He alleged that the Congress, driven by an anti-farmer mindset, was opposing ethanol despite it being more expensive than petrol.

Accusing the state government of acting deliberately, Joshi also said that while the base price of petrol was Rs 53, the Karnataka government was imposing nearly Rs 30 in taxes on petrol and diesel. "If ethanol costs more than petrol, why would oil companies add it in higher quantities and incur losses?" Joshi asked, adding that the Congress had failed in its earlier agitations over the SIR and other issues and had now taken up ethanol as a new issue. Taking to social media X, Joshi further said, "Karnataka Minister Rizwan Arshad's press conference today on ethanol blending is a classic case of choosing sensationalism over responsible governance. Instead of creating alarm through unverified claims of 26–31 per cent ethanol in petrol, the Minister should have first examined the official test results. All 893 samples tested across 27 States and UTs complied with the prescribed 19–21 per cent range. More importantly, all 56 samples tested in Karnataka by the OMCs were compliant, recording 19–20 per cent, with an average of 19.30 per cent.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Editorial

Education: Key to Nation-Building

As the National Education Policy 2020 enters its sixth year, India faces a defining question: can it move beyond political contestation and build an education system that truly fulfils the Constitution's vision of equitable, high-quality learning for every child?

Independent India, born amidst the trauma of Partition, began its journey with a population of nearly 340 million and a literacy rate of barely 12 per cent. Within two years of Independence, the Constitution placed before the nation an extraordinarily ambitious educational mandate. Article 45 of the Directive Principles of State Policy declared: "The State shall endeavour to provide, within a period of ten years from the commencement of this Constitution, free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years."

Although this constitutional goal could not be achieved within the prescribed decade, its inspirational force has shaped India's educational journey. Today, despite the addition of more than one billion people to the population, India's literacy rate has risen to nearly 81 per cent. This remarkable transformation reflects the enduring commitment of successive governments, educators, and society at large to expand educational opportunities. The framers of the Constitution clearly recognised that education would be the principal instrument for nation-building. It had to embrace India's extraordinary diversity while nurturing a deep appreciation of its underlying unity. Emerging from the bitterness and human tragedy of Partition, India needed an education system capable of healing divisions, strengthening democratic values, and preparing future generations for rapid social, scientific, and economic change.

Fortunately, the nation benefited from visionary scholars, scientists, and statesmen who undertook a comprehensive review of existing educational structures and formulated forward-looking policies. Their recommendations received the support of political leadership that understood education as the foundation of national development. During the first two decades after Independence, three landmark commissions laid the intellectual foundations of modern Indian education: the University Education Commission (1948-49) under S Radhakrishnan, the Secondary Education Commission (1952-53) chaired by A Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, and the Education Commission (1964-66), popularly known as the Kothari Commission, led by D S Kothari. Their reports continue to influence educational thinking even today. India formulated its first three comprehensive education policies in 1968, 1986 and 1992, and each one of these has stood India in good stead. The 1968 policy prescribed a common core-curriculum to be studied by both boys and girls.

It may appear a fairy tale to young persons of today that till then, girls were given the option to quit science and maths, and opt for to home science, spinning, weaving, arts and crafts, etc., as science and maths were perceived too tough for the girls. Today, more girls qualify in the much-sought after NEET competition than boys. This is an achievement that deserves a grand national celebration.

Court ruling focuses on procedural aspects, reaffirms judicial review power

Jyoti Malhotra



PRIME Minister Modi is readying to receive some of the world's most powerful leaders at the BRICS summit on September 12-13 — not just by personally pushing to reduce the temperature at home over the GenZ protests with Instagram selfies that directly speak to his young audience, passing anti-paper leak legislation in record time in Parliament or by having cases dropped against protesters — but by willing to stand up against the tide and invite folks to New Delhi, including those being shunned by Washington DC. One of those men is Russian President Vladimir Putin, against whose country the US Senate has this week passed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia Act of 2026, by an overwhelming 86-12 vote, permitting the slapping of 100% tariff against nations who buy Russian energy or its military equipment.

The Russia Act also invokes new sanctions against Putin and 20 other top people who work in the Russian defence industry.

First, some bald facts. China, India and Turkiye are among the top five buyers of Russian energy. And despite a defence framework agreement with the US that promises to strengthen "interoperability across all domains, including land, sea, air, space and cyberspace," India remains a key customer of Russian arms. According to the US Congress, since 2008, 59% of India's defence imports have come from Russia, 12% from France, 10% from the US and 9.5% from Israel.

Just two of those Russian pieces of equipment, the S-400 missile system and the BrahMos missile, were singularly helpful in tilting the balance against Pakistan during Op Sindoor. (It's another matter that Donald Trump insists he brokered the end of the conflict between India-Pakistan, a fact that India strenuously denies.) As for the purchase of Russian energy, Kpler, the real-time global data and analytics provider, says that the Indian purchase of Russian crude crossed 2 million barrels per day over March-June 2026 and is well on its way to touching 3 million barrels per day. (In this time, India bought 244.89 million barrels from Russia, 58.57 million barrels from the UAE and 57.62 million barrels from Saudi Arabia.) This means that Russian energy imports account for as much as an incredible 50% of India's energy needs today. Clearly, with the Strait of Hormuz still shut and tension in the Red Sea not abating in the wake of the prolonged standoff between the US and Iran, India has been forced to return to buying cheaper Russian oil, despite its earlier pleadings and promises that it will wean itself off this addiction in the face of looming US tariffs.

Question is, whether India is going to throw all this goodness away in order to evade US sanctions in the light of the recent passage of the Russia Act. Clearly, the answer is no. India needs Russian crude to keep the wheels of the economy churning so as to keep the evil forces of poverty and unemployment at bay. You don't need to be a rocket scientist to understand that the GenZ protests were triggered not just by NEET paper leaks but also by a rapidly growing despair about rising prices and lack of jobs. The problem with the current debate on foreign policy and national interest is that actually there's no debate. Delhi's policy elite is arrogantly dismissive of criticism on two counts — first, the view from the provinces is seen as being, well, too provincial — clearly, we don't understand the big picture well enough.

So whether it's Punjab and Gujarat's trauma of deported illegals, bound hand and foot in chains; or the Centre's refusal to open the Kartarpur Sahib corridor; or Myanmar's army personnel crossing the border to take refuge in Mizoram; or Sikkim's need to open up border trade with China; or Bihar's angst over the denial of roti-beti relationships with the Nepal Terai — all these issues of India's states and their neighbourhood are seen as important, but not significant enough to influence foreign policy.

The second count may be dubbed the 'Jurassic Age' view — this means that if you don't agree with the Delhi elite version of India's national interest, or believe that India must be non-aligned, or that India must have the freedom to align itself depending on the issue at hand, then you are condemned to be a diplomatic dinosaur.

This is where the BRICS summit comes in. On the face of it, India's presidency of this forum signifies that it is on board an alternative view of the existing US-led world order; in fact, India is nervous about China's rise as a global power on a par with the US, remains transactional about the tie with Russia (on both energy and defence), and is more or less indifferent about both Brazil and South Africa.

Truth is, India is so concerned about the potential impact of the Russia Act on its relationship with the US, because it doesn't want the all-important tie between Delhi and DC to be damaged in any way. Nor can it deny, however, that Russia has been bailing out New Delhi, especially on the energy front. That's why the recent meeting between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Manila was crucial — we don't know what came of it, except a bland comment that both discussed everything, including the T-word, tariffs.

That's also why the next six weeks in the run-up to the BRICS summit will be critical — first, it will be interesting to see whether the big leaders, both Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin, will show up; certainly Xi is not confirmed and it's not clear whether he thinks it's worth his while. Second, even if Putin lands up, as he and PM Modi clearly have a personal equation, the question remains whether the PM can reorient India's ship in favour of true multi-alignment -- where India picks its friends and partners framed only by its national interest, one which is also defined by its citizens who live in the provinces and not just by the Nayi Delhi elite.

In the last few days, the PM has cut through the whirlpool of the BJP's own making by directly reaching out to India's despairing youth brigade. Perhaps it's time to turn the scalpel towards foreign policy and run an honest appraisal of what's what. What does India really want? And who are its trustworthy friends?

Time to renew the social contract

Gurbachan Jagat



The "social contract" is the bedrock on which citizens give up their natural state of liberty to the sovereign or the government to be governed by laws or the volonté générale (general will), as Jean-Jacques Rousseau called it, for the common good and to form a commonwealth for the people. It is this contract that lies broken today in much of the world. Wars, riots, mass protests and strikes are a clear reflection of this phenomenon.

The rise of extremist movements and parties, be they of the far Left or the Right, are harbingers of dangerous times. Both the government and the citizens must have a relook at the broken contract. I call it broken because the seven primary duties of the State — defence and security; law and order; justice; protecting rights and liberties; public goods and infrastructure; economic management; and social welfare — are in a state of disarray across most nations. We live in a time where the world is at war with itself. The history of mankind is largely a narration of wars. Wars over territory, trade and empire-building are invariably justified by leaders wanting to divert attention from internal undercurrents of instability and the desire to blame the "foreign hand". In these wars, nations attack each other and embroil millions of innocent people. It also means that a large part of the nation's wealth is diverted to the war effort, with education, healthcare and social uplift taking a back seat, worsening the disparity and discord within the nation. Wherever we look today, we see countries at war — either directly engaged, actively or passively providing support or causing collateral damage.

Ukraine is backed by NATO and Russia by China and North Korea. The Russian and Ukrainian economies are in tatters, with Ukraine having to commit vast natural resources to the US in lieu of arms and tactical support. Russia is under an almost complete economic blockade, having become hugely dependent on China. The collateral damage has hit the rest of the world as high inflation caused by the disrupted supply of Russian/Ukrainian oil, gas and wheat has taken its toll. Germany, France, the UK and other European nations have vastly increased their military spending at the cost of other sectors.

Europe is the new ground for domestic unrest and discord. France, Italy, Germany and Serbia have recently seen violent movements, with hundreds of thousands of protesters clashing with security forces. Property has been plundered or destroyed.

In France, the movement started with the students and spread to other sections of society, with parents, teachers and professionals joining the mass protests. The students were agitating over poor infrastructure and lack of teachers. As the protests spread, demands such as adequate and cheap housing, lower cost of living and oil prices came up. Unchecked immigration into these countries is often blamed for the malaise. For the past decade, much of Europe has had a stagnant economy, with increasing unemployment, high inflation and the accompanying decline in the standard of living.

Similarly, if we look at the Middle East, it seems that everybody is fighting everybody, with Iran in the crosshairs of the Americans and Israelis. The war has engulfed the whole region and its aftermath has impacted the global economy again, with rising inflation, disrupted supply chains and an ever-increasing cost of living hurting most households.

In South America, the US has virtually annexed Venezuela. With the 'Donroe Doctrine' (Donald Trump's version of the Monroe Doctrine) being the basis of its policy, the US is trying to militarily and economically dominate the continent. In Asia, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have seen violent movements and consequent regime change. It's a long list and I have touched upon only a few instances. The common thread in all of them is that the "social contract", both in letter and spirit, between the government and the people appears broken. Closer home, as per the 1951 Census of India, the number of educated people (at least matriculate) was around 1% of the entire population (about 36 crore); graduate unemployment was around 5% (about 2 lakh) of that 1%. Compare this to around 40% unemployment among young graduates today. The nation's population (140 crore and counting) is four times that recorded in the 1951 Census. Around 50 lakh graduates enter the job market each year… you can draw your own conclusions. It is not just that the opportunities are limited; it is also the calibre of the so-called graduates. Our vast population, with half of it being under the age of 30, should be the nation's demographic dividend. Unfortunately, it is by and large poorly educated, undernourished and unemployed. This is fast becoming a time bomb with the potential of being misused by elements that are hostile to the nation's success. For too long have our political leaders ignored education and healthcare, allocating these fundamental fields a paltry budget and preferring to keep the masses uneducated and thereby easily deceived and controlled for their selfish purposes. One crore unemployed people in the age group of 20-29 years is a daunting figure — it is more than the population of some countries.

It is alarming that we have no social safety nets. George Bernard Shaw summed it up well when he said, "The greatest of evils and the worst of crimes is poverty." We have multitudes wallowing below the poverty line. The aspirations of the modern-day youth are high, given their exposure to social media and the world at large. This age group is easily radicalised, especially so when ruling parties propagate a radical ideology.

Changing Face of Civil Services in India

Ira Pande



Is there anyone in this country who does not have an opinion on the protest by Gen Z at Jantar Mantar? How many have formed one themselves and how many are continually chasing memes, reels and podcasts to formulate one is another matter. Many from my generation and circle of friends have gone there to see and imbibe some of that energy into their own lives. It must be said that there was something truly electrifying about it and that the protest radiated an energy and attraction that even its most cynical critics were compelled to admit.

Given this, why was our own government so notably absent? This is a question that they will have to confront to accept that their arrogance is going to cost them heavily. When the PM finally decided to send a selfie message at midnight, it was too little, too late. Moreover, everyone could see that the confidence that he normally exudes was visibly missing. I have lived long enough to remember virtually all the public protests that have taken place down the decades. Each one has resulted in cataclysmic changes so do not be surprised if this one, too, redefines the relationship between rulers and the ruled. Do remember that such movements have also betrayed the trust placed in them and once the political parties became their public face, they turned many supporters into cynics. Each one, from JP's movement to Anna Hazare's fast, eventually became a way for many to build their political careers. Also, the history of all youth protests, from the AASU in Assam to the Uttarakhand Krantikari movement in India to similar ones in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Nepal, achieved their goal but after the initial euphoria, came political turmoil that went on for years. I pray that this does not happen this time.

Let me now tell you about the generations that grew up in India after Independence. The ones who were born and brought up in the '50s and '60s were what Salman Rushdie has memorably described as Midnight's Children, like me. Our parents were devoted followers of Gandhiji and later, Nehru. Having witnessed the violence of two World Wars, non-violence was an article of faith for them. Not just that, they bore the years of rationing and deprivation with stoic fortitude. Our parents valued a good education above all else. Their faith in government-run educational institutions and hospitals was so firmly practised that we all studied in Indian universities and rare was the person who went abroad to study in my youth. Rarer were those who stayed on there after earning their degrees. Read Nirad Chaudhury to get a picture of what it was to grow up in that India.

These were the foundational decades of our country and our parents were strict disciplinarians who made sure that those values were never forgotten. We were forbidden to swear or use coarse language or raise our voices when speaking to elders. Girls were restricted from going out alone, or wearing clothes that were considered vulgar. More than that was the unspoken rule that girls and boys had separate lives and, in many cases, girls were married off as soon as a suitable boy was found. Of course, we grumbled privately but few had the courage to defy parental laws.

Come now to the next generation (largely the late '60s and '70s), known as the Boomers. They defiantly wore colourful clothes, flared jeans and sported long hair. They worshipped the Beatles and the Beat generation poets who questioned the false 'goodness' of the earlier generation. It was de rigueur to be a Leftie and in the metro cities, at least, a deep commitment to the Naxal movement took root. India had shed its frugality and many early revolutionary supporters returned to join the civil services, academia or boxwallah jobs. In my mother's memorable definition of this was her wry remark, "Between us and our children there was a generation gap, between you all and your kids, I see a degeneration gap." Another time, she told my sister, "We were scared of our in-laws, not our children. You all are no longer scared of your in-laws, then why are you so scared of your children?" However, while this may apply to our metro cities of the time, in small-town India this lot was generically described as 'Hippies' and had a status just above the cockroach. They were our CJP and gave birth to the Argumentative Indian.

I am deeply impressed by Gen Z's defiant protest (since we were so timid when we were their age) and as for Gen Alpha, I give up. However, this I will say that while we deplore the breakdown of our institutions — the Parliament, the judiciary, the Election Commission, our educational institutions and hospitals — we are all complicit in this. As parents, grandparents and teachers, we have failed our duties and allowed a once-vibrant democracy to devolve into a near autocracy. The behaviour of our elected representatives in Parliament, the vile language that is hurled when addressing political rivals and the utter disregard for debates and regular attendance is shameful. Tharoor is dead right when he says that the delimitation Bill, when implemented, will only increase the chaos in our Parliament. When we can't seem to manage 543, how will we handle 850-odd members? Is this what this generation has fought for?

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Central Asia Geostrategy The New 'Great Game'

By Piotr Opaliski

Central Asia, for over a century perceived as an arena of struggle between external powers, and during the Cold War confined within the structures of the USSR, is today increasingly formulating its own strategic agenda. The region's states are pursuing multi-vector policies, balancing influence and developing a network of partnerships encompassing both global players – China, the US, Russia, India, and European Union – and regional actors such as Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, and the Gulf states.Indian cuisine recipes

The contemporary version of the "Great Game" is not only a race for raw materials and trade routes, but also for technological, digital, and institutional dominance. Alternative models of cooperation and mechanisms based on competence, systemic resilience, and a lack of political conditionality are gaining importance. A region once considered peripheral is now emerging as an autonomous actor and a hub of the new Eurasian architecture.The involvement of key global and regional geopolitical actors in Central Asia is part of a broader process of transforming Eurasia into a polycentric space.

The first summit of leaders of China and Central Asian states (C+C5 format) in May 2023 in Xi'an established a permanent platform for cooperation, which included 19 points concerning cooperation in political, infrastructure, energy, and education. The Chinese narrative emphasized a "common destiny" and a "new golden age of Sino-Central Asian relations." Beijing proposed expanding the New Silk Road to include digital and climate components, deepening energy cooperation, promoting academic exchanges and technical training, and establishing special investment funds for regional development. At the second summit in June 2025 in Astana, the establishment of a permanent secretariat for the C+C5 format in Kazakhstan was agreed upon, along with plans to build a joint data center and a new technology exchange platform—the China-Central Asia Digital Hub.

In this way, China seeks to institutionalize its presence in Central Asia outside the framework of the SCO, while simultaneously limiting the influence of Russia and the West. The C+C5 format is becoming increasingly attractive to the region's republics, offering rapid investment, a lack of political conditionality, and the opportunity to diversify cooperation channels. This model significantly shifts the geopolitical balance of power in Central Asia, increasing the region's dependence on Beijing and strengthening its strategic position.Indian cuisine recipes

Likewise, India is consistently developing strategic partnerships with Central Asian countries, with particular emphasis on Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan, strengthening economic, technological, and educational ties. The India-Central Asia Dialogue has been in operation since 2019, and its importance was further enhanced by a virtual leaders' summit held in January 2022. In May 2025, the Narendra Modi government announced the comprehensive "Indo-Eurasian Connect 2025" strategy, whose pillars include the development of transport infrastructure (Chabahar Port, North-South Corridor), technological cooperation (IT, cybersecurity, precision agriculture), education, and strengthening trade, including through the creation of SEZs in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. New Delhi is leveraging soft power tools—such as technology diplomacy, academic cooperation, and educational offerings—to build an image of a predictable and partner-oriented actor in the region. For India, Central Asia remains a crucial area for counterbalancing the influence of China and Pakistan, and a field for the expansion of its Eurasian foreign policy. Russia plays a key role in the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), using these formats to maintain its political and military influence in the region. However, it increasingly encounters resistance from its partners, particularly Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, which seek to reduce their dependence on Moscow and redefine their relations on a more equal footing.



The European Union is developing cooperation with Central Asian countries within the EU-C5 framework, strengthening political dialogue and development opportunities. At the Samarkand Summit in April 2025, a 12 billion investment package was announced as part of the Global Gateway strategy. These funds are to be allocated to energy (6.4 billion), transport (3 billion), and critical raw materials and digitalization (2.5 billion).The EU doesn't compete directly with China or Russia but proposes an alternative model of cooperation – based on transparency, sustainable development, high environmental standards, and labour regulations.Indian cuisine recipes The USis conducting dialogue with Central Asian countries within the C5+1 format, launched in 2015 as a platform for cooperation in the areas of security, energy, education, and support for regional sovereignty. In July 2025, Secretary of State Marco Rubio met with Uzbek Foreign Minister, confirming continued cooperation in key sectors: energy transformation, digitalization, supply chain security, and Afghanistan's integration into the regional trade architecture.The political format is complemented by the B5+1 (Business 5+1) initiative, focused on economic cooperation, logistics, e-commerce, renewable energy sources, and tourism.

Central Asian states are increasingly adopting a balancing strategy, utilizing both options and avoiding a clear commitment to either side. This multi-vector approach and pragmatism in infrastructure policy allow for the maximization of benefits from available financing sources and cooperation.

Central Asia is becoming a significant area of global competition for strategic critical raw materials—primarily uranium and lithium—which play a key role in energy transformation and security policy. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, as leading uranium producers, are attracting the interest of Russia, China, and France, which compete not only for access to deposits but also for control over processing, logistics, and nuclear technologies.

The EU sees Central Asia as an opportunity to diversify its critical raw materials supply. Under the Critical Raw Materials Act program, it promotes investments consistent with ESG standards and is considering privileged access for Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to the European market, provided that supply stability is ensured. Lithium is becoming the region's new "white gold"—a bargaining chip that attracts investment and strengthens the negotiating position of the Central Asian republics.Indian cuisine recipes

Contemporary competition in the Central Asian region goes beyond the traditional struggle for raw materials and physical infrastructure to encompass issues related to data, digital standards, and technological sovereignty. Kazakhstan is investing in the development of the IT sector and nuclear energy, Uzbekistan is implementing e-government solutions, and Turkmenistan is experimenting with technological cooperation with China. The construction of 5G infrastructure, the development of data centers, the implementation of blockchain technology, and discussions on digital sovereignty constitute a new front of geostrategic competition.

Amid rising tensions with the West, many countries in the region view China's "authoritarian digital model" as an attractive alternative to Western standards of transparency, data protection, and regulation of technology corporations.

Central Asian states are increasingly consistently pursuing a multi-vector policy, consciously avoiding subordination to a single center of power. Kazakhstan is developing a close partnership with Turkey, Uzbekistan is intensifying dialogue and cooperation with EU, and Turkmenistan is investing in autonomous energy connections. Central Asia's role is becoming increasingly clear not only as an object of rivalry, but as an independent entity shaping a balanced network of international relations promoting stability, diversification, and development.

The region is becoming a laboratory for a new multipolar order – devoid of a hegemonic center, but based on a multi-layered network of connections and partnerships. New players with their own agendas are emerging on the scene – India, UAE, and Saudi Arabia.Indian cuisine recipes

A long-term challenge and opportunity for the region's countries will be maintaining a balance between the interests of external powers, retaining added value in the form of knowledge, technology, and jobs, and defending decision-making autonomy in the face of growing external pressure. Increasingly, Central Asia is emerging not as an object of geopolitical games, but as an independent actor shaping its own strategic environment.

The sacred threshold of the Himalayas

Rachna Vinod

Lying cosily In the lap of Shivalik thills, the sacred threshold of the Himalayas, Jammu has long been known as the 'City of Temples.' But the spiritual significance of this region extends far beyond. As the southernmost part of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, it is a vital link in India's pilgrim map – home to shrines that attract over a crore of devotees annually, while sustaining ancient local traditions and sacred geographies. At the center of this sacred economy lies a dynamic model of pilgrim tourism, a form of travel that blends religious purpose with cultural immersion, community celebration, and economic livelihood. Here, faith is not a monument – it is a way of life.

Jammu isn't just a stop on the way to Kashmir. It's a sacred destination in its own right – full of hilltop temples, ancient caves, Sufi shrines, and folk festivals that turn devotion into celebration. Whether you're trekking to Shiv Khori, lighting candles at Peer Mitha, or joining a rural mela in honor of Sukrala Devi, pilgrim tourism here is a journey through faith, culture, and community. Jammu's sacred geography is more than a matter of faith – it is a living, breathing landscape of pilgrim movement, cultural memory, and regional identity. From cave shrines and hilltop temples to Sufi dargahs and border festivals, pilgrim tourism here blends devotion with diversity, drawing millions to its mystical folds.



The most iconic pilgrim destination in the region – and one of the most visited in the country – is the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, located near Katra in Reasi district. Perched at an altitude of over 5,000 feet, the shrine is accessible via a steep 12-kilometre trek through the Trikuta Hills, or via helicopter and ropeway services. Each year, more than ten million pilgrims undertake this journey to pay their respects to the three sacred pindis – natural rock formations representing Mahakali, Mahalakshmi, and Mahasaraswati. Chanting "Jai Mata Di", devotees create a rhythm of collective faith that defines the spiritual aura of the hills. Managed by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) since 1986, the shrine exemplifies the successful convergence of faith and modernity – with well-developed roads, lodging facilities, digital queue systems, and a model of sustainable shrine management. It also provides employment to thousands and sustains the regional economy year-round.

Tucked away in the Reasi district, the Shiv Khori shrine is a mystical cave housing a self-manifested Shiva lingam. Pilgrims walk barefoot through a 200-meter tunnel, where natural formations depict mythological figures and tales. Especially popular during Mahashivratri, the shrine offers a deeper, more intimate spiritual experience for pilgrims who seek silence and awe. Near the Indo-Pak border in Samba lies the Baba Chamliyal shrine, devoted to a 17th-century saint, Baba Dalip Singh Manhas. Despite border tensions, the shrine remains a symbol of shared faith and syncretic culture. Located in the Kathua district, the hilltop temples are dedicated to manifestations of the Goddess Durga. Steep treks, panoramic views, and seasonal melas define their spiritual rhythms. Pilgrims from Himachal, Punjab, and Jammu throng to these sites during Navratras, celebrating with devotion and traditional song.

Pilgrimage in Jammu is not confined to temples – it spills into fields, streets, and hilltops in the form of melas, ritual fairs, and cultural festivals. The Katra Navratra Festival, organized transforms the town into a hub of devotional music, religious processions, handicraft exhibitions, and folk performances. The Jhiri Mela, held near Jammu city, honours the memory of Baba Jitto, a farmer-saint who sacrificed his life for justice. It is a celebration of agrarian ethos and faith. In Bhaderwah and Doda, festivals like Mela Pat preserve traditional music, dance, and oral storytelling, entwined with local pilgrimages. These festivals play a dual role – reaffirming cultural identity and sustaining seasonal pilgrim economies.

Pilgrim tourism in Jammu is enriched by its Sufi heritage, which nurtures spiritual harmony beyond sectarian lines. The regional shrines and lesser-known pilgrimages, many deeply embedded in Dogra, Gujjar, and Pahari cultures are held in high reverence. These shrines, though smaller in scale, are powerful sites of local faith and social cohesion, which nurture spiritual harmony beyond sectarian lines. The shrines of Peer Mitha, Baba Buddan Shah, and Baba Roshan Shah Wali in Jammu city are revered by both Hindus and Muslims. Further west, the Shahdara Sharif shrine near Rajouri and Hazrat Ali Shah Dargah in Poonch exemplify a shared devotional ethos that transcends communal divisions. Urs festivals and ritual offerings define the Sufi pilgrimage, attracting thousands of devotees with their message of peace and love.

Recognizing the economic and cultural importance of pilgrim tourism, the government of Jammu and Kashmir initiated several schemes to improve accessibility and pilgrim services. The PRASAD scheme (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive), has improved sanitation, roads, lighting, and pilgrim shelters at major sites. Under Swadesh Darshan, integrated circuits like Jammu-Katra-Reasi-Patnitop are being promoted to create multi-day pilgrim experiences. The Udhampur-Katra rail link, expansion of Jammu Airport, and digital platforms for e-darshan and ticketing have modernized travel for pilgrims. The Shrine Boards are also investing in eco-tourism models, green initiatives, and disaster management systems to ensure sustainable growth.

Pilgrim tourism is a vital economic lifeline for the Jammu region. From pony operators and porters to dhaba owners, hotel staff, and local artisans, thousands of families depend on the inflow of pilgrims. In towns like Katra, over 70% of employment is linked to religious tourism. Seasonal pilgrims also provide stimulus to rural economies near lesser-known shrines. Despite its strengths, pilgrim tourism in Jammu faces several pressing challenges of seasonal congestion during major festivals, leading to strain on infrastructure. The future lies in balancing faith with sustainability – creating policies that honor both the pilgrim and the place. Pilgrimage in Jammu is not a relic of the past – it is a living rhythm of the present, where faith is a way of life. It is how communities mark time, express devotion, and reconnect with their roots. It is where folklore, faith, and fraternity come together. In an era when spiritual tourism is becoming global, Jammu offers a deeply plural experience – rooted in nature, resonant with heritage, and alive with human stories. Whether it is a cave echoing with mantras, a border shrine bridging distances, or a village fair remembering a saint-farmer – every pilgrim path in Jammu leads not only to a deity, but to the heart of a region that still believes in the sacred – quietly, insistently, and wholly.Best vacation packages

STPI Tech Conclave highlights AI's Potential in Healthcare & Assistive Technologies



New Delhi, Nov 9 (Way to News): Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), a premier S&T organization under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and the Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE), IIT BHU, organised a Tech Conclave on "AI for Health & Assistive Technologies" at IIT BHU, Varanasi. The programme brought together government representatives, academic experts, healthcare professionals and startups to explore how artificial intelligence can advance healthcare, improve accessibility and support inclusion and citizen well-being through practical, scalable solutions.

The inaugural session commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by welcome remarks by Prof. Manoj Kumar Meshram, Faculty In-Charge, CIIE, IIT BHU. The session featured a keynote address by Shri S. Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY, Government of India, followed by special addresses from Shri Arvind Kumar, Director General, STPI, and Prof. Amit Patra, Director, IIT BHU. Special addresses were also delivered by Shri Sumit Mahajan, CEO, Uttar Pradesh Startup Mission, IT & Electronics Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, and Dr. Mallika Tiwari, Professor, Department of Oncology, Institute of Medical Sciences, BHU.

Delivering the keynote address, Shri S. Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY, Government of India, said, "Artificial Intelligence can play an important role in making healthcare more accessible, strengthening clinical decision-making and improving service delivery, particularly for communities with limited access to healthcare services. He emphasised the need to integrate AI education across disciplines and leverage the convergence of technology, medical sciences and research to develop practical solutions. He underscored AI's transformative potential in improving healthcare accessibility, affordability and quality through applications such as disease screening, medical diagnostics, remote ICU monitoring and AI-assisted surgical planning. He encouraged stronger collaboration among IIT (BHU), STPI, industry and startups to develop scalable healthcare and assistive technology solutions. He also highlighted the support available through the IndiaAI Mission and other MeitY initiatives, while emphasising STPI's role in connecting startups with investors, venture capital networks and market opportunities to build a sustainable innovation ecosystem.

Shri Arvind Kumar, Director General, STPI, reflected on the transformation of India's technology ecosystem over the past three decades. Highlighting STPI's pivotal role in facilitating the growth of India's IT/ITeS industry since 1991, he emphasised the opportunity to replicate this success in Artificial Intelligence through indigenous innovation and entrepreneurship. Recalling how students earlier primarily aspired to secure campus placements, he noted that today's startup ecosystem enables young innovators to become job creators. Highlighting STPI's industry linkages and 27 Centres of Entrepreneurship, he underscored the importance of translational research, intellectual property creation and market access. He further emphasised the need to strengthen startup ecosystems beyond established technology hubs, particularly in emerging regions, through closer collaboration among academic institutions such as IIT (BHU), industry and government.

Prof. Amit Patra, Director, IIT BHU, addressing the STPI Tech Conclave on AI for Health & Assistive Technologies, highlighted IIT (BHU)'s efforts to strengthen its start-up and entrepreneurship ecosystem through the establishment of the Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE). He emphasised the importance of creating a structured institutional framework to nurture entrepreneurial thinking among students, faculty and aspiring innovators, enabling them to transform innovative ideas into viable startups.

Farmers to Access All Agricultural Schemes on Their Mobile Phones: Shivraj Singh



New Delhi, Nov 9 (Way to News): Advancing Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Digital India and his commitment to farmers' welfare, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan today formally launched the upgraded Agri Welfare Portal. The portal aims to provide farmers across the country with direct, easy access to government schemes, financial assistance and reliable agricultural information on their mobile phones, eliminating procedural hurdles and the role of intermediaries.

Addressing the launch programme, Shri Chouhan said Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's clear vision is to ensure that the government remains accessible to citizens and farmers at all times through their mobile phones. Technology, he said, could fulfil its true purpose only when it reached farms and rural communities and made farmers' lives easier. With the upgraded portal, farmers will no longer need to visit multiple government offices or navigate different websites to obtain information about schemes or submit applications. The platform will also bring together Farmer Producer Organisations, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, agricultural scientists, researchers and startups, creating a common digital platform for the wider agricultural ecosystem. Emphasising the importance of reliable information, Shri Chouhan directed officials to ensure that the portal remained accurate and regularly updated. He said outdated or incomplete information could undermine public trust in the system, making continuous updates essential to its success. He also stressed that the language and processes must be simple enough for small and marginal farmers, including those with limited formal education, to understand and use the platform with ease.

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



New Delhi, 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.

Model creche spread over 2,000 sq. ft. has capacity for 30–35 children; 27 children already enrolled: Dr. Jitendra Singh



New Delhi, Nov 9 (Way to News): Special Swachhata Campaign 6.0 is being advanced through a broader approach to governance that combines efficient utilisation of government office spaces with employee welfare and a more supportive working environment, said Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, and MoS in the Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, while inaugurating a workplace creche and Blood Donation Camp at Kartavya Bhawan-3, Delhi today.

Referring to the continuous reform journey under Prime Minister Narendra Modi since May 26, 2014, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that governance reforms must go beyond simplifying administrative procedures and ensuring transparency to address the practical needs of government employees. He said that providing workplace facilities that enable employees, particularly working parents, to discharge their responsibilities with greater focus is an important step towards more efficient administration and better public service delivery. Describing the reform journey as a "Reform Express", Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the working conditions of government employees must receive due attention so that they can devote their full concentration to official responsibilities. He referred to workplace facilities such as gyms, pantry and dining areas as part of the effort to create an employee-friendly environment, adding that the newly established crèche at Kartavya Bhawan-3 extends this approach by addressing the childcare needs of working parents. Established in accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the creche at Kartavya Bhawan-3 is spread over more than 2,000 square feet and has the capacity to accommodate approximately 30–35 children. Of these, 27 have already been enrolled, with the process of filling the remaining slots underway.

The facility includes child-friendly washrooms, a dedicated play area with toys and learning materials, audio-visual equipment, clean drinking water, a sleeping area, a nurture and feeding room, and a kitchen or dry pantry. Safety provisions include CCTV surveillance, soft-cushioned flooring and walls, and a medical kit.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that dependable childcare at the workplace is particularly important for working mothers, who often have to balance professional responsibilities with concerns about their children's care, nutrition and well-being. Employees whose children have enrolled at the creche had conveyed that the facility had made it easier for them to concentrate on their work.

Uttarakhand becomes the first state in the Himalayan region to export trout to Nepal and first state to supply in ITBP



New Delhi, Nov 9 (Way to News): Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, chaired a review meeting on the Pithoragarh Coldwater Fisheries Cluster at the Collectorate in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, on 19 October 2026. The hybrid meeting was attended by Shri Sanjay Kumar Gunjyal, Additional Director General (ADG), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP); Smt. Gunjan Krishna, Joint Secretary, Department of Fisheries; Dr. J. K. Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR); Dr. B. K. Behera, Chief Executive Officer, National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB); Shri P. Jawahar, Chairman, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA); Shri Ashish Kumar Bhatgain, District Magistrate, Pithoragarh; Shri Chandra Singh Dharamshaktu, Director of Fisheries, Uttarakhand; and representatives of Himalayan states, NABARD, ICAR-DCFR, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), trout farmers and other stakeholders, through physical and virtual modes.

The Union Secretary highlighted importance of Coldwater fisheries in Himalayan Region of India which offers unique and favorable ecological conditions for rainbow trout farming. Government of India has notified 34 fisheries clusters across the country and cold water fisheries cluster notified in Pithoragarh.

During the review Shri Ashish Kumar Bhatgain, District Magistrate of Pithoragarh, presented an overview of the achievements and initiatives in the district's fisheries sector. He highlighted the need to strengthen market linkages, promote trout value addition and ensure better prices for fish farmers. He assured that the district administration would work in coordination with the Department of Fisheries to address these challenges and further strengthen the sector. Dr. B. K. Behera, Chief Executive, NFDB, delivered a detailed presentation on the Coldwater Fisheries Cluster Programme, highlighting pre-production and post-production gaps and outlining a roadmap for the next five years. Smt. Gunjan Krishna, Joint Secretary, DoF, GoI, in her opening remark highlighted importance of convergence and interventions of technology in the cold-water fisheries. She further added the requirements of strengthening value chain infrastructure.

Union Secretary has suggested other Himalayan States to explore possibilities of MoU to supply trouts to ITBP and other armed forces in coordination with Department of Fisheries Government of India. Shri Sanjay Kumar Gunjyal, Additional Director General (ADG) has informed that ITBP in north-eastern states like Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh have significant requirement of trout fish.

Union Secretary interacted with trout fish farmers during the meeting on the Pithoragarh Coldwater Fisheries Cluster at the Collectorate Conference Hall, Pithoragarh. Trout farmers highlighted key issues, including the need for better prices for trout, training and capacity building, and the availability of quality feed at reasonable rates.

CSIR-NIScPR successfully concludes two-week skill training programme on library automation, digitisation and Artificial Intelligence for libraries





New Delhi, Nov 9 (Way to News): The CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) successfully organised a two-week skill training programme on "Skill Training in Library Automation, Digitization and Artificial Intelligence for Libraries" during 5–16 October 2026 under the CSIR Integrated Skill Initiative (Phase III). Organised by the Institute's Training Division, the programme aimed to strengthen the technical competencies of library and information science professionals, academicians, researchers, students and IT professionals in library automation, digitisation, digital repository management and the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in library services. A total of 16 participants from universities, research institutions, libraries, and other organizations across the country attended the programme.

Dr. Geeta Vani Rasayam, Director, CSIR-NIScPR, inaugurated the programme and encouraged participants to actively engage in the training. Shri Mukesh A. Pund, Head, Training Division, CSIR-NIScPR, introduced the objectives of the programme and highlighted the importance of skill development in library automation, digitisation and the adoption of emerging technologies. Shri Salim Ansari moderated the inaugural session. Designed with an emphasis on experiential learning, the programme combined expert lectures, demonstrations and hands-on sessions on Koha Integrated Library Management System (ILMS) and DSpace digital repository software.

The Koha sessions covered open-source software fundamentals, installation of the Linux operating system and Koha, catalogue management, patron management, circulation workflows, report generation, system customisation, and backup and restoration. Participants gained practical experience in configuring and managing library automation functions and workflows.

The DSpace sessions focused on installation and administration, management of communities and collections, item submission.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Tanvi Patri credits China, India training for historic youth Olympics silver



New Delhi, Nov 9 (Way to News): India's historic Youth Olympics silver medallist Tanvi Patri credited her early training in China and subsequent development at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy in Bengaluru for shaping her game, while revealing that illness had restricted her preparations to just two days of practice before her campaign in Dakar.

The 15-year-old became the first Indian women's singles player to win a silver medal at the Youth Olympic Games after going down to reigning world junior champion Zhang Yi Xin in a thrilling final in Dakar, Senegal, on November 5.

Patri saved six match points and had three opportunities to seal the gold medal herself before eventually losing 15-21, 21-13, 26-24 in an hour and 22 minutes. Her achievement followed individual silver medals by HS Prannoy in 2010 and Lakshya Sen in 2018.

Speaking to IANS, Patri recalled how her badminton journey began in China, where her father worked with Nike China, and she accompanied him to a club where he played. She said the training environment and emphasis on technique helped her develop the foundations of her game.

"Preparation in China because I went to China. Like my dad used to work there for Nike China. So then my mom and I also went to China with him. And then the training and all was really good. Like the coaches and all really focused on the technique and yeah, they've also helped me a lot in the game and all," she said.

Patri moved back to India around 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic and initially trained in Odisha for around one-and-a-half years before joining the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy in Bengaluru. She said the coaches at the academy helped her improve her speed and also supported her through a series of injuries.

"And then I think I moved to India in 2020 or something. I don't remember the year for COVID. And then I was training in Odisha for like one and a half years. And then I moved to the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy. So here also, the coaches have really helped me a lot in improving my speed and all.

'Family Really, Really Happy': India's History-Maker Tirthank Pegu after youth Olympics Medal

New Delhi, Nov 9 (Way to News): Indian youth swimmer Tirthank Pegu reflected on all the love he has been receiving after winning a historic medal at the Youth Olympics 2026 in Dakar.

Pegu, 17, became the first Indian male swimmer to win a Youth Olympics medal as he clinched a bronze in the men's 200m butterfly final with a time of 2:01.25, bringing a slice of history for the nation. Speaking on his historic outing in Dakar, the swimmer from Assam opened up about his family's initial reactions to the medal and the love he has been receiving from the ministers, including state Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. "I had a video call with my family yesterday. So, they were really, really happy. They were enjoying, and they were having a party actually without me," Pegu told reporters during a virtual interaction on Monday.



"And they were like, everyone was congratulating me, and they were blessing me for a great future ahead and for the upcoming competitions," he added.

Pegu highlighted that it was his dream to win a medal at the Youth Olympics and that he had worked hard for the medal for a whole year along with coach Sandeep Sejwal. "It's like, it was my dream to win a medal in the Youth Olympics. And me and my coach, we voted for this particular competition whole year. So I'm really feeling good right now," he said. He stated that the medal feeling has not sunk in yet, as the ministers have also been really happy with his achievement too. "Yeah, the feeling has not sunk in yet. And like in Assam, my whole family is really happy that they believed in me a lot. And like the other people, the ministers are also really happy," he said.

Pegu missed out on a medal in the 100m butterfly event after finishing fourth. He admitted he was nervous before the 200m butterfly final. "To be honest, I was really nervous, and I was really underconfident. Like before the finals, I missed the medal in the 100 metres. So I was really focusing mainly on the medal. "I was really worried: what if I disappoint my coach, Sandeep sir, and everybody? So I was really worried about it. And I was really nervous. And during the race, in the last 50 metres, I was just thinking that I hope I get the medal," he added.

Hockey: Sanjay To Captain India on New Zealand tour marking 100 years of sporting ties

New Delhi, Nov 9 (Way to News): Olympic bronze medallist Sanjay will lead a 20-member Indian men's hockey squad on a tour of New Zealand from November 15 to 23, as the two countries prepare to commemorate 100 years of sporting ties. Hockey India announced the squad on Monday for the three-match series against the hosts, with all fixtures scheduled to be played at the Lloyd Elsmore Hockey Stadium in Auckland on November 19, 21 and 22.

Titled the '2026 India/New Zealand Century of Sporting Unity Event – 100 Years of Unity Between India and New Zealand through Sports Partnership', the tour will mark a significant milestone in the sporting history of the two nations.

The association dates back to 1926, when an Indian Army hockey team featuring legendary Major Dhyan Chand became the first Indian team from any sport to tour New Zealand. A century later, the series will celebrate that historic visit while providing a platform for emerging Indian players to test themselves against international opposition.



The squad features a mix of Under-21 prospects and players from the current India A group, with the coaching staff set to use the three matches to assess young talent and strengthen the depth of the national setup.

"The squad is a blend of some upcoming under-21 players and the core of the current India A group. These matches come at the right time to challenge the squad in three matches against a solid New Zealand team playing at home," said Chief Coach Craig Fulton.

Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey said the tour would be an opportunity for the young players to gain experience while representing the country during an important occasion in the bilateral sporting relationship.

"The New Zealand tour is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate 100 years of sporting friendship between our nations. I am confident our young players will make the most of this experience and showcase Indian hockey's talent and potential," Tirkey said. Hockey India secretary general Bhola Nath Singh highlighted the historical importance of the occasion and the exposure it would provide to the squad.

"This tour holds immense historical significance as we celebrate a century of sporting partnership between India and New Zealand. It will also provide our promising young players with a valuable platform to gain international experience, showcase their abilities and demonstrate their readiness for future challenges," he said.

Sanjay, a member of India's bronze-medal-winning squad at the Paris 2024 Olympics, will lead a side featuring two goalkeepers, six defenders, seven midfielders and five forwards.

Lando Norris wins wet Sao Paulo grand prix as Mercedes bag constructors' title



Sao Paulo, Nov 9 (Way to News): McLaren's Lando Norris secured his second straight win at Sao Paulo as he took the chequered flag first at the wet-dry-wet Brazilian Grand Prix by 14.6 seconds. Norris, who started from pole, led the 71-lap race for the majority of the time as Red Bull took a double podium, with Max Verstappen finishing second ahead of teammate Isack Hadjar. A week after Kimi Antonelli secured his maiden and historic F1 title, his team, Mercedes, also clinched the constructors' crown after the Italian finished fifth behind teammate George Russell.

Although Antonelli was later hit with a five-second penalty for an unsafe release in the pits, he didn't lose his P5, being already nearly 20 seconds ahead of Oscar Piastri.

Racing Bulls' Liam Lawson took back the seventh he lost to Ferrari's Charles Leclerc as the duo battled it out for the seventh spot in the closing stages. Leclerc touched the left rear tyre of Lawson, and although he finished P7, he was hit with a five-second time penalty for the incident and ultimately dropped to P8, ahead of teammate Lewis Hamilton, who came from P20 to P9. Nico Hulkenberg took the final point at P10 after overcoming a strong midfield battle.

It was a stellar race for Red Bull's Verstappen, who was P21 on the starting grid due to his power unit penalty. However, he stormed through the field in wet-dry-wet conditions and came second. He had famously won this very race in 2024 from P17.

Verstappen finished 14 seconds behind Norris after a late pit stop for intermediate tyres when rain began to fall again. "Yeah, it was a challenging race," said Verstappen. "I think the first few laps, of course, were very important. "I overtook a lot of cars, and actually, that first stint, I think on the intermediates, was really, really strong." Meanwhile, Norris also reflected on the race. "It was a very tough race – very, very tough," Norris reflected. "Obviously, not the best of launches off the line, but a lot of challenges today, obviously, with the conditions.

Setback for PT Usha in SOM polls in IOA; Anju, Rani, Dola Saina win

New Delhi, Nov 9 (Way to News): Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president and legendary athlete PT Usha has suffered a huge setback in her bid to get re-elected as IOA chief after failing to make it to the electoral college as a member of the Athletes Commission. Usha on Monday could not get elected as one of the four female Sportsperson of Outstanding Merit (SOM) candidates to the IOA electoral college, finishing fifth in an acrimonious and contentious poll, with allegations of interference flying thick and fast.

According to the results declared by the IOA Electoral officer, Usha finished fifth in the poll for Sportswomen of Outstanding Merit - Female (SOM), upstaged by



Anju Bobby George, Rani Rampal, Dola Banerjee and Saina Nehwal, and thus failed to get elected as only four spots were available. Anju topped the poll with 53 votes out of 80 votes that were cast, while Nehwal finished fourth with 43 votes. Rani polled 50, Dola received 45 votes, while Usha got only 40 votes and failed to get elected as SOM.

As of now, Usha is no longer eligible to retain the post of IOA President when the polls are conducted on December 5. However, her chances are not totally over as the National Sports Federations (NSFs) have yet to nominate their representatives and can be picked by one of them.

The IOA Athletes Commission includes eight positions -- four male and four female -- reserved for Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit. On Saturday, Olympic medallists Gagan Narang, Yogeshwar Dutt and Vijender Singh, along with table tennis legend Kamlesh Mehta, were all elected unopposed as male Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit. However, no consensus could be reached in the case of the nominations for women SOMs.

Magnus Carlsen to play London Chess Classic; India's Nihal Sarin too in the field

London, Nov 9 (Way to News): World No.1 and multiple-time World Champion, Magnus Carlsen will be competing in the Super Rapid tournament at this year's London Chess Classic, which will be played on December 5 and 6, 2026, at Novotel London West. Carlsen, the five-time World Champion in classical chess, has won the LCC Masters title a record four times. He'll be competing in London in preparation for the defence of his World Rapid and Blitz titles in Istanbul after Christmas.

Carlsen will be facing a star-studded field which includes French star Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Dutch number-one Anish Giri and India's Nihal Sarin. These three will be joined by the nine Grandmasters of the LCC Masters, headed by



World No. 5, Nodirbek Abdusattorov, the players of the LCC Challengers, and many of the top seeds from the LCC Swiss. Also competing will be English chess sensation Bodhana Sivanandan, who recently became the youngest Woman Grandmaster in the history of the game. "The Super Rapid tournament offers amateur chess players of all standards a unique chance not only to play in the same event as a true chess legend, but also to possibly play against Carlsen in one of the early rounds. The Swiss format for the draw means that in the first couple of games Carlsen is likely to be playing a much lower-rated opponent," the organisers of LCC informed on Monday.

The Super Rapid is an Open tournament, meaning that anyone can take part and have a chance of playing against Magnus Carlsen. The Super Rapid will be the final competitive event in this year's XTX Markets London Chess Classic. The tournament will begin with an opening ceremony and drawing of lots at the iconic Tower of London, with the majority of games taking place alongside the LCC Festival at Novotel London West in Hammersmith.

Real Madrid legend Raul Gonzalez named head coach of Real Oviedo

Oviedo (Spain), Nov 9 (Way to News) Real Madrid legend Raul Gonzalez Blanco took up his first managerial role in professional football as he was named the new head coach of Real Oviedo until June 2028, the Spanish second division club announced on Monday.

Raul's appointment came after the Asturian club terminated Julian Calero's contract, which ran until June 30, 2027, as first-team coach despite a recent return to winning ways. Likewise, his coaching staff has also ended their association with the club. "Real Oviedo has reached an agreement to hire Raúl González Blanco as the new first-team coach until June 2028," the club said in a statement on Monday.

Real Oviedo said the newly-appointed coach will not make any statements until his official presentation. "The new Real Oviedo coach will not make any statements until his official presentation". Raúl will manage his first game as the new blue coach on Saturday against Girona FC at the Carlos Tartiere.

Raúl González Blanco, 49, was born on June 27, 1977, in Madrid. The new Oviedo manager spent most of his playing career at Real Madrid, where he made his name and became a legend after more than 15 years wearing the white jersey. Later, he played for Schalke 04, Al-Sadd Sports Club, and the New York Cosmos, before hanging up his boots in 2015.

As a Madrid player, Raul won three Champions League titles and six La Liga trophies -- while scoring 323 goals in 741 games over 16 seasons -- a goal-scoring record that was beaten by Cristiano Ronaldo in 2015.

Suryakumar Yadav appointed as Mumbai captain for Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

Mumbai, Nov 9 (Way to News) After being stripped of the India T20I captaincy earlier this year, Suryakumar Yadav will now lead the Mumbai T20 side in the upcoming Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT), the domestic T20s in the Indian calendar. The tournament will also see the return of Shardul Thakur, who had missed the first leg of the Ranji Trophy with a finger injury. The other India players in the side are Sarfaraz Khan, Shivam Dube and Tushar Deshpande in a squad of 16 that didn't have any vice-captain named.

Mumbai have split the captaincy this season after Thakur led them across formats last time. After Siddhesh Lad was named captain for the Ranji Trophy, which Mumbai started with four consecutive wins,



the T20 leadership has gone to Suryakumar, who didn't find a place in the Ranji Trophy side.

"It is always a matter of immense pride to represent Mumbai," Suryakumar said in a release on Monday. "I am honoured to lead this talented group in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. Mumbai has a rich cricketing legacy and a winning culture, and we will look to uphold those traditions. We have a good mix of experienced players and exciting young talent, and I am confident that the team will come together, play with intensity and give its best in every match. Our aim is to go all the way and bring the trophy home."

Suryakumar last played official cricket in the IPL, when he was still the India T20I captain after winning the T20 World Cup at home in March. As soon as the IPL ended, the selectors dropped him from the T20I side and named Shreyas Iyer the new captain. Suryakumar had scored 270 runs from 13 innings in the IPL when Mumbai Indians had finished ninth. He played the Mumbai T20 league after that and also featured in club cricket in Mumbai while the Ranji Trophy was on.

De Frutos replaces injured Barrenetxea in Spain Nations League squad

Madrid, Nov 9 (Way to News) Spain coach Luis de la Fuente has been forced to make a change to his squad for the forthcoming UEFA Nations League matches against the Czech Republic and England, with Rayo Vallecano forward Jorge de Frutos called up to replace injured Real Sociedad winger Ander Barrenetxea. The 24-year-old Barrenetxea suffered a muscle injury in his thigh in the 70th minute of his side's 1-0 home win over Rayo Vallecano on Sunday and was forced to leave the pitch in tears at the Anoeta Stadium.

The injury is a setback for the winger, who had been recalled to the national squad by De la Fuente after missing out on his previous squad and the World Cup this summer. De Frutos made his



Spain debut in September 2025, but that remains his only international appearance. The forward has made nine La Liga appearances for Rayo this season, scoring two goals and providing two assists. Athletic Bilbao winger Nico Williams was also forced off during his side's 1-1 draw away to Osasuna on Saturday, although he subsequently said he had only suffered cramp.

Spain, the reigning world champions, have already secured a place in the quarterfinals after winning their opening four matches, but must still ensure they finish top of a group that also contains Croatia. De la Fuente will be without several players due to injuries, with FC Barcelona trio Eric Garcia, Dani Olmo and Rodri Hernandez all sidelined with muscle problems,. The coach has responded by handing first senior call-ups to Real Betis goalkeeper Alvaro Valles and midfielder Marc Roca, and Como defender Jacobo Ramon, while recalling Atletico Madrid midfielder Pablo Barrios and Real Sociedad winger Ander Barrenetxea in a 27-man squad that includes four goalkeepers.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

'Alias Rukmini' shooting completes.. Nithin's new look



Nithiin's latest entertaining film 'Alias Rukmini' has been successfully shot. The production house has officially announced on social media that the entire shooting of this film, directed by Muralikant Devasoth, has been completed. The makers have clarified that the film will be released in theaters worldwide on December 4.

While Natural Star Nani is presenting the film, Deepti Ghanta is producing it under the banner of Unanimous Productions. "The shooting of Alias Rukmini has been completed. Let's celebrate this film with many indescribable beautiful emotions in theaters in the next 25 days," the production house said.

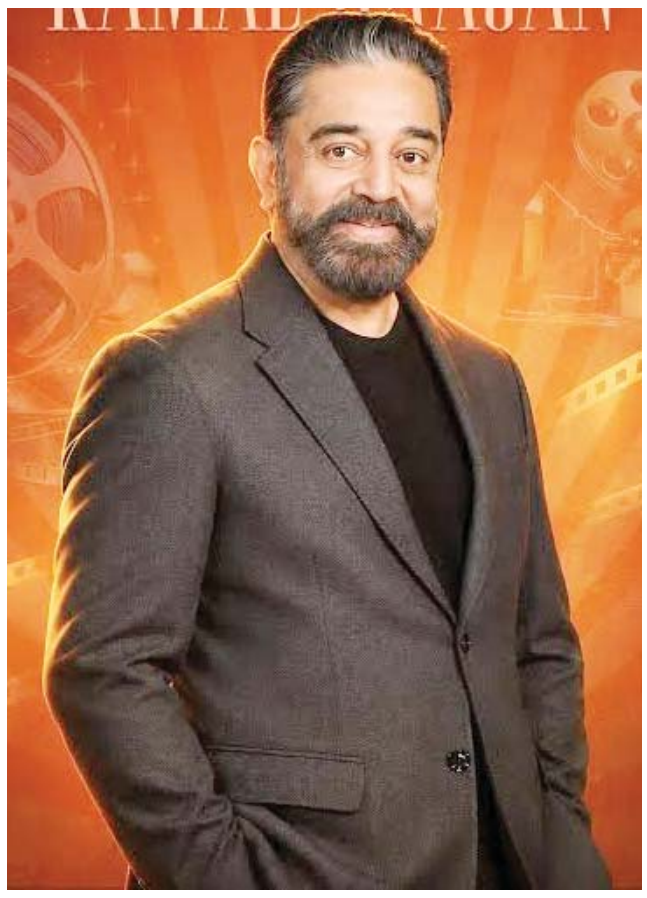
Before the Diwali festival, the makers have released a special video related to Nithiin's character from the film. In this, he will be seen in the role of 'Young Krishna'. Sharing this video, Nithiin said, "Every love story has a 'before' story. Young Krishna.. A dreamy young man. In this, you will see me in a new way." This video introduces how Krishna's life was before Rukmini came into his life. In this, Aafia Syed will be seen in the role of Rukmini.

The title teaser of this film, which was released earlier, also aroused a lot of interest among the audience. In that teaser, the story discussion between actor Nani and director Murali was impressive. While saying Krishna's story and mentioning the books written by Rukmini... the dialogue in which Nithin, who was sleeping in a chair, wakes up and says "Rukmini is my wife" impressed the fans. Nani was very impressed after hearing this concept and was seen in the teaser showing excitement when to start shooting.

Leading technicians are working on this film. Joman T. John is in charge of cinematography, while Vijay Bulganin is composing music. Srujana Adusumilli is the editor and Rekha Boggarapu is the costume designer. Ramana Madhavaram is the co-director of this film. The film, which has completed shooting, will greet the audience on the silver screen on December 4th.

Kamal Haasan's production house clarifies

IT HAS NOT HIRED CASTING AGENTS FOR ANY OF ITS FILMS



A day after its upcoming film 'Sandiyar', featuring actor, producer and parliamentarian Kamal Haasan went on the floors, Raaj Kamal Films International, the production house of actor Kamal Haasan, has clarified that it has not hired any casting agents for any of its films and warned that it would initiate legal action if any party was found falsely using its name in any unauthorized manner. Taking to its X timeline, the production house put out a poster that read, "This is to clarify that Raaj Kamal Films International has not hired any casting agents for any of our films. Please do not trust any e-mails, messages and social media posts received by you for this purpose. Legal action will be taken if any party is found falsely using Raaj Kamal Films International name in any unauthorized manner."

Interestingly, the production house had cautioned the public about fake casting calls twice last year. In fact, the production house had put out a similar post, alerting the public, in November last year. Raaj Kamal Films International isn't the only production house facing this problem of fake casting calls. Several other top production houses too have had to face the same problem. In September this year, the makers of Malayalam superstar Mohanlal's #L370, had cautioned the public of fake audition calls that were doing the rounds and had clarified that they had not authorised or announced any auditions or casting requirements for their film. Director Jude Anthany Joseph, who is directing the film #L370, had taken to his social media timelines to share an alert on fake audition calls.

He wrote, "Please be aware of fake audition posters, messages, or calls circulating in the name of L370. We have not authorised or announced any auditions or casting requirements for L370 at this time. Please do not share personal information, documents, or make any payments in response to such calls or posts. For any official casting announcements, please rely only on our verified and authorised communication channels. Please stay alert and beware of fraud."

He wrote, "Please be aware of fake audition posters, messages, or calls circulating in the name of L370. We have not authorised or announced any auditions or casting requirements for L370 at this time. Please do not share personal information, documents, or make any payments in response to such calls or posts. For any official casting announcements, please rely only on our verified and authorised communication channels. Please stay alert and beware of fraud."

Prior to that, the makers of director Nag Ashwin's magnum opus 'Kalki 2898 AD', had issued a statement, cautioning the public to be aware of fake casting calls and individuals who were falsely claiming to represent them.Well known production house Vyjayanthi Movies, which is producing the immensely popular franchise featuring a number of top starts including Prabhas, Amitabh Bachchan and Kamal Haasan, had taken to its social media timelines to share a statement in this regard. It said "Important Clarification: Please beware of fake casting calls and individuals falsely claiming to represent #VyjayanthiMovies. In its statement, the production house said, "Vyjayanthi movies would like to clarify that we are not associated with, nor have we authorised, any third-party agency, company, individual, or casting representative to conduct auditions or casting on our behalf." The production house urged people not to share their details with any such persons or agencies. It wrote, "Please do not share personal information, audition material, or make any payments to anyone claiming to represent us." Vyjayanthi Movies pointed out that it reserved all rights to take appropriate legal action against any unauthorised use or misrepresentation of its name. "For authentic information, please rely only on Vyjayanthi Movies' official social media handles."

Anirudh-Kavya Maran wedding begins: Celebs fly to Greece

The much-talked-about wedding of music composer Anirudh Ravichander and Sunrisers Hyderabad CEO Kavya Maran is creating considerable buzz, with preparations reportedly underway for a grand destination celebration in Greece which is scheduled for November 10 and 11, 2026, with a grand reception to follow in Chennai on November 21, 2026. As the big day approaches, several prominent personalities from the worlds of cinema, politics and business are expected to attend the festivities.

Adding to the excitement, superstar Rajinikanth, along with his daughter Aishwarya Rajinikanth, was recently spotted at Chennai airport as he reportedly headed to Greece for the wedding. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin were also spotted at the airport with their family members. The guests are reportedly travelling via Dubai and are expected to return to Chennai on November 13. Rajinikanth's presence at the wedding comes as no surprise, given his close family connection with Anirudh. The music composer is the superstar's nephew. Anirudh's father, actor Ravi Raghavendra, is married to Lakshmi, who is the sister of Rajinikanth's wife, Latha Rajinikanth. Apart from their family bond, the two share a successful professional association. Anirudh has composed music for several Rajinikanth films, including Petta, Darbar, Vettaiyan, Jailer, and Jailer 2. His energetic track 'Hukum' from Jailer became a massive chartbuster and remains one of the popular songs associated with the superstar. Udhayanidhi Stalin's connection with Kavya Maran of MK Stalin and Udhayanidhi Stalin also has a family connection. Kavya is the daughter of Sun Group chairman Kalanithi Maran and Kavery Maran. The Maran and Karunanidhi families share longstanding family ties, with Kalanithi Maran and MK Stalin being cousins. This makes Stalin Kavya's uncle, while Udhayanidhi is her cousin. Kavya is a familiar face in the cricketing world as the CEO of Sunrisers Hyderabad and is also associated with the Sun TV Network. Her enthusiastic reactions during IPL matches and player auctions have earned her considerable popularity among cricket fans.

According to reports, the Chennai reception is expected to witness the presence of several high-profile guests from politics, cinema, business and cricket. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, actor Ajith Kumar and several other prominent personalities are among those expected to attend.



THE COUPLE OFFERED NO REASON FOR THE SPLIT

Pawan Kalyan, Anna Konidala announce separation



Jana Sena Party chief and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and his wife, Anna Konidala, have separated, bringing down the curtain on a marriage that lasted over 13 years. The announcement came on Monday, November 9, through a brief joint statement in which the two described the decision as mutual. The separation, they said, was reached with understanding and respect for each other. Though the marriage was over, they would continue as friends and remain committed to raising their two children together, the couple said. The children's "well-being and happiness will always remain our shared priority," the couple said.

They requested privacy as the family adjusts and thanked those who had supported them. The statement was short on detail. It offered no reason for the split and said nothing on whether divorce proceedings had begun or how custody of the children would be arranged. The 55-year-old actor-politician first met Anna, a Russian national who had worked as a model and actor, in 2011, during the shooting of the Telugu film "Teen Maar." They tied the knot on September 30, 2013. Their daughter is Polena Anjana Pawanova and their son is Mark Shankar Pawanovich.

Anna rarely made public appearances over the years, even as her husband's career shifted from the big screen to state politics. She did, however, join him in celebrating the alliance's 2024 Assembly poll win. He travelled to Singapore to attend her convocation at the National University of Singapore, where she completed a master's degree. In July, she wrote on Instagram asking the public to address her as Anna Konidala rather than Anna Lezhneva, explaining that she had taken her husband's surname at the time of their 2013 marriage.

Talk of trouble in the marriage first surfaced in July 2023. Anna's absence from a string of family events, among them the naming ceremony of Ram Charan's daughter and Varun Tej's engagement, had set off speculation. The Jana Sena Party moved quickly to deny the rumours. It shared a picture of the couple at a puja in their Hyderabad home, held after the first leg of his Varahi Yatra. Pawan Kalyan has been married twice before. His first marriage, to Nandini in May 1997, ended in a divorce granted by the Visakhapatnam family court in 2008.

Samantha shares latest photo of baby bump, goes viral



Popular actress Samantha is going to enjoy the sweetness of motherhood soon. She is getting ready to welcome her first child with her husband and famous director Raj Nidimoru and has been sharing the details of her pregnancy journey with her fans through social media from time to time.

Recently, Samantha posted a new photo with a baby bump on her Instagram account. Usually, celebrities do grand photoshoots with huge settings and designer dresses during maternity. However, Samantha impressed everyone by appearing in a very different and ordinary environment. She shared a casual photo of herself sitting calmly on the sofa at home. She was seen holding her baby bump gently in a very cool look wearing a red color top, white trousers and black sunglasses. She added a fun caption to this photo, saying, "Consider this my maternity shoot."

Samantha's photo went viral in no time. Fans and netizens responded in large numbers and showered love on her. "The coolest mother-to-be I've ever seen," one fan praised her. "The baby is already attracting everyone's attention," and "Junior Samantha is coming soon," while many netizens expressed their best wishes in the form of comments.

Samantha and Raj Nidimoru's wedding took place on December 1, 2025, at the Isha Yoga Center in Coimbatore in the presence of their closest friends. In this context, a few weeks ago, the couple also held a traditional Seemantham ceremony at the Isha Foundation in Coimbatore. Earlier, Samantha officially announced her pregnancy at the 'Maa Inti Bangaram' movie success meet held in Hyderabad in June 2026. She revealed that after completing the projects she had already agreed upon, she would be away from films for some time to enjoy this wonderful new phase in her life. However, Samantha clarified that this is just a temporary hiatus and that she will re-enter the silver screen after taking on the responsibilities of motherhood.

Manisha Koirala: Compassion should go beyond our homes, extend to every animal on streets

Actress Manisha Koirala, who was last seen in the streaming series 'Heeramandi:The Diamond Bazaar', is an animal lover, and feels that compassion for other lives should not be confined to just the home but should also extend to the animals on the streets. The actress took to her Instagram, and shared a series of pictures from her visit to Nepal, where she attended a special event for animal welfare. The pictures featured her with the First Lady of Nepal, Sabina Kafle.

She also penned a long note in the caption as she wrote, "Some occasions remind us of the simple things that make life beautiful. Kukur Tihar is one of them. I was delighted to be part of this lovely celebration initiated by our First Lady, Mrs. Sabina Kafle. It was a thoughtful way of bringing attention to the voiceless members of our society who give so much and ask for so little. As someone who has always believed in the special place animals hold in our lives, I feel that compassion should go beyond our homes and extend to every animal on our streets". "May we become a society that is kinder, more caring and more responsible towards all living beings. A lovely thought, and an even more meaningful message", she added. A few days ago, the actress celebrated her father's 80th birthday with a heartfelt note, expressing gratitude for seeing him healthy, happy, and full of energy.

Taking to Instagram, the 'Dil Se' actress shared a glimpse of her father's disciplined lifestyle and revealed how he began his special day with his usual fitness routine. The actress said she had never seen her father healthier, happier or more full of life.

She wrote in the caption, "Dad's 80th!!! I honestly don't think I've ever seen Dad healthier, happier or more full of life".

The actress revealed that her father had already walked 3 km in the morning and covered 12,000 steps in a day. He had also enjoyed eight-and-a-half hours of sleep and completed his morning exercises before getting ready for his birthday brunch. Highlighting his discipline and enthusiasm for life, the actress said his approach to health and fitness made him special to the family



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