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Modi: Viksit Bharat goal within reach

Prime Minister urges media to highlight India's achievements and says the country need not wait until 2047 to realise its development vision

New Delhi, Nov 12 (Way to News): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the goal of a Viksit Bharat is entirely within reach, given the achievements India has made in recent years. He emphasised that 2047, the centenary of India's Independence, should not be seen as a deadline until which the country must wait, but as a goal towards which continuous progress must be made.



Addressing the Deepwali Milan Samaroh at the BJP headquarters, hosted by BJP National President Nitin Nabin, in the presence of senior party leaders, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and Union Minister J.P. Nadda, the Prime Minister highlighted India's achievements across various sectors and called for greater efforts to communicate the country's success stories. "Given the achievements with which India is moving forward today, the goal of a Viksit Bharat is entirely within reach," PM Modi said. Citing India's technological and infrastructural progress, he said the country has achieved milestones that were once difficult to imagine.

"Who would have imagined that India would make history by landing near the Moon's south pole; it would become the world's second-largest mobile manufacturer? During these same 12 years, India has built the world's third-largest start-up ecosystem. Today, our UPI has become the largest real-time payment system globally," he said. "If we can achieve all this, then the dream of a Viksit Bharat can certainly be realised. Who would have thought that the world's highest railway arch bridge would be built over the Chenab River?" he added. Referring to the infrastructure development witnessed over the past 12 years, PM Modi recalled how even the construction of a four-lane road was once considered a major achievement.

"Friends, I would like to make one more point. The 2047 deadline does not mean that we have to wait until then. Think about India's freedom movement. The goal of complete independence was not something that could be achieved in a day or two. But gradually, smaller goals were set and achieved, which built people's confidence that independence would certainly be attained.

"Friends, remember that 12 years ago, even building a four-lane road was considered a major achievement. I remember that during my first one or two years as Chief Minister, whenever I visited a village, the requests I received in memorandums were often along these lines: 'Sir, during the drought, when work is undertaken, please ensure that at least a road is built in our village'," he said. The Prime Minister also spoke about the changing approach towards poverty alleviation, saying that while earlier governments repeatedly promised to eradicate poverty, the country was now witnessing people overcoming poverty and a reduction in poverty levels.

ISRO Successfully Tests Upgraded PSLV Third Stage

New Delhi, Nov 12 (Way to News):The ground static test of the PSLV third stage (PS3) was successfully conducted at the Static Test Facility at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, on November 12.



Following anomalies observed in the third stage of the PSLV during the PSLV-C61/EOS-09 mission in May 2025 and the PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission in January this year, the configuration of the PS3 stage was comprehensively reviewed with regard to design margins, raw material acceptance criteria, assembly procedures and quality checks followed so far, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said. In a statement, the space agency said the configuration had been strengthened and essential improvements had been made to the nozzle configuration to enhance design margins. Updates had also been made to procedures for raw material acceptance, assembly and quality checks.

"The mechanical interfaces have been strengthened with redundancy in the sealing systems and adequacy of the design margins have been verified.

TRUMP BACKS TIM COOK TO LEAD NVIDIA

Washington, Nov 12 (Way to News): President Donald Trump on Thursday backed Apple executive chairman Tim Cook to succeed Jensen Huang at Nvidia, intervening in the chipmaker's leadership search as lawmakers demanded answers over allegations involving US national security. "Now that Nvidia CEO Jens Huang, who has done a fantastic job, has resigned, there is only one man to take his place – Tim Cook of Apple. A Legend replaces a Legend!" Trump wrote on Truth Social.

The president's endorsement came after Nvidia announced that its board had accepted Huang's resignation and appointed finance chief Colette Kress as interim chief executive.

Trump's post did not indicate whether Cook was interested in the position or had discussed it with Nvidia. The company said its board was initiating a search for a permanent chief executive and would consider internal and external candidates.

Rajnath Singh Says Agniveer Extension Based on Forces' Feedback

New Delhi, Nov 12 (Way to News): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said that the decision to provide a second two-year service term option for Agniveers, after they complete their initial four years of service, was based on feedback from the defence forces. Earlier this month, the Central government introduced a major change to the 'Agnipath' scheme by announcing to offer 'Agniveers' a second two-year service term in the military, after they complete their initial four years of service, provided that the soldiers are willing and meet the required criteria.



The Defence Minister also called for further strengthening of intelligence and surveillance mechanisms and enhancement of operational preparedness to ensure that personnel remain alert, agile and equipped to respond effectively to any emerging challenge.

During his address at the Air Force Commanders' Conference in Delhi, Rajnath Singh stated that the decision on 'Agniveers' was taken following feedback received from the defence forces, reiterating the government's commitment to incorporate the suggestions of the military personnel into policy decisions. He expressed confidence that the "Second Tour of Duty" initiative for the Agniveers would further strengthen the Army, Navy, and the Air Force.

Earlier, former Navy Chief, Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi (retd) welcomed the Centre's decision, asserting that 'Agniveers' are equivalent to other soldiers in the defence forces, given that their performance during Operation Sindoor was no less than regular personnel. Maintaining that the decision will prove to be an advantage for the Army, Tripathi said: "Even during Operation Sindoor, the performance of the Agniveer soldiers was no less than the regular soldiers. Even when we spoke to them, they displayed the same enthusiasm as other soldiers."

In his remarks at the conference on Thursday, Rajnath Singh called upon the defence forces to strengthen and sustain both offensive and defensive dimensions of the 'element of surprise' to maintain operational readiness against conventional and emerging threats arising from modern warfare.

He emphasised the need to continue bolstering intelligence and surveillance capabilities, enhance integration among systems and identify potential threats before they unfold, an official statement said.

"Our Defence Forces must develop capabilities and methods that leave the adversary with no time to react or recover, while simultaneously ensuring that we are never caught off guard by an unexpected move from the enemy. Surprise can manifest in various forms, both conventional and electronic," he said. The Defence Minister also called for further strengthening of intelligence and surveillance mechanisms and enhancement of operational preparedness to ensure that personnel remain alert, agile and equipped to respond effectively to any emerging challenge.

Amit Shah Takes Stock of Delhi's Law and Order Ahead of Chhath

New Delhi, Nov 12 (Way to News): Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a review meeting on law and order and policing, along with Lieutenant Governor T.S. Sandhu, at the Delhi Police Headquarters, a source said on Thursday. The meeting, attended by Police Commissioner Anurag Kumar and senior officials, came on the eve of Chhath Puja festivities, which will continue till November 16. The Union Home Minister, sources said, discussed the Delhi Police's crowd management strategy and the security arrangement for the festival that involves lakhs of devotees across over 1,400 ghats. The Home Minister had held a security review meeting at the police headquarters last month as well.



During the meeting on October 24, the Union Home Minister was updated on the police strategies for checking drug trafficking, organised crime and traffic congestion. The Minister also reviewed measures for women's safety. Earlier this week, Lieutenant Governor Sandhu visited Rajinder Nagar Police Station to meet and greet personnel on Diwali duty. "Spending the festive evening away from their families to keep our neighbourhoods safe is a sacrifice that deserves our deepest appreciation.

Commended their vigilance, readiness and unwavering commitment to duty, and extended warm Diwali wishes to all.

Their service helps Delhi celebrate safely and peacefully," wrote the Lieutenant Governor.

During his Diwali day engagements, the Lieutenant Governor also visited specialised police booths for women.

In a message on X, Sandhu wrote, "A Diwali visit to the Pink Booths opposite IP College and in Kamla Nagar, interacting with our dedicated @DelhiPolice women personnel."

"Exchanged festive greetings and appreciated their round-the-clock vigilance in making public spaces and academic hubs safer, more accessible and reassuring for women. Commended their unwavering commitment to duty, especially during the festive season," wrote Sandhu.

Punjab Records 5,517 Stubble-Burning Cases, Ferozepur Tops List

Chandigarh, Nov 12 (Way to News): Stubble-burning incidents continue to be reported across Punjab amid the ongoing paddy harvesting season, with the state recording a total of 5,517 such cases so far, according to the latest report of the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB). Of the total incidents reported across the state, Ferozepur is at the top with 728 cases, while 374 cases have been recorded in Patiala district, placing it fifth among districts with the highest number of stubble-burning incidents.



The PPCB report, up to Wednesday (November 11), states that 96.65 per cent of the total paddy area of 32.87 lakh hectares in Punjab has been harvested so far. Meanwhile, the district administrations and the Pollution Control Board are closely monitoring the situation and taking action against farmers found burning crop residue. This comes as North India continues to grapple with the alarming pollution levels. As part of the enforcement measures, authorities have inspected 4,620 fields across the state, while physical verification of reported stubble-burning incidents has been carried out at 2,003 locations. The authorities have imposed fines amounting to Rs 85.90 lakh as 'Environmental Compensation' (EC) in connection with stubble-burning cases. Of this amount, Rs 37.55 lakh has been recovered so far. In addition, First Information Reports (FIRs) have been registered in 1,259 cases, while 'red entries' have been recorded in the revenue records in 1,637 cases. The report further states that authorities have issued 1,435 warnings and show-cause notices to those allegedly involved in stubble burning as part of the action being taken to curb the practice. In Patiala district, around 98 per cent of the total paddy area measuring 2.314 lakh hectares has been harvested.

NITI Aayog Plans PLI Scheme Revamp to Boost Domestic Manufacturing

New Delhi, Nov 12 (Way to News): NITI Aayog is holding consultations with various ministries to further strengthen the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes to address gaps in some sectors so that domestic manufacturing capabilities get another booster shot to reduce dependence on imports, its CEO Anurag Jain said on Thursday.



While the schemes have attracted investments of Rs 2.40 lakh crore and generated an increase in production and sales worth Rs 22.66 lakh crore as of March 31, 2026, there remains considerable scope to improve India's manufacturing capabilities, NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Ashok Lahiri said. "On the whole, we still have dependence on imports. We are trying to tweak the PLIs," Jain said.

According to NITI Aayog's November 2026 impact assessment, the PLI schemes have generated 8.49 lakh jobs so far. The government has disbursed Rs 35,354 crore in incentives, representing 18.5 per cent of the total allocated outlay. Nearly 70 per cent of the targeted segments are broadly progressing as planned. However, implementation has varied sharply across industries, with electronics and pharmaceuticals emerging as stronger performers while the advanced chemistry cell (ACC) battery scheme continues to lag.

Large-scale electronics manufacturing ranks among the strongest performers, recording substantial gains in production, exports, sales and employment. The pharmaceutical and food processing schemes have also delivered encouraging results across investment, output and job creation.

The white goods scheme has attracted Rs 6,409 crore in investments and generated Rs 43,150 crore in production. Domestic value addition in the sector has increased from 20 per cent to 55 per cent. Meanwhile, the medical devices scheme has recorded Rs 14,945 crore in sales. The solar PLI programme has supported a significant expansion in domestic manufacturing capacity, from 8 GW to nearly 116 GW. The drone scheme has also made progress, with 77.5 per cent of its allocated funds disbursed.

Aaditya Thackeray Slams Centre Over Climate Inaction

Mumbai, Nov 12 (Way to News): Ahead of Mumbai hosting the prestigious Earthshot Prize Summit and Awards, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and former Maharashtra Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray on Thursday launched a sharp attack on the Union government, accusing it of "data fudging," greenwashing, and failing to provide citizens with the necessities of clean air, water, and food.

Highlighting that almost all of the world's most polluted cities are currently in India, Thackeray questioned the central regime's commitment to both international climate treaties and domestic governance.

His remarks come at a critical juncture on the global environmental calendar, with the COP31 climate summit underway in Türkiye and Mumbai preparing to host the Earthshot Prize followed by Mumbai Climate Week. Thackeray pointed out that a lack of data integrity has masked India's true standing on global climate indices, masking a reality that is far worse than official rankings suggest.

He noted that political apathy toward the environmental crisis is forcing citizens to protest, and in some cases, migrate in search of basic living standards.

"Most of those who pay direct taxes, and all of those who pay indirect taxes, hoping for these basics, have to spend again on air and water purifiers and sources of food," Thackeray stated, warning that the deteriorating environment is no longer just a public health hazard, but an economic threat.

He added that businesses and organisations are also relocating out of polluted regions, directly resulting in job losses.

Reiterating a demand he has previously made to the Centre, Thackeray proposed the immediate establishment of a Council of Climate Change, modelled on the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, to institutionalise federal cooperation on environmental issues.

Foundation Laid for Indiramma Towers in Jalpally, Mailardevpally

RangaReddy, Nov 12 (Way to News): State Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy—accompanied by State Minister for IT and Industries, Duddilla Sridhar Babu—laid the foundation stone for the construction of 'Indiramma Towers' in Jalpally (Maheshwaram constituency) and Mailardevpally (Rajendranagar constituency). Following this, the ministers participated in a lucky draw and allocation process for 'Indiramma' houses in the Rajendranagar constituency. Around 30,000 people and beneficiaries were present at the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy emphasized that the core objective of the people's government is to fulfill the dream of homeownership for the poor and to uphold their self-respect. It was stated that 'Indiramma Towers' are being constructed for the poor even on prime land, valued at between 250 crore and 270 crore per acre. The vision of the people's government, led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, is to ensure that the poor are not pushed to the outskirts of the city; instead, homes equipped with all necessary infrastructure are being built for them in close proximity to the areas where they currently reside.

As part of this initiative, the construction of Indiramma Towers has been launched as a pilot project across 23 constituencies within the Hyderabad CURE (Comprehensive Urban Redevelopment) jurisdiction. These units are expected to be completed and handed over to the beneficiaries by the upcoming Diwali. It was emphasized that the selection of beneficiaries for these homes is being conducted with complete transparency, ensuring there is no room for any political, caste-based, or religious discrimination. The selection process in Rajendranagar—where beneficiaries were chosen through a lucky draw conducted by a young child—serves as a testament to the government's commitment to transparency.



The Minister noted that the construction of 2,21,500 Indiramma homes in rural areas has already brought the light of Diwali into the lives of many poor families. Regarding urban areas, it was clarified that while homes have been allocated in the first phase, those who did not receive one need not be concerned. The government has assured that every eligible individual will be granted an Indiramma home in the subsequent second, third, and fourth phases. It was explained that the government is effectively implementing various welfare schemes, including the 'Indiramma' housing program, the distribution of fine-quality rice, 200 units of free electricity, free bus travel for women, zero-interest loans totaling Rs. 73,000 crore for DWCRA (self-help group) women, and the provision of new 'Aasara' pensions to 4.50 lakh beneficiaries. It was also announced that the distribution of 'Indiramma' sarees—in a parrot-green color—to women will commence on the 19th of this month.

State Minister for IT and Industries, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, stated that the 'people's government' is prioritizing the welfare and self-respect of the poor, and is implementing the 'Indiramma' housing scheme as a flagship initiative. He emphasized that the government's resolve is to construct and provide homes equipped with all basic infrastructure for poor families, located close to the areas where they currently reside. Unlike previous administrations, which built homes far away from urban centers, this government is improving the living standards of the poor by constructing houses for them on valuable land. He assured that every eligible person will receive a home in a phased manner, and those who do not receive one in the first phase need not worry. He further clarified that the selection of beneficiaries is being conducted transparently—transcending caste, religion, or political affiliations—with the ultimate goal of ensuring that welfare schemes reach every deserving family. The event was attended by MLC Surabhi Vani Devi, Maheshwaram MLA Sabitha Indra Reddy, Rajendranagar MLA Prakash Goud, Housing Board MD Gautam, District Collector C. Narayana Reddy, Kandukur RDO Jagadeeshwar Reddy.

Ponguleti Directs Collectors to Clear Pending 22-A Land Applications

Hyderabad, Nov 12 (Way to News): Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has directed district collectors to resolve all pending applications related to lands listed under Section 22-A on a priority basis, making it clear that not a single application should remain pending. The Minister held a review meeting on Thursday at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat with the Collectors and District Registrars of Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Sangareddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts to assess the implementation of government orders and challenges in resolving long-pending 22-A land issues.



Ponguleti said the government had issued clear orders in accordance with the assurances made by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy in the State Legislative Assembly. These include measures relating to GO 118 and GO 76, permission for registration of houses, plots and flats included in the 22-A list despite having GHMC, HMDA, DTCP or municipal approvals, settlement of Urban Land Ceiling (ULC) applications, resolution of patta land issues where the NALA process is incomplete, and implementation of GO 59. The Minister instructed officials to process all applications received under these categories on a war footing. He said collectors were responsible for ensuring that the government orders were implemented effectively and that eligible applicants received relief without unnecessary delays.

He directed collectors, district registrars and other concerned officials to hold weekly review meetings at the district level to monitor progress. Issues that cannot be resolved at the district level should be referred to a high-level committee headed by Revenue Department Secretary D.S. Lokesh Kumar. Ponguleti emphasised that government policies, GOs and memos should not remain confined to official records, but must be implemented on the ground to deliver tangible benefits to the public. He asked collectors to study the guidelines carefully and take steps to ensure justice for eligible applicants.

Regarding ULC matters, the Minister directed the high-level committee to submit a comprehensive report within a week covering final judgments delivered by various courts, cases in which the government can file Special Leave Petitions (SLPs), and matters where filing SLPs is not possible. The report will be discussed with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, following which an appropriate decision will be taken on regularisation. He also instructed officials to thoroughly verify revenue records, registration details and supporting documents relating to every property included in the 22-A list. Decisions must be taken only after confirming the actual ground-level situation.

The Minister said genuine landowners should not face unnecessary delays or be forced to make repeated visits to government offices to secure their property rights.

Telangana to Offer AI-Powered Farming Advice in Telugu

Hyderabad, Nov 12 (Way to News):The Telangana government has taken a major step towards modernising agriculture by bringing Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered agricultural advisory services to farmers in their mother tongue, Telugu, through the Centre's national digital agriculture platform, Bharat-VISTAAR.



An MoU was signed between the Telangana Agriculture Department and the National Institute for Smart Government (NISG) at the Secretariat on Thursday in the presence of State Agriculture, Marketing and Cooperation Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao and Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar. The agreement aims to integrate Telangana with the AI-powered national agricultural digital platform, Bharat-VISTAAR. Technology to Transform Agriculture: Minister Thummala

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao said that bringing modern technology closer to farmers would help reduce cultivation costs and make agriculture more profitable. He stressed the importance of identifying crop-related problems at an early stage and providing scientific advice to prevent pests and diseases from spreading.

He said AI would play a crucial role in analysing weather conditions, soil characteristics, crop varieties, cultivation periods and market prices to provide timely and accurate agricultural guidance. By ensuring the appropriate use of fertilisers, pesticides and other agricultural inputs, farmers could reduce unnecessary expenditure while improving crop yields and income.

The Minister directed officials to customise Bharat-VISTAAR to suit Telangana's regional weather conditions, soil types, diverse crops, local cultivation practices and market requirements. He also called for integrating state-specific agricultural schemes, government orders and scientific recommendations into the platform in addition to the services provided by the Centre.

What is Bharat-VISTAAR?

Bharat-VISTAAR (Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources) is an AI-powered national Digital Public Infrastructure developed by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. It aims to bring together government agricultural systems, scientific research institutions, weather departments and market information networks on a single digital platform. The platform is designed to provide farmers with comprehensive information without requiring them to depend on multiple government offices, websites and mobile applications. Its AI-powered voice assistant, 'BHARATI', interacts with farmers and answers their agricultural queries. Farmers can ask questions either by speaking or typing in their mother tongue and receive guidance based on scientific information and government data.

Six Key Agricultural Services Through Bharat-VISTAAR The platform will provide six major services to farmers:

Scientific Crop Advisory: Guidance on crop selection, sowing schedules, seed varieties, fertiliser application and water management based on scientific information from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Weather Information and Early Warnings: Weather forecasts, rainfall updates, temperature information and alerts about adverse weather conditions through integration with the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Pest and Disease Identification: Farmers can obtain advice on identifying crop pests and diseases, including the facility to submit crop photographs for AI-based analysis. Information from the National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS) will also be integrated.

Soil Health and Fertiliser Recommendations: Advice based on Soil Health Cards and soil-testing information to help farmers understand soil nutrients and apply fertilisers appropriately, reducing unnecessary input costs.

Market Prices and Selling Information: Agricultural market prices and market trends through Agmarknet, helping farmers make informed decisions about where and when to sell their produce. Government Schemes and Benefits: Information about schemes such as PM-KISAN, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Soil Health Cards and Kisan Credit Cards, including eligibility.

TGSRTC Provides Job to Late Driver's Son as Promised



Hyderabad, Nov 12 (Way to News): The Telangana government has fulfilled its promise to the family of late Narsampet RTC depot driver Shankar Goud by providing a job to his son, Hemanth Goud, in the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC). Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar and RTC Managing Director Nagireddy handed over the appointment letter to Hemanth Goud for the post of Record Treasurer at the Secretariat. RTC trade union leaders Venkanna, Babu Rao, other senior union representatives and RTC officials attended the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said the government had extended all possible support to Shankar Goud's family. Following the directions of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, financial assistance was provided to the family on behalf of the government and RTC.

He revealed that RTC employees across Telangana had collectively contributed nearly Rs. 1 crore by donating one day's salary to support the bereaved family. In fulfilment of the assurance given to the family, Hemanth Goud was now provided with an RTC job. Minister Warns Against Attacks on RTC Employees

Ponnam Prabhakar said providing better facilities to passengers was the responsibility of RTC, while protecting its employees was a responsibility shared by the public. He urged passengers to approach officials with complaints if employees behaved improperly instead of resorting to physical attacks.

Warning against violence, he said the government would take serious action against anyone assaulting RTC employees and that strict legal action would follow. He also appreciated RTC employees who honestly return valuables worth lakhs of rupees left behind by passengers. Any shortcomings in RTC services should be brought to the attention of senior officials rather than taking the law into one's own hands. Additional Buses and Improved Passenger Facilities

The Minister said additional buses were being arranged to meet growing passenger demand following the introduction of free bus travel for women. The government was also taking steps to purchase new buses and modernise bus stations in accordance with passenger requirements. He added that residents of villages requiring bus connectivity could approach local RTC officials. After route verification and an assessment of feasibility, bus services would be provided to eligible villages. The Minister said the government recognised the contribution of RTC employees in maintaining public transport services across the state. He assured that steps would be taken to address their welfare concerns and improve working conditions. He also called upon employees to maintain discipline, punctuality and courteous behaviour while serving passengers.

Ponnam said the government was committed to strengthening TGSRTC as a reliable public transport system. He noted that improving fleet strength, passenger amenities and connectivity to rural areas remained key priorities. Officials were being directed to identify service gaps and take necessary measures to address public concerns. He further stated that the government was encouraging the use of technology and better management practices to improve operational efficiency. Regular monitoring of services and feedback from passengers would help identify areas requiring improvement and ensure that public transport facilities reached more people.

Abdul Baseer Honoured with Nishan-e-Sahafat Award

Hyderabad, Nov 12 (Way to News): The 10th Annual General Meeting and Nishan-e-Sahafat Awards ceremony of Telangana Urdu Working Journalists Union was held on a grand scale on November 11 at Vets Garden, Shantinagar, Hyderabad. On this occasion, Abdul Baseer, a native of Mudhol, was awarded the prestigious Nishan-e-Sahafat Award by the Telangana Urdu Working Journalists Union in recognition of his distinguished journalistic services and professional efforts. Abdul Basir was presented with this honor by the special guest Mr. Fahim Qureshi, Chairman TMRIES. This award was given in recognition of Abdul Basir's journalistic services, professional skills and his continuous efforts in the field of journalism. The ceremony was attended by President of All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen and Member of Parliament Hyderabad Mr. Asaduddin Owaisi, Member of Assembly Nampally Majid Hussain, K. Kavitha, Chairman Waqf Board Mr. Azmatullah Hussaini, Chairman TAMRES Mr. Fahim Qureshi, former MLC and former Chairman Waqf Board Mr. Salim Qureshi, officials of Telangana Urdu Working Journalists Union and a large number of journalist brothers from different local and district areas of the state. During the ceremony, various journalists who have rendered journalistic services were awarded awards in recognition of their outstanding services.

Ponguleti Assures Continuation of Indiramma Housing Scheme

Hyderabad, Nov 12 (Way to News): Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has assured that the Indiramma Housing Scheme will continue without interruption despite the financial burden left by the previous BRS government and challenges posed by El Niño.

Speaking at the foundation stone-laying ceremony for Indiramma Towers at Mailardevpally, built for beneficiaries from the Rajendranagar and Maheshwaram constituencies, the Minister said construction would be completed by next Diwali. He attended the programme along with IT Minister and Rangareddy district in-charge Duddilla Sridhar Babu and local MLA Prakash Goud. Ponguleti said the government would sanction houses in three more phases and ensure transparent allotment across all 23 constituencies under the Q-City limits, without discrimination based on caste, religion or political affiliation. He said the happiness and emotional response of women receiving houses were the government's greatest blessings.

A lucky draw was conducted to allot flats to beneficiaries. Kavitha Rathod was the first beneficiary to receive a flat, with C Block, Flat No. 603 allotted to her. Ministers Ponguleti and Sridhar Babu handed over the allotment certificate.

The Minister also announced that quality parrot-green Bathukamma sarees would be distributed from November 19. He reiterated that the government was committed to fulfilling its six major guarantees and ensuring housing for the poor. Ponguleti said the government was giving priority to construction quality, basic infrastructure and timely completion of housing projects to ensure beneficiaries could live with dignity and security. He said officials had been instructed to closely monitor the progress of Indiramma Towers and resolve any issues during construction.

He added that the government would continue to take necessary steps to provide permanent homes to eligible poor families and improve their living conditions.

Mars Opens GCC in Hyderabad, to Create 1,000 Jobs

Hyderabad, Nov 12 (Way to News): Telangana is making planned efforts to develop Global Capability Centres (GCCs) as key drivers of the state's economic growth, IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu said. The Minister was speaking after inaugurating the Global Capability Centre of Mars, the global company known for popular brands such as Snickers, Pedigree and Royal Canin, at Gachibowli Financial District on Thursday. The 60,000-square-foot facility has been established in collaboration with Genpact.

Sridhar Babu said the government was guiding GCCs to play a significant role not only in technology development but also in research and development, data analytics, product design, engineering and innovation.

He said the government was committed to transforming Hyderabad from a traditional IT services hub into a global technology, innovation and knowledge-driven economy. Special attention was being given to connecting the strengths of Hyderabad's IT and IT-enabled services sector with other industries to attract investments in emerging sectors and create more employment opportunities.

The Minister said technology, industry and skill development had been accorded high priority under the state's Telangana Rising 2047 vision. The newly inaugurated Mars centre is expected to provide employment to more than 400 people initially, with the workforce projected to increase to 1,000 in the coming years. The facility will

India, South Korea Eye Green Ammonia Shipping Corridor



New Delhi, Nov 12 (Way to News): India and South Korea can accelerate shipping decarbonisation through a green-ammonia corridor, regardless of delays in global carbon-pricing negotiations, a new report has said ahead of the International Maritime Organization session on December 4, deciding on a binding carbon price. The report from India Narrative suggested a bilateral corridor between India and South Korea rather than a dozen pilots.

"Pick an Indian anchor, Tuticorin or Kandla, and a Korean one, Ulsan, which Seoul has designated as its ammonia and methanol bunkering hub," the report said, suggesting both countries to also commit a handful of Korean-built, ammonia-capable ships to run between them, with fuel from Indian electrolysers. South Korea has advanced shipbuilding and ammonia-ready vessels but lacks domestic green fuel production, while India has ambitious green-hydrogen and ammonia plans but needs reliable buyers. As many such negotiations from the International Maritime Organisation or similar bodies failed to reach any agreement, the publication pointed out that "shipowners cannot wait for diplomats and a vessel ordered today will burn fuel into the 2050s." "Two countries that can solve the problem bilaterally are sitting on opposite sides of the Bay of Bengal and the East China Sea, and they have barely begun to talk to each other seriously," the report noted.

AP to Enact Investment Protection Act to Safeguard Investors



Vijayawada, Nov 12 (Way to News):Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday announced that the state government would bring an Investment Protection Act to safeguard investors from regime changes and political vendetta. He also urged the central government to bring in similar legislation at the national level to provide greater security and confidence to investors across the country.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the 31st Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit, the chief minister said his government is actively considering the proposed legislation, and has requested Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal to facilitate policy clearance and implementation at the national level. "We are confident that a central act offering protection to investors will encourage a stronger flow of investments into India and attract global investors," he opined, adding that concerns over regime changes and what he described as "vindictive politics" were creating apprehensions among investors.

After pioneering the implementation of escrow accounts, Andhra Pradesh will become the first state in the country to implement such a law for the investors. Andhra IT Minister Nara Lokesh highlighted the state government's commitment to ensuring the timely delivery of incentives to industries through an escrow account, without government interference.

"Lot of the investors have asked (about the investment protection law) this to me. We are actively considering it. We will enact it," he said.

Calcutta HC Reserves Verdict on Abhishek's Z-Plus Security Plea



Kolkata, Nov 12 (Way to News): The hearing on the petition from Trinamool Congress General Secretary and the party's Diamond Harbour Lok Sabha member, Abhishek Banerjee, seeking restoration of his "Z-Plus" security was completed at a single-judge vacation bench of the Calcutta High Court on Thursday. However, the single-judge vacation bench of Justice Krishna Rao had kept the judgement on reserve.

Abhishek, also the nephew of the former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, had been enjoying the "Z Plus" security granted to him by the previous Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal led by his aunt since he became the Lok Sabha MP from Diamond Harbour for the first time in 2014.

However, after the new Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government came to power in the state, Abhishek Banerjee's "Z-Plus" security was withdrawn and he was granted the security entitled to him as a Lok Sabha member as per protocol. Recently, the Diamond Harbour MP approached the Calcutta High Court with the plea for restoration of his "Z-Plus" security apprehended lie threats considering that already some assassination attempts had been made on him in the recent past. The hearing in the matter was completed on Thursday, and Justice Krishna Rao had reserved his judgment in the matter. During the hearing on Thursday, Justice Rao raised questions about the state administration's role in the state's security review process and the subsequent allegations of multiple attacks.

The state government told the court that the decision on the category of security to be granted to anyone was their prerogative and it was not binding on the administration to explain its decisions in the matter. Thereafter, Justice Rao said that while the court will not direct which category of security should be granted to whom, since the plaintiff claimed that there was an attack on him and his security requirements were not reviewed, the court could seek explanations in the matter.

Abhishek Banerjee's Counsel then said that till the time the security requirements of his client were not reviewed, till that time "Z-Plus" security should be granted to him.

'Chapter Closed With Ajit Pawar's Demise': Supriya Sule Rules Out NCP Factions Merger



New Delhi, Nov 12 (Way to News): Putting an end to days of intense political speculation in Maharashtra, Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) working president and Baramati MP Supriya Sule on Thursday categorically ruled out any ongoing merger talks between the two NCP factions, declaring that the chapter was closed for her the day her brother, late Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, passed away.

Addressing the media, Sule dismissed swirling rumours of a reunion between the Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) and the ruling NCP faction headed by Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar.

"No proposal regarding merger has been received by us," Sule stated unequivocally. In an emotional remark, she added, "My brother is gone, and on that very day, the subject of the merger ended for me. I have not received any proposal, so I have no information about what merger is being discussed. No one has spoken to me about this."

Addressing the references to past talks, Sule acknowledged that Ajit Pawar had indeed initiated a dialogue to reunite the two factions prior to his passing, noting that a January 17, 2026 video of their discussion at Govindbaug in Baramati was already in the public domain and hidden from no one. However, she maintained that her brother's demise altered everything and brought that process to a permanent halt.

Downplaying the significance of recent visits to Sharad Pawar by leaders from the rival camp, Sule pointed out that politicians across party lines routinely meet the veteran leader.

"Even after the split, several MLAs, ministers, and leaders have continued to visit Pawar Saheb. There is nothing new or unusual about such courtesy calls," she said. When asked about recent meetings between certain NCP leaders and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Sule refused to be drawn into the matter, calling it an internal affair of the other party.

AIMIM, Azad Samaj Party Announce UP Poll Alliance; Aazad Named CM Face



Lucknow, Nov 12 (Way to News):: The Chandra Shekhar Aazad-led Azad Samaj Party-Kanshi Ram and Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM, on Thursday, announced the 'Samajik Parivartan Morcha' alliance for the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, with the former being declared the Chief Ministerial candidate. Addressing a press conference, Chandra Shekhar Aazad said: "Since yesterday, there has been a lot of speculation about a 'Third Front.' Let me clarify: this is not a 'Third Front', it is a 'Samajik Parivartan Morcha'. In fact, it is not the 'third' at all; this is, in reality, the 'First Front.'

Asserting that the alliance is strong, he said that the front will become an "even more powerful platform for those who are oppressed, helpless, victimised, and exploited". In a veiled attack on Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, he said: "Those who don't have political power (in Uttar Pradesh), even if they form a major section of the population, are being subjected to atrocities; encounters and bulldozers are being used to bring down their houses." "Those who had promised to bring the marginalised to the mainstream, despite being elevated as MLA, MP, Chief Minister and Prime Minister, have not done anything for this section. The governments kept changing and even made several announcements, but even today the 'Bahujan Samaj' is far from receiving the basic facilities, including better schools and hospitals," Aazad added. Criticising the BJP-led government in the state, the Azad Samaj Party chief said: "Parents who struggled against the system, often taking on debt, to educate and raise their children now see those very educated young people suffering the brunt of unemployment. There is no one to look after them. And if anyone dares to raise their voice or fight for their rights, they are met with the government's heavy-handedness, facing legal cases and police batons."

The Lok Sabha MP also referred to the Yogi government's directive, which declared individuals associated with organisations advocating violent changes to the existing social system, as ineligible for appointment to government jobs. "The truth is, we are denied justice both in life and in death," Aazad stated. Targeting the Congress and the Samajwadi Party, he said: "Many promised to oust the Bharatiya Janata Party. We waited through 2014, 2017, 2019, 2022, and 2024. Yet, the BJP has not been removed; instead, it has only grown more powerful."

Jitendra Singh Leads Delegation to Boost India-Italy Scientific Ties



New Delhi, Nov 12 (Way to News):Union Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh led a delegation that began its visit to Italy aimed at advancing the India-Italy Special Strategic Partnership, with a focus on strengthening collaboration in science, technology and innovation, an official statement said on Thursday. The minister's visit, scheduled from November 11 to November 15, 2026, follows the elevation of India-Italy ties to a Special Strategic Partnership during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Italy in May 2026.

The initial interaction with representatives of the scientific fraternity and officials of the Embassy of India reaffirmed the traditional relationship between the two countries and the importance of further reinforcing bilateral scientific and technological cooperation, the statement noted. The delegation's visit features a series of high-level bilateral engagements and institutional interactions aimed at providing further momentum to India-Italy scientific collaboration.

Dr. Singh is scheduled to hold a meeting with the Italian Minister of University and Research, the statement noted. The engagement will provide an important platform to advance scientific and innovation cooperation between the two countries. The Indian delegation will undertake visits to leading science and technology institutions in Trieste on November 13, including the Elettra Synchrotron Facility, ICTP and ICGEB, the statement added.

The visits are part of the programme to familiarise the delegation with the scientific and research facilities and explore avenues for institutional interaction and cooperation. The minister's programme also includes an event marking World Diabetes Day at the Embassy of India in Rome on November 14, followed by an interaction with the Indian community in Italy. The participation of senior representatives from government, research institutions, academic centres and technology incubators reflects the broad institutional representation in India's scientific engagement with Italy.

Tejashwi Yadav Attacks Bihar CM, Alleges Misrule and Lawlessness



Patna,, Nov 12 (Way to News): Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on the NDA government and Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, accusing them of pushing the state towards administrative chaos, corruption and lawlessness. In a social media post, Tejashwi described Bihar's situation as one marked by financial disorder, administrative mismanagement, poor governance, indiscipline and an absence of effective rule.

He alleged that misgovernance, deteriorating law and order, and corruption had become deep-rooted structural problems under the NDA government, affecting every section of society and all levels of administration.

"The mafia holds sway at every level. What could be more unfortunate than a situation where criminals are killing police personnel, while the police are killing innocent citizens to cover up their own failures?" he said. The RJD leader claimed that Bihar was heading towards anarchy and destruction under what he described as an incompetent Chief Minister. He alleged that officials did not take Samrat Choudhary seriously because of his lack of administrative understanding and ineffective functioning. Tejashwi further accused the Chief Minister of neglecting public grievances and issues affecting people's lives, while giving priority to matters that had little relevance to public welfare. He said employment, quality education, healthcare, law and order, industrial growth, infrastructure development, technology and investment appeared to be missing from the government's priorities.

The Leader of the Opposition also alleged that the police and administration had become increasingly unaccountable and that corruption had crossed all limits.

Taking his attack further, Tejashwi questioned the circumstances in which Samrat Choudhary had assumed office, alleging that the NDA had come to power through electoral malpractice.

"Have these verified crooks, who seized power by stealing votes, handed over the reins of the state to this 'appointed' Chief Minister solely to push Bihar into an abyss of ruin?" he asked.

SC Clarifies Section 163 Prohibitory Orders Remain in Force



New Delhi, Nov 12 (Way to News):Having ordered removal of a notice board regarding imposition of prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the BNSS in and around its premises, the Supreme Court has clarified that it did not amount to lifting or suspending the prohibitory orders.

"The said direction (dated October 11) was issued for the limited purpose of securing unhindered ingress to and egress from this Court and other Courts of law. Its object was to ensure that access to justice was not impeded, and that no Advocate, litigant, or person visiting an Advocate for professional consultation, was obstructed or deterred," a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said in its November 3 order dealing with recent protests against CEC Gyanesh Kumar. The Bench clarified that the order did not stay, suspend or otherwise dilute any prohibitory order issued under Section 163 of the BNSS, the validity of which was pending for adjudication before it.

"We, therefore, recall paragraph 16(e) of our order dated 11.10.2026 and clarify that nothing contained therein shall preclude the Competent Authority from displaying the notice afresh, subject to the condition that the free movement of Advocates, litigants and other persons having business before this Court, or any other Court, is properly regulated and not obstructed in any manner," the top court said. "We direct the authorities concerned to forthwith take down the said board, if not already done, so that there is no apprehension with regard to ingress and egress to the Supreme Court or any other court of law," the top court had said in its October 11 order after it was informed that a notice board stating Section 163 BNSS had been invoked in and around the precincts of the Supreme Court had been put up in the court premises.

However, in its November 3 order the Bench said, "It has been brought to our notice that the said direction is being misconstrued, and is being misused by certain elements, as though it had lifted the prohibitory order(s) in the Supreme

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Editorial

Air Guns Below 20 Joules Exempt from Licensing

WHILE hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by former Intelligence Bureau Special Director Yashovardhan Azad and individuals injured by pellets at Jantar Mantar on July 20, the Supreme Court refused to order a blanket ban on the use of pellet guns (PGs). A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant observed that since police regulations permit these weapons in extreme violent situation during mass protests, when all other measures, including firing of tear gas shells and lathicharge, fail to manage the crowd, an outright ban cannot be ordered without challenging the underlying legal provisions.

Sections 148 to 151 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, provide for the use of force to disperse an unlawful assembly following the principles of necessity, proportionality and humanity. Additionally, the manufacture, sale, possession and use of arms and ammunition in India is governed by provisions of The Arms Act, 1959. Under Section 2(c) of the Arms Act, arms are defined as articles designed or adapted to cause bodily injury, and the law requires a licence for most firearms and dangerous weapons.

However, a clear exemption was carved out for air guns under the Arms Rules, 2016: any air rifle or air pistol or air gun with a muzzle energy of 20 joules or less is exempt from the licensing requirement. Muzzle energy of 20 joules is produced when a .177 (4.5 mm) calibre pellet travels at a speed of roughly 900 feet per second (FPS). Police and armed forces primarily use the 12-bore pump-action shotgun as a less-lethal platform for crowd management, deploying specific cartridge variations like No. 9 metal lead pellets, plastic or rubber bullets, and metal-alternative polymers; the total muzzle energy of 2,100 to 2,500 Joules is distributed across the total shot-mass upon leaving the barrel. Thus, the weight of individual pellets, their total number in a cartridge and distance between the crowd and firing point determine the extent of penetration of the shots into the human body.

Normally, the PGs and munitions are designed to disperse a crowd from a distance of 35 to 45 metres, where individual pellet velocity and energy density drop significantly, to make it a less lethal weapon. Despite being less lethal and having a very limited possibility of it hitting a vital human organ, the use of PGs by security forces is usually frowned upon by social groups and human rights activists the world over. They state that it can damage the most sensitive parts of the human body, like eyes, permanently. It is often argued that the use of PGs amounts to indiscriminate use of force against unidentified targets since the operator has no control over the trajectory of the shots. Although, these arguments have some merit, they need to be examined in the backdrop of the harmful effect of the alternative option of using lethal weapons to disperse a violent assembly. Since the protesters injured in PG firing cannot hide their injuries, the fear that they may be identified in hospitals and prosecuted for mob violence appears to be one of the motivating factors behind opposing the use of PGs. Otherwise, in the prudence of an ordinary man, injury is always preferable to death in situations where the use of force is inevitable. It would not be correct to argue that the use of a pellet gun is a stage after the lathicharge has failed and before lethal firing is resorted to. In fact, pellet guns are used as a tool of self-defence to deter the mob when their number is very high and they are determined to swarm and charge from a distance to harm the members of public and security forces and indulge in damaging private and public property.

Supreme Court's hate speech judgment is a diagnosis without a remedy

Kshitij Saruparia



There is something unusual about the Supreme Court's April 2026 judgment in the hate speech cases. It correctly diagnoses the problem. Then it applies a solution that replicates, at a different level of government, the very failure it just identified. The bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta, deciding a batch of writ petitions that had been before various Supreme Court benches for six years, dismissed the applications seeking new criminal legislation on hate speech. The creation of criminal offences, the court held, "lies squarely within the legislative domain". Courts cannot assume that function.

The bench found no legislative vacuum: the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and the Representation of the People Act, 1951 already penalise acts that promote enmity, outrage religious feelings, or disturb public order. The problem, the court said plainly, is that the law, though present, is not being enforced. That is a correct and important finding. It is also where the judgment's difficulty begins. The 2026 judgment arrives in a context of a series of directions from the Supreme Court, generated over the preceding four years in relation to this batch of cases, seeking to compel state police forces to do what the law already required.

In October 2022, the court directed all states and Union Territories to register FIRs suo motu when speeches attracting offences under Sections 153A, 153B, 295A, and 505 of the Indian Penal Code occurred, even without a formal complaint. The bench warned that delay in doing so would be treated as contempt of court. By November 2023, the Union government filed a status report confirming that 28 states and Union Territories had appointed Nodal Officers in compliance with an earlier order from the Tehseen Poonawalla proceedings. Contempt petitions had by then already been filed over non-compliance.

The court's suo motu FIR direction was, in other words, an attempt to solve the enforcement problem by making enforcement judicially supervised. It did not work well. The contempt petitions that followed were evidence of that. Nodal officers were appointed only on paper. Suo motu FIRs were not registered at the scale the directions contemplated.

This is the context in which the April 2026 judgment arrived. The court closed most of the contempt petitions. Several were given a two-week window to respond; a follow-up date of May 19, 2026 was set. The high courts, the judgment said, are encouraged to issue practice directions to ensure that the principles it had articulated are implemented at the ground level. Reading that solution carefully reveals that the court correctly identified the problem as enforcement, not law. Its response was to close its own accountability mechanism, the contempt jurisdiction it had been exercising, and delegate enforcement responsibility to the high courts through an unspecified, non-mandatory encouragement to issue practice directions.

Thus instead of solving the enforcement problem, the court stopped at describing what it hoped would happen. The contempt jurisdiction the court had been exercising was, whatever its limitations, the one mechanism through which states faced a direct accountability relationship with the Supreme Court on hate speech enforcement. Closing those petitions removes that mechanism. No replacement accountability structure was put in place. The high courts were not given specific directions. They were not told what minimum standards their practice directions should meet. They were not asked to report back. They were "encouraged."

Twenty-five high courts issuing different practice directions, with different emphases, different procedural requirements and different enforcement mechanisms will produce 25 different enforcement regimes. In some jurisdictions, practice directions will be robust and actively monitored. In others, they will be drafted, published and largely ignored, just as the National Nodal Officer framework that preceded them was largely ignored. Such fragmentation of enforcement can only replicate the coordination problem. The structure of the court's own suo motu direction from 2022 was actually better designed than what replaced it: a single national standard, directly enforceable through contempt and applicable to all states regardless of political orientation. However, states produced a compliance failure based on the calculation that the cost of non-compliance with a SC direction was lower than the political cost of prosecuting their own supporters for hate speech. The court's response to that compliance failure was to dismantle the directing mechanism and substitute it with hope.

The court's invocation of separation of powers in declining to create new criminal offences is correct and entirely appropriate. Hate speech legislation is the legislature's job. Courts cannot and should not be writing criminal law. The 2026 judgment is on firm constitutional ground when it refuses to do so. But separation of powers is not a complete answer to the enforcement problem. The law under which a trial for hate speech is expected to proceed exists. The investigating powers of the police exist. The magistrate's power to direct investigation under Section 175 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (which the court clarified does not require prior government sanction) exists. What is missing is the will, across multiple state governments, to use these powers against politically connected speakers.

That is a political problem as much as a legal one. The court cannot compel political will through practice directions any better than it could through contempt proceedings. But the contempt mechanism at least made non-compliance visible and created a direct institutional cost. Practice directions issued by high courts, particularly in states where the government has shown consistent disinclination to prosecute hate speakers, are not going to change the political calculus.

The communities most affected by the hate speech that has been the subject of this litigation are, disproportionately, religious minorities, particularly Muslims, who have been the target of speeches at religious gatherings and public events calling for economic boycotts, describing them as demographic threats and there are documented cases of people calling for violence against them. These communities brought or supported the petitions before the Supreme Court precisely because they had already tried every other available mechanism.

What will it take to win Punjab today



Jyoti Malhotra

IF elections were to be held in Punjab today, which political party would win? The answer to this question is closely linked with issues as diverse as the GenZ students' protest that has now moved from Jantar Mantar to Jharkhand; the severe backlash against women protesters who participated in the Cockroach Janta Party agitation in the last month, which included both rape threats and death threats; the Centre's reply in Parliament that the Kartarpur Sahib corridor linking Dera Baba Nanak to Guru Nanak's resting place in Pakistan's Narowal district will not be opened for security reasons; and a meeting between PM Modi and Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Badal in Delhi on Friday. As if this wasn't enough, the week was capped by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's bombshell remarks — GenZ's grievances, he admitted, "were real", adding that except in a time of conflict, ties between India and Pakistan should not be severed. Let me try and explain how these diverse strands are linked in a post-Jantar Mantar India.

First, the Modi-Badal meeting indicates that the possibility of an alliance between the Akali Dal and the BJP is back on the table. Both parties have done everything to showcase their independent reach, but it hasn't worked. Only in March in a rally in the heart of Punjab in Moga, the powerful Home Minister Amit Shah, wearing a saffron turban, exhorted his audience to stop playing "chhota bhai" to the Akali Dal. The Moga rally came two years after talks between Shah and Sukhbir Badal, on the eve of the 2024 Lok Sabha election, fell through over a division of seats — the BJP wanted an equal share and Badal wouldn't give. Clearly, there's nothing like an election to concentrate the mind. The PM knows that his several overtures in Punjab — visiting the Dera Sachkhand Ballan (visited mostly by Dalit Sikhs); inaugurating the posh Jalandhar railway station last month; naming a Jat Sikh, Kewal Dhillon, to replace the experienced and sophisticated Sunil Jakhar as state party president; naming the grandson of Teja Singh Samundri, the respected former diplomat Taranjit Sandhu, as the Lt Governor of Delhi; getting Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini to don a saffron turban and conduct political raids in Punjab next door — will count for nothing, if he allows the disagreeable 2020 memory of SAD walking out of the NDA when the Centre imposed its three farm laws, to persist in the present.

The PM remembers all too well that it took a year-long siege of Delhi, with farmers mostly from Punjab, before the Centre relented and withdrew those laws. The PM understands, that in the wake of the GenZ protest that has charged and galvanised a simmering despair in young people, he has to change the narrative across the country — and so his party must swallow some imperfect memories of the recent past. He realises that his party is blessed by the fact that Rahul Gandhi, in an attempt to stand with GenZ, is making dog videos instead of resolving the prolonged Congress squabble in Punjab — the Congress leader's sheer disinterest is only matched by his dogged stubbornness in refusing to break the logjam over who should head the party in the state. (Keh diya, so keh diya, Rahul is believed to have said in perfect Karan Johar-ese, in his naming of Raja Warring, even as the other half of Punjab protests in favour of Charanjit Singh Channi.)

With the Congress well on its way to a daily fragmenting, perhaps the PM feels, the time has come to stitch together an anti-AAP coalition. Could the BJP become the informal pivot around the several Akali Dals, who have split from the original party because of the overwhelming dominance of Sukhbir Badal? Depending on the circumstances that unfold, could this include Waris Punjab De (WPD), whose main leader, Amritpal Singh, is in jail for anti-national activities, but guess what, here's a kettle of fish called Manpreet Ayali — make of him what you will. He's an influential former Akali Dal leader who left SAD to join the WPD, vehemently rejects the radical, extremist tag while acknowledging the leadership of Amritpal and boasts of several Hindus working on his real-estate development projects around Ludhiana.

Never mind the swirling rumours between BJP and WPD — the PM knows this is the time to strike hard and strike deep. He understands that if elections were to be held today in Punjab's 117 seats, the BJP would not find as many people to be candidates — moreover, a revolt has broken out inside the party this week. Two questions remain. First, what to do about the Kartarpur Sahib corridor which every Punjabi wants reopened – especially in the light of the Centre last week ordering the reopening of border trade between India and China, at Nathu La and Shipki La, across the India-China boundary, after several years. Even the Akal Takht Jathedar is rooting for opening Kartarpur Sahib. Moreover, none other than Mohan Bhagwat has now pronounced that Pakistan is not an enemy. Could Punjab move towards the BJP if India and Pakistan can work out a face-saving quid pro quo on the Kartarpur Sahib corridor? And second, does PM Modi truly understand the despair of young Indians to which Jantar Mantar-Jharkhand are witness? Clearly, Modi's five Instagram selfie videos, as well as the interview with Mohan Bhagwat, have been part of the establishment's attempt .

Bankipur signals Bihar's new political churn



Manisha Priyam

Rarely have bypolls for state Assembly elections drawn as much national attention as the recently concluded bypolls in three constituencies of Bihar, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. The BJP won the Manjalpur seat in Gujarat, the Congress the Datia seat in Madhya Pradesh and newcomer Jan Suraaj Party won the Bankipur Assembly seat in Bihar.

It is specifically the victory of Prashant Kishor in Bankipur — a long-term fiefdom of the BJP and erstwhile constituency of BJP president Nitin Nabin — that has proven to be a watershed for emerging possibilities in Indian democracy. What is the significance of the Bankipur results for Bihar's politics? And in what manner does this "small" victory underscore larger political narratives of contemporary democracy in India?

This victory marks the first electoral victory of Prashant Kishor, an erstwhile political consultant who helped script the BJP's stunning national foray in 2014. He then parted ways from the BJP to work for various state-level regional leaders, including Mamata Banerjee, Arvind Kejriwal, MK Stalin and Jagan Mohan Reddy.

In 2022, Kishor announced his exit from political consultancy and launched the Jan Suraaj Abhiyaan as a platform for people's connect based in Bihar. In 2024, he repurposed it as a political party and named it the Jan Suraaj Party — the same sequence as that of VP Singh who launched the Jan Morcha in 1987.

In the November 2025 Bihar Assembly elections, when Kishor's Jan Suraaj Party had contested in 238 of the 243 seats, the party had scored a zero. Even though it was said to have gained traction in social media and among youth, it had failed to win any seat, polling just 3.4% votes. Now, in a breathtaking turnaround, Kishor has defeated the BJP in Bankipur, its bastion of over three decades. It was held by Navin Kishor Prasad Sinha and his son Nitin Nabin. Bankipur is in Patna and has an urban and upper caste electorate which is loyal to the BJP and the RSS. The Kayasthas, referred to as "lala", form the ideological anchor and social identity of the constituency. Jayaprakash Narayan (JP) and his historic 1974 andolan (the Bihar Movement) is a lived memory in its streets. The lalas hailing from this constituency teamed up with their own Shailendra Nath Srivastav, Yashwant Sinha, Shatrughan Sinha — all chelas (followers) of JP — and with Sushil Modi, creating a structural basis for anti-Congress politics, and later for BJP politics.

Since 1995, the Bankipur Assembly seat has been with the BJP and its Kayastha MLAs. Interestingly, Kishor has won even in the polling booths of Kadamkuan, the mohalla known as the Mecca of Patna's Kayasthas.

In post-poll field work in Patna, I found ordinary people of Patna saying that this was a vote above jaat-paat (caste and creed); it was a vote against ahankaar (pride); and that shooting at Bihar's own youth protesting as "cockroaches" with AK-47 guns was an incorrect state action. Upper caste Bhumihaars, long seen as loyal voters of the BJP, also spoke against the current leadership. They said Nitish Kumar was their leader. The new Chief Minister of Bihar, Samrat Choudhary, is constantly measured against the large image of Nitish, who had held power for over two decades. Nitish, the sushaasan babu, balanced the extremes, whereas the BJP is seen as tilting towards "one side".

Some other voters felt that the BJP's attempts at Mandalisation, abandoning its core principles of kamandal, has diluted what it stood for -protecting upper caste Hindu ideology and interests. Even as BJP workers talked in hushed tones, many among them are delighted at the outcome. They feel that Nitin Nabin should have fielded a stronger candidate, such as Rituraj Sinha, whose father RK Sinha is a pillar of RSS politics in Patna and a prominent Kayastha.

US envoys meet with Putin in the Kremlin after Ukraine talks in Abu Dhabi

MOSCOW, Nov 12 (Way to News): US President Donald Trump's envoys met Thursday with President Vladimir Putin as Washington sought new momentum in peace efforts after two days of US-mediated negotiations between Russian and Ukrainian delegations.

Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, who is also Trump's son-in-law, brokered the talks in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, the first direct discussions between representatives of Moscow and Kyiv in nine months as the push for peace stalled.

The two days of talks that ended Wednesday produced no major breakthrough, aside from an agreement to swap a large number of prisoners, with the exact figure still to be announced.

Kushner and Witkoff went straight to the Kremlin to brief Putin, and are scheduled to fly later to Dublin, Ireland, for talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky as the conflict stretches towad the five-year mark. US envoys want Europe at the negotiating table, too Kushner said that one of the goals of the meeting with Putin was to get the Russian leader's blessing for European representatives to be part of the talks, which are looking at the continent's broader security arrangements.

The US and Zelensky want Europe to appoint a single person to negotiate with Moscow. But Moscow doesn't want European countries involved in the direct negotiations, complaining they are financing and supplying Ukraine's military effort. The Europeans are concerned about Russia's conduct and broader intentions on the continent. Many in Europe



see the inclusion of Moscow in discussions about post-war European security as an unwelcome concession to Putin, who has described NATO's eastward expansion as a main security threat to Russia. Putin has demanded the trans-Atlantic alliance's troops be pulled back from Russia's borders. Some analysts say negotiators may be looking to grant Russia concessions on NATO's strategy in return for peace in Ukraine — a possibility that alarms European leaders.

The Russian and Ukrainian delegations in Abu Dhabi "agreed on many of the principles, but are still apart on some of the way to accomplish" peace, Kushner said in Moscow. Putin reaffirmed to the US envoys Moscow's rejection of any European troop presence in Ukraine, saying that Russia sees them as a security threat to its security and warns that they would be legitimate targets.

He also said Russia sees its border with Ukraine as the line of control — a reference to Moscow's claim over the four Ukrainian regions that Moscow annexed in 2022 but never fully captured. Zelensky sees a political 'window of opportunity' Zelensky is in Dublin for a meeting of more than 40 European countries that also includes NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte. Rutte said the US, Europe and Ukraine are "very much aligned" on what security guarantees should look like, following a meeting in Paris in January. "But now of course we need the peace deal, or at least a ceasefire," Rutte said.

Zelensky said political changes, including Democrats taking over the US Congress in January following midterm elections and votes in France next year, could bring "a window of opportunity" for a peace deal.

"The political landscape in Europe could change in 2027. … We also see changes already taking place in the United States," Zelensky said in Dublin late Wednesday. He called the proposed prisoner exchange a positive step but also insisted Ukraine won't surrender Russian-occupied territory in return for peace. Russia and Ukraine have occasionally swapped prisoners, but both sides remain far apart in their terms for accepting a settlement. Fighting continues as another bitter winter approaches Amid the negottiations, fighting continues along the 1,200-kilometer (about 750-mile) front line. Russia's bigger army has been held back by dogged Ukrainian resistance while Moscow's drone and missile strikes aim to deny civilians heat, electricity and running water, sapping public morale in what Kyiv calls a "weaponization of winter."

Russia's Defense Ministry said its air defenses downed 71 Ukrainian drones overnight. Its forces struck a drone-making plant in Kyiv and three other facilities producing missile fuel and drone components in the area around the Ukrainian capital, the ministry said. Russia launched missiles and 123 drones, 73 of them jet-powered drones, at Ukraine overnight, the Ukrainian air force said. Hits were recorded at 17 locations, it said. US Starlink problems return for Ukraine, Zelensky says Ukraine is experiencing another slowdown in the US Starshield system SpaceX's military-grade version of the Starlink satellite Internet service.

Hegseth awards medal to soldier who rebuked his group outside Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

WASHINGTON, Nov 12 (Way to News): Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth awarded a medal on Thursday to a US Army sentinel who appeared to admonish him and his aides for failing to adhere to proper decorum outside the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Veterans Day.

Hegseth posted a picture of him pinning a medal on Army Specialist Thomas Iglesias as he stood alongside members of his unit, the 3d US Infantry Regiment, known as The Old Guard. Hegseth wrote: "We love soldiers. We love standards. Well done, Specialist. Carry on Patriots."

In a video that went viral online, Iglesias on Wednesday shouted toward Hegseth, his wife and senior aides after they were seen on video taking pictures



and speaking to each other on the steps of the memorial at Arlington National Cemetery following a Veterans Day event. Laughter was heard.

"All visitors will maintain an atmosphere of silence and respect at all times," Iglesias exclaimed.

Sitting at the heart of Arlington National Cemetery, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a sacred site and the grave of three unknown American service members, including one from World War One. It is widely known as a place for mourning and for reflection on military service, and sentinels guard the site 24 hours a day.

Hegseth, a former Army National Guard soldier who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, prevailed this week when the House of Representatives rejected a Republican lawmaker's effort to impeach him.

At a rare Pentagon press conference on Tuesday hours before the vote, Hegseth called the impeachment effort a farce and defended his record, which includes championing the unpopular Iran war, launching strikes on suspected drug vessels in Latin American waters and firing senior military officers.

Democrats who won control of both chambers of Congress last week have promised to investigate Hegseth for his stewardship of the US military and have not ruled out another impeachment effort.

Pro-Palestinian group seeks ban on Israeli real-estate fair in Paris

PARIS, Nov 12 (Way to News): Pro-Palestinian activists have asked a French court to ban an Israeli real-estate fair in Paris which they say offers a bonus to prospective Jewish settlers in the occupied territories, sources told AFP on Thursday. The Franco-Palestinian NIDAL association filed an emergency motion to a court against the 9th Icube real estate and investment salon, arguing that the fair violates human rights.

The event is to place on Sunday at the European Center for Judaism in the French capital.

Other major cities have seen similar uproars over Israeli real estate fairs accused of marketing houses in the occupied territories. New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani condemned the 2026 edition of the Great



Israeli Real Estate Event in Manhattan for that reason.

NIDAL asked the court to either order the head of Paris police force to ban the event outright or to ensure that the event does not sell property in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, whose occupation by Israel since 1967 is considered illegal under international law.

A way of life is disappearing on Cambodia's Tonle Sap lake

BRUSSELS, Nov 12 (Way to News): Belgium said on Thursday Iran could be behind cyberattacks on supermarket fridges in the country this month, days after France blamed Tehran for a similar incident in October.

Interior Minister Bernard Quintin told parliament that evidence gathered by Belgian authorities also pointed at Tehran, but stopped short of officially attributing the hack.

"According to reliable evidence obtained by our agencies, Iran could potentially be behind the attacks on the refrigeration systems of several major retail chains, as was the case in France," he said, adding he wanted to remain "diplomatically cautious."

Foreign Minister Maxime Prevot had said earlier on Thursday that it would be premature to officially attribute the cyberattack. Dozens of supermarkets across Belgium reported refrigeration problems that forced some retailers to discard food on November 2. Similar issues were reported by stores in Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden.

France, which had been hit by a similar attack three weeks earlier, has blamed Iran's Revolutionary Guards for it. Speaking to lawmakers, Quintin described the cyberattack in Belgium as an act of "destabilization."

The Belgian federal prosecutor's office declined to provide additional details. "The investigation is currently ongoing and is being treated as a matter of the highest priority. At this stage, it is not possible to provide further information or comment on the nature and precise circumstances of the alleged .

Congo Ebola outbreak still out of control after six months

GENEVA, Nov 12 (Way to News): Six months into Congo's Ebola outbreak, many cases are likely being missed, transmission in hospitals in some areas is rife and the virus is still spreading out of control, Médecins Sans Frontières said on Thursday. With the number of confirmed cases now surpassing 11,000, the outbreak — declared in mid-May and caused by the rare Bundibugyo species of the virus, for which there are no approved treatments or vaccines — is the second-worst on record. Help, however, is not reaching those who need it most, the medical charity said, pointing to untrained and unpaid staff, ambulances without fuel and a lack of surveillance teams and supplies to safely manage suspected cases.

"Despite the vast amounts of money provided for the response,



many frontline responders are left trying to contain the outbreak with empty hands and empty pockets," Dr. Javid Abdelmoneim, MSF's international president, said on Thursday. "Our teams are often left speechless by the dysfunctions they witness in many areas. Six months into the response, this situation is simply unacceptable," he said. MSF called on the Congolese government and UN agencies, which include the World Health Organization, to ensure the resources that have been mobilized translate into support on the ground. The Congolese government did not immediately respond to Reuters requests for comment. Only half of cases likely detected, epidemiologist says At a separate briefing on Wednesday, British epidemiologist Neil Ferguson, who has been working to model the outbreak in real time, said case detection remained a major challenge.

For that reason, he said it was likely transmission would still be ongoing a year from now and the outbreak could outstrip the 2014-2016 West African outbreak — the biggest ever — which saw more than 28,600 cases and killed more than 11,000 people. "Throughout the outbreak, we think we're probably only detecting about half of cases which are occurring," said Ferguson, an epidemiologist and director of public health at Imperial College London.

His team estimated there are currently between 2,000 and 3,000 Ebola patients in Congo. Challenges: from lack of supplies to deadly attacks MSF said different regions of Congo, some of which are conflict zones, faced varying challenges. For example, in Ituri province, only 9 percent of Ebola patients treated by MSF were known contacts of existing cases. Over the last month, close to two-thirds of reported Ebola-related deaths have occurred in communities rather than in treatment centers, MSF added. A lack of supplies from water to chlorine in health care settings was also a risk, MSF said, citing the Beni health zone in North Kivu, where almost three-quarters of Ebola patients are believed to have contracted the disease in such locations. Asked by Reuters about MSF's criticisms, the WHO pointed to remarks made by its.

El Niño Drought Threatens Cambodia's Tonle Sap Lake and Livelihoods

CHONG KNEAS, Nov 12 (Way to News): Cambodia: At the edge of Cambodia's great Tonle Sap lake, a wall of red, blue and yellow metal drums rises bright against the muddy water.

Meas Chou stockpiles these drums wherever he can and sells them to families who use them to keep their houses afloat on Southeast Asia's largest lake. About 1.5 million people live on Tonle Sap, their homes rising and falling with the ebb and flow of the lake's water levels.

This year's record-breaking El Niño is predicted to bring hotter, drier weather across Southeast Asia, threatening both fisheries and farms. For Cambodia, which is already in a time of extreme drought, this could stunt Tonle Sap's annual water flows from the Mekong River, which usually refill the lake each monsoon season. In early October, the water level in the town of Prek Kdam — about halfway between the capital city of Phnom Penh and Tonle Sap — stood at nearly 7 meters (nearly 23 feet). That's more than a meter below average and 1.5 meters (about 5 feet) lower than last year.

Lower water levels mean meager fish catches and less business for Chou. Higher fuel prices due to the Iran war also are hurting his sales and other aspects of life on the lake. There's little he can do but hope the rain comes and the fish return.

"If fishermen can earn a lot, I can sell my goods a lot. But if they earn less, I sell a little less too," he said. Pressures mount on



Cambodia's great lake Tonle Sap rises and falls with an extraordinary natural rhythm that scientists call a "flood pulse." Each year, monsoon rains swell the Mekong River so much that its water flow reverses direction, sending water back upstream into the lake, which then quintuples in size. Sediment-laden flood waters carry nutrients from forests and grasslands into the lake, and the fish follow.

This makes Tonle Sap one of the world's most productive freshwater fisheries.

It is a nursery for some of the world's largest and rarest freshwater fish. That includes the critically endangered Mekong giant catfish, which can grow up to 3 meters (10 feet) long, the Mekong giant barb, which is the world's biggest carp species and can weigh up to 300 kilograms (660 pounds), and the Mekong giant stingray, the world's largest recorded freshwater fish. The annual floods turn dusty roads into busy waterways. Some floating houses become bustling markets. Fishermen pass the hottest hours of the day by playing billiards on the riverside. Crocodile hatchlings chirp from net-covered plastic buckets, to be sold for meat or leather.

But this way of life is imperiled as upstream dams and sand mining alter the flow of the Mekong. With climate change, rainfall has become erratic and droughts are disrupting the seasonal flooding that the lake depends on. Conversations among fisherfolk on the lake often mention two wars: the Iran war, which has driven up fuel prices.

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"Agriculture and Energy Ministries will work hand in hand: New employment opportunities for rural youth in their own villages": Shivraj Singh

New Delhi, Nov 12 (Way to News): The Department of Posts has achieved a historic milestone by crossing the 4,000 crore quarterly revenue mark for two consecutive quarters for the first time. The Department recorded revenue of 8,212.7 crore during the first half of FY 2026-27 (April-September 2026), registering a year-on-year growth of 24% over 6,636 crore in the corresponding period of the previous financial year.

Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region chaired the Second Quarter (Q2) Review at New Delhi, today. Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, Union Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development, Shri Subrat Das, Secretary (Posts), Members of the Postal Services Board, Chief Postmasters General of all Postal Circles and senior officers of the Directorate attended the meeting. The Department earned 4,201.5 crore in Q2 (July-September 2026), registering year-on-year growth of 25% and an increase of 5% over Q1. All six business verticals recorded year-on-year growth. PLI/RPLI grew by 44%, Mails by 36%, Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) by 18%, International Relations & Global Business by 38%, and Parcels by 71%.

The Parcels vertical generated 318.9 crore in Q2, with Kerala, North East, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar exceeding their quarterly targets. Mails revenue increased by 26% over Q1, with 12 Postal Circles achieving or exceeding their Q2 targets. POSB contributed 1,987 crore, while PLI/RPLI achieved 92% of its quarterly target.



Seven Postal Circles achieved 90% or more of their proportionate Q2 targets. Bihar led with 97.15%, followed by West Bengal at 97.07% and North East at 94.79%. For H1, West Bengal recorded 95.72% achievement, followed by Bihar at 95.12% and Andhra Pradesh at 94.63%.

Eighteen of the 23 Postal Circles improved their target achievement over Q1. The Expenditure Cost Ratio reached 42% including pension expenditure and 62% excluding pension expenditure. Twenty-two Circles improved their ratios over Q1.

In recognition of their performance during the first quarter(April–June 2026), Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle was awarded and Bihar Postal Circle was awarded for the second quarter(July–September 2026), for their achievement against their respective proportionate business targets. Bihar Circle achieved 97.15%, followed closely by West Bengal Circle at 97.07% and North East Circle at 94.79%. Their performance reflects focused business efforts and progress towards the Department's revenue objectives. The recognition also underscores the importance of sustained performance, effective business planning and continued efforts to strengthen revenue generation across Postal Circles. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region congratulated officers and employees on the achievement and emphasised the need to sustain growth through customer acquisition, service excellence and customer retention. He called for greater business diversification, stronger leadership, innovation and a customer-centric approach, including flexible pricing for bulk customers, subject to applicable policies and approvals. He also emphasised the need to accelerate the digitalisation of services offered by India Post to enhance customer experience, improve operational efficiency and strengthen the Department's competitiveness.Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, Union Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development highlighted India Post's substantial growth potential and stressed the importance of workforce empowerment, accountability and improved service delivery. He called for standardized procedures and real-time monitoring to address parcel delivery delays and enhance customer satisfaction.

The Ministers directed Postal Circles to sustain growth momentum during the festive and peak parcel season, strengthen Parcels and International Relations & Global Business, accelerate the onboarding of Citizen-Centric Services in collaboration with State Governments, and maintain expenditure discipline. The review also emphasized a cluster-based approach focusing on Agro-Logistics and International Business; MSMEs, ODOP and Tourism; and Citizen-Centric Services, Financial Inclusion, Insurance and Rural Logistics.

IICA signs MoU with Association of ARCs in India to strengthen industry linkages with its flagship programme

New Delhi, Nov 12 (Way to News): The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Association of ARCs in India. The Association is the representative body of Asset Reconstruction Companies registered with the Reserve Bank of India. The MoU was signed under the august presence of Shri Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh. Director General & CEO, IICA, by Shri Amrinder Puri, Chief Administrative Officer, IICA and Shri Hari Hara Mishra, Chief Executive Officer, Association of ARCs in India.

The MoU aims to deepen industry linkages of the Post Graduate Insolvency Programme (PGIP), run by IICA's Centre for Insolvency and Bankruptcy. The PGIP develops a skilled cadre of Insolvency Professionals and Turnaround Specialists. The MoU captures the strategic alignment as decided in the meeting convened by Ministry of Corporate Affairs on 2nd September 2026.

Delivering the keynote address on the occasion, Shri Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh, DG &CEO IICA informed the role of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) in the insolvency resolution ecosystem, including their eligibility and participation as resolution applicants under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). He highlighted that the significant development in the evolution of ARCs came on 11 October 2022, when the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), following the recommendations of the Sudarshan Sen Committee, issued its regulatory framework titled Review of Regulatory Framework for Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) (RBI/2022-23/128). The framework permitted eligible ARCs to act as resolution applicants under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC), subject to the prescribed regulatory conditions. This development expanded the potential role of ARCs in corporate insolvency resolution, enabling them to participate in resolution processes and contribute their expertise in asset valuation, debt restructuring and the management of stressed assets. It also underscored the importance of transparency, operational efficiency and effective value realisation in the resolution of distressed businesses.



Speaking on behalf ARCs, Shri Hari Hara Mishra, CEO ARC India mentioned that this is an emerging partnership with extraordinary potential. As distressed market evolves, a repository of talent pool and research insights are critical for value maximisation for all stakeholders in the ecosystem. He desired that implementation strategy should be immediately put in place in achieving the overall objectives in general and transforming the academic rigour of PGIP course in particular. The proposed collaboration is expected to strengthen the integration of theoretical knowledge with practical industry experience, preparing PGIP participants to respond more effectively to the complexities of insolvency resolution, corporate restructuring and financial distress management. The MoU establishes a collaborative framework built around three key pillars:

Industry-oriented curriculum and capacity building: Industry experts from ARCs will contribute to teaching, faculty support to reorient PGIP course modules more industry-oriented and responsive to emerging professional requirements. Research, data sharing and knowledge creation: The collaboration will promote joint research projects in areas such as debt restructuring, financial markets, stressed assets and insolvency resolution. Data sharing, subject to applicable legal, regulatory, confidentiality and access requirements, will support evidence-based research and the development of research resources on market trends and developments.

MP to Host Fisheries Investment Conclave 2026



New Delhi, Nov 12 (Way to News): The Department of Fisheries, Government of Madhya Pradesh and the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAHD), Government of India (GoI) are organising Fisheries Investors & Exporters Conclave 2026 to be held on 23 October 2026 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The Conclave aims to strengthen linkages between inland fisheries production and investment, processing, cold-chain infrastructure, value addition and export markets. It seeks to encourage a shift from a predominantly production-oriented approach towards an integrated value-chain model, with a focus on improving market access and returns for fishermen and fish farmers.

The Conclave will bring together investors, exporters, fishers, more than 1,000 fish farmers from various parts of Madhya Pradesh, fisheries cooperatives, Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPOs), entrepreneurs, start-ups, processors, financial institutions, research organisations and other stakeholders. Deliberations will focus on enterprise development, access to finance, market linkages and opportunities for collaboration across the inland fisheries value chain, with particular emphasis on integrating inland States into the fisheries investment and export ecosystem.

A key feature of the Conclave will be the release of the MADHYA PRADESH FISHERIES INVESTMENT AND EXPORT GUIDELINES, 2026. Madhya Pradesh has been notified by the Center as a Reservoir Fisheries Cluster. The policy is intended to facilitate investment across key segments of the fisheries value chain, including hatcheries, fish seed and feed, reservoir and cage fisheries, aquatic animal health, processing, cold-chain infrastructure, logistics, value addition and market development.

The programme will also feature the release of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on the export potential of inland States, the virtual inauguration of Integrated Cage Culture Units. During the event, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Panchayati Raj will hand over the Administrative Approval for the Integrated Development of Reservoirs and Amrit Sarovars in Madhya Pradesh. These initiatives are expected to support investment in inland fisheries, promote the productive utilisation of water resources and encourage enterprise development.

The Conclave assumes significance in the context of India's expanding fisheries sector and its growing contribution to food security, livelihoods and export earnings. India's fish production reached 197.75 lakh tonnes in 2024–25.

Secretary, DARPG Reviews Implementation of Special Campaign 6 at Field Offices of Railways and Finance Ministries in Mumbai

New Delhi, Nov 12 (Way to News): Nivedita Shukla Verma, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India, visited field offices of the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Finance in Mumbai on 22 October 2026 to review the implementation of the ongoing Special Campaign 6. The visits focused on assessing progress in cleanliness, space management, disposal of obsolete records and materials, and initiatives aimed at promoting efficient and sustainable workplace management.

As part of the visit to the field office of the Ministry of Railways, the Secretary visited Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), where she reviewed passenger amenities and initiatives undertaken to enhance passenger convenience. As part of the initiative under Special Campaign 6, she participated in Rail Jan Samvad in which she interacted with commuters and reviewed facilities and arrangements at the station, the main line platforms, ticketing facilities and the heritage building. The visit provided an opportunity to assess initiatives undertaken at the field level to improve public-facing services and maintain clean, organised and passenger-friendly railway premises. Additional Secretary, DARPG Shri Puneet Yadav, Shri Rajeev Srivastava, GM, Central Railways and other senior officers of Ministry of Railways were present during the event.



Subsequently, the Secretary visited the State Bank Bhavan, Corporate Centre, Mumbai, where she held a meeting with the top management of the State Bank of India (SBI). A presentation on Special Campaign 6 was made by the Bank Officials, highlighting initiatives and progress under the campaign. As part of the Campaign, the Secretary and the Chairperson of the SBI Shri CS Setty launched an e-book on Cyber Fraud Awareness, an initiative aimed at promoting awareness about cyber fraud and encouraging safe digital practices.

During the visit, the Secretary also viewed 'Punarnava', the e-waste-to-art sculpture installed at the entrance of State Bank Bhavan. The installation reflects the potential of repurposing discarded electronic materials through creative reuse which is one of the objectives of the Special Campaign. She also visited the SBI Auditorium, which has been renovated as part of the Special Campaign 6, reflecting the campaign's focus on the optimal utilisation of existing office spaces and the transformation of underutilised infrastructure into functional facilities.

SAEINDIA to Host Asia Pacific Automotive Engineering Conference in Delhi

New Delhi, Nov 12 (Way to News): SAEINDIA is set to host APAC 23 – 23rd Asia Pacific Automotive Engineering Conference 2026, one of the region's prominent forums for automotive and mobility engineering, from 13–14 November 2026 at Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, New Delhi.

Organised under the theme "Xellerating towards Safe, Secure, Sustainable & Intelligent Mobility," APAC 23 will bring together mobility leaders, engineers, technologists, researchers, policymakers, academia, start-ups and solution providers from India and across the Asia-Pacific region to exchange ideas, showcase emerging technologies and explore the future of mobility. The conference assumes special significance for India as SAEINDIA hosts APAC for the second time after a gap of 15 years, placing the country at the centre of an influential regional dialogue on the technologies and engineering solutions shaping the next generation of transportation.

Originating in 1981 as the International Pacific Conference, APAC has evolved into a collaborative automotive engineering forum representing 11 countries across the AsiaPacific region. Over the decades, it has created a platform for engineering communities to exchange knowledge, strengthen international collaboration and address emerging challenges across the automotive and mobility ecosystem.

As the global mobility sector undergoes rapid transformation driven by electrification, software, artificial intelligence, connectivity, automation, sustainability and evolving safety requirements, APAC 23 will provide a timely platform to examine how engineering innovation can translate these developments into safe, secure and sustainable mobility solutions.

APAC 23 is expected to welcome 1,000+ delegates and 500+ mobility experts, with participation from leading automotive OEMs, component manufacturers, technology companies, engineering service providers, research organisations, academic institutions, start-ups and government and regulatory stakeholders.

The two-day conference is expected to feature 150+ technical presentations and 80+ exhibitors, creating an extensive platform for knowledge exchange, technology demonstration, business networking and cross-border collaboration.



Technical discussions at APAC 23 will span some of the most important areas influencing the future of mobility, including: APAC 23 has been designed as more than a conventional technical conference. Alongside plenary and technical sessions, the event will feature an Exposition, TechHive, Technology Theatre and dedicated networking and business engagement opportunities, enabling participants to experience mobility innovation from multiple perspectives. The APAC 23 Exposition will provide organisations with a platform to demonstrate technologies, products, engineering capabilities and next-generation mobility solutions to a highly relevant audience of industry professionals and decision-makers.

The Technology Theatre, located within the exposition area, will offer an interactive platform for organisations to present new technologies, solutions, product innovations and engineering developments directly to conference participants. TechHive: Giving Mobility Start-ups a Global Stage A major highlight of APAC 23 will be TechHive, a dedicated platform created to connect mobility start-ups with the wider automotive ecosystem. TechHive will provide emerging companies with opportunities to showcase innovations, interact with industry leaders, technology experts, investors, potential customers and collaborators, and build visibility within the Asia-Pacific mobility community.

Through TechHive, APAC 23 aims to strengthen the connection between emerging innovation and established industry, encouraging collaborations capable of accelerating new mobility technologies from concept to real-world application.

India at the Centre of the Mobility Transformation India is rapidly emerging as one of the world's most significant mobility markets and engineering hubs. The convergence of a large automotive manufacturing ecosystem, strong engineering talent, an expanding start-up landscape and increasing investments in electric, connected, software-defined and sustainable mobility presents a unique opportunity for the country. By bringing APAC back to India after 15 years, SAEINDIA aims to facilitate deeper engagement between India and the wider Asia-Pacific automotive engineering community and create new opportunities for technology exchange, research collaboration, partnerships and business development.

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Srikanth Beats World No. 8 Naraoka

Lakshya Advances At Japan Masters



Kumamoto, Nov 12 (Way to News): Former World No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth outplayed World No. 8 and home favourite Kodai Naraoka in a three-game thriller, advancing to the quarter-finals of the Japan Masters, a BWF World Tour Super 500 tournament here at the Kumamoto Prefectural Gymnasium. Joining Srikanth in the last eight is newly crowned Hylo Open champion Lakshya Sen, who registered a comfortable win over his Chinese opponent. Despite entering the match with a 0-4 head-to-head record against Naraoka, Srikanth showed great composure to take the opening game 21-15, winning seven consecutive points after trailing 12-14.

The Japanese shuttler fought back strongly to force a decider and held the early advantage in the last game. However, Srikanth kept his nerve, drew level at 7-7 and regained control to close out the match 21-18 in 60 minutes.

This win was not Srikanth's only big one of the season. He beat Paris 2024 bronze medallist Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia en route to a runner-up finish at the US Open in June and stunned then world No. 9 Victor Lai of Canada to reach the China Masters Super 750 quarter-finals in September.

Srikanth will next face another Japanese opponent, World No. 15 Koki Watanabe, in the quarter-finals. Meanwhile, eighth seed Lakshya Sen continued his strong run with a dominant 21-8, 21-14 victory over China's Dong Tian Yao in 35 minutes. He will take on Japan's Yushi Tanaka for a place in the semi-finals.

India's doubles challenge, however, came to an end on Thursday as men's doubles pair Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun, along with women's doubles duo Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand Pullela, lost their respective Round of 16 matches. Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun also bowed out after losing 21-14, 21-14 to Japan's Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi in 34 minutes, while World Championships bronze medallists Treesa and Gayatri lost 21-14, 21-14 to third seeds Rin Iwanaga and Kie Nakanishi of Japan in the women's doubles round of 16.

WCC Legends To Be Launched In Shanghai In Historic First For China

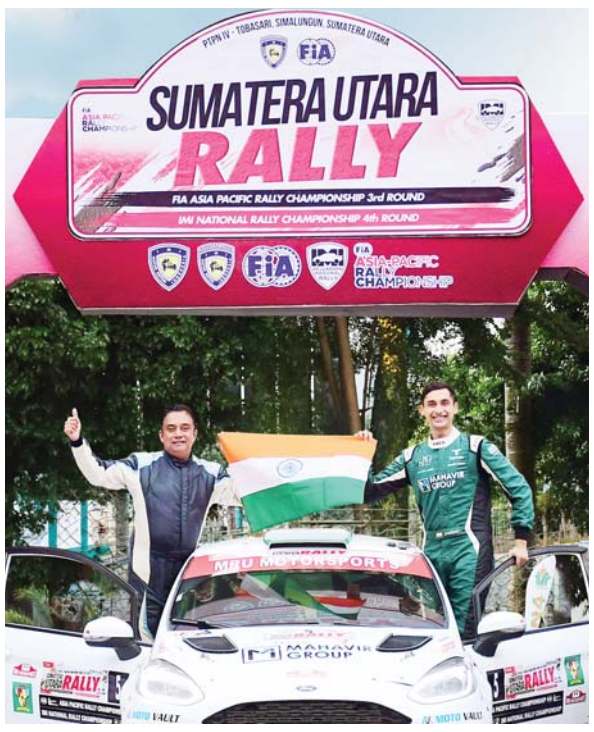


Dubai, Nov 12 (Way to News): To tap into China's ambitions to reach a broader mainstream cricket audience, a franchise-based World Championship of Cricket (WCC) is set to launch in Shanghai. The WCC, in association with Dongyuehui Sports, is set to roll out a franchise-based competition. In what will be a first for the country, an eight-team Legends T20 franchise league is scheduled to run in May 2027, with several former international stars set to feature in the WCC.

This comes as cricket continues to expand into multi-sport events. The sport will return to the Olympics in 2028 in Los Angeles, as China gets an opportunity to accelerate its cricketing development. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in October 2026 between the WCC and Dongyuehui Sports, operator of the Shaxi Town Cricket Centre in Taicang, Jiangsu Province. Praveen Sharma, Chairman of WCC, and Yonghui Tong, Chairman of Dongyuehui Sports, also gave their approval to the league. "Cricket has the unique ability to connect people across cultures and borders, and China presents one of the most exciting opportunities for the sport's future growth," he said. "We are seeking the support of the Local Authorities and our partnership with Dongyuehui Sports; we are committed to delivering a world-class cricketing experience and creating a platform that can inspire the next generation of players and fans. This agreement marks an important milestone in turning that vision into reality," he added. Meanwhile, WCC founder Amandeep Singh was also pleased to see China hosting the WCC. "Taking WCC to China has been an ambition from the beginning. Today's signing brings that ambition a step closer.

"We want to give fans the chance to watch celebrated cricketers in action and introduce new audiences to the excitement of the game. We look forward to working with our partners in Taicang to make the inaugural edition something special," Amandeep said. The league will have local expertise and infrastructure developed by Dongyuehui Sports and aims to bring China closer to world-class cricket.

Jeet Jhabakh makes history with APRC rally title



New Delh, Nov 12 (Way to News): Indian racer Jeet Jhabakh reflected on winning the historic FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship title as he etched his name into the history books. Jeet, 34, and co-driver Musa Sherif, 55, became the first all-Indian driver and co-driver pair to win the overall APRC title, finishing with 73 points from the three rounds held this season, as the China round was cancelled.

Jeet, who made his international debut this season, also defied convention by becoming the first driver in the 38-year history of the FIA APRC to win the title in a two-wheel-drive car, a feat never before achieved. Speaking toexclusively, Jeet opened up about his achievement in his first international season, admitting that the feeling of the win has not yet sunk in and that his victory has rightly raised the ceiling in Indian motorsport.

"Honestly, I don't know whether it's still sunken fully; it is something that I honestly didn't expect to get in such a short duration of my rallying career," Jeet told. "I've been in motorsport for a while, but rallying has hardly been two years for me; this is my third full year. We went international, and it kind of clicked for us, so I'm very grateful for this overall experience, and for Indian motorsport, I think the ceiling moved, which is very interesting," he added.

Jeet also believed that Indian motorsport is not short on talent and that it was unfortunate that India does not have many titles in rally racing. "We have a lot of great drivers, and there is no dearth of drivers in India, but unfortunately, we don't have too many international titles, which is very weird to me, but this win of ours kind of sets the trail blaze a little bit for everyone, and they realise that it is possible even for somebody who is fairly new into this discipline of motorsport, it is possible to go out there and win a continental title.

US Withdraws From FIFA U-17 World Cup In Qatar Amid Middle East Security Concerns



New Delhi, Nov 12 (Way to News):The United States has withdrawn from the FIFA U-17 World Cup in Qatar, with security concerns amid the continuing conflict in the Middle East reportedly prompting the decision. The withdrawal comes just a week before the 48-team tournament begins on November 19, leaving FIFA to assess whether another nation will be invited to fill the vacant spot or the competition format will be adjusted.

Several media reports attributed the US decision to the deteriorating security situation in the region, Xinhua reports. The tournament is scheduled to run until December 13, with the United States drawn in Group I alongside Montenegro, Chile and Algeria.

The conflict, which began in February with joint US-Israeli strikes on Iran, has had repercussions across the Gulf, with Tehran retaliating against targets that included countries allied with Washington. Diplomatic efforts to end hostilities have been accompanied by repeated threats of renewed military action, raising concerns about staging international sporting events in the region. The impact has already been felt across the sporting calendar. The WTA Finals, originally scheduled to take place in Saudi Arabia, were shifted to Indian Wells in the United States. Formula One races in Jeddah and Bahrain were also affected, with the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix cancelled and the Bahrain race called off before being rescheduled under the same name in Malaysia. Under FIFA's competition regulations, a member association that withdraws its team within 30 days of the tournament's start faces a minimum fine of 20,000 Swiss francs (approximately 24,000 US dollars). FIFA also retains the authority to decide whether to invite a replacement nation. The governing body's competitions department has yet to settle on a course of action. Finding a replacement at such short notice could prove difficult.

World Tennis League Season 5 To Held From Dec 17–20 In Bengaluru



Bengaluru, Nov 12 (Way to News): World Tennis League (WTL) season five will be held in Bengaluru from December 17 to 20. The tournament will be played at the KSLTA, S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium, bringing together leading international stars alongside India's top players. Season 5 will once again feature an exciting mix of established international stars and emerging talent. Adding to the anticipation are several returning players from last season, including Paula Badosa, Yuki Bhambri, Sumit Nagal, Dhakshineswar Suresh, Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi, and Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, who will be back on the WTL court for the upcoming edition.

Mahesh Bhupathi, co-founder of the World Tennis League, said, "Last season was an exciting chapter for the World Tennis League, with an impressive mix of international talent and Indian players coming together to deliver some memorable tennis.

"The response from fans and the energy around the competition reinforced our vision of creating a distinctive global tennis property. As we move into Season 5, we are looking to build on that momentum, take the league to new audiences and continue raising the bar with every edition." Hemali Sharma, Co-founder, World Tennis League, said, "We are delighted to bring the World Tennis League back to Bengaluru. The city has a strong sporting culture and an enthusiastic tennis-following audience, making it an exciting destination for Season 5.

Sachin Tendulkar to donate 26 bats, memorabilia to MCA museum



Mumbai, Nov 12 (Way to News): Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar will gift 26 of his prized cricketing bats, including those with which he scored some of his 100 international centuries, along with other memorabilia for display at the Mumbai Cricket Association's (MCA) Sharad Pawar Cricket Museum. The collection, which includes helmets, jerseys and personal notes from significant occasions in his career, will be unveiled at a special event on November 16. The exhibition, titled 'Batography', will trace Tendulkar's illustrious cricketing journey through the bats he used during different phases of his career.

The unveiling will take place on the 13th anniversary of Tendulkar's retirement from international cricket. He had played his 200th and final Test against the West Indies at his home ground, the Wankhede Stadium, on November 16, 2013.

The dedicated section at the MCA museum will offer visitors an opportunity to revisit some of the defining moments and milestones of Tendulkar's career through the cricketing equipment and personal artefacts associated with them. "Through Batography, we are bringing a unique dimension to the MCA Museum, allowing visitors to experience the story behind the milestones through the very instruments with which they were created," MCA president Ajinkya Naik said. "We are honoured that Sachin has chosen to share these prized possessions with the MCA, ensuring that this extraordinary legacy remains accessible to generations of cricket lovers," he added.

Abhinav Bindra raises concerns over IOA constitution, electoral rules



Bengaluru, Nov 12 (Way to News): Olympic gold medalist and legendary rifle shooter Abhinav Bindra made public his letter to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), in which he questioned the inconsistency between the IOA's constitution and the electoral rules governing the recently concluded Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOM) elections. He also pointed to a lack of response to his query from the governing body's leadership and called for stronger governance, fairness, and integrity in the country's sporting organisations and their processes.

In recent SOM elections, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha suffered a setback after losing the polls in the women's category, while Olympic medallist Saina Nehwal and former athletes Anju Bobby George, Rani Rampal and Dola Banerjee were elected. The men's category had already seen four candidates elected unopposed after eight of the 12 contenders withdrew from the race. Olympic medallists Gagan Narang, Yogeshwar Dutt and Vijender Singh, along with former table tennis player Kamlesh Mehta, have secured their places as male SOM representatives.

Her defeat in the SOM elections comes ahead of the December 5 polls to elect the IOA Executive Council for the 2026-2030 term. The SOM representatives will become members of the IOA General Assembly and will be eligible to vote and contest in the December 5 Executive Council elections. One male and one female SOM representative will also secure places in the Executive Council, giving the elected members a direct role in the association's governing structure.

Posting his letter on X, Abhinav wrote, "Unfortunately, my private correspondence with the Indian Olympic Association has found its way into the public domain. Given the references to it in recent media reports, I thought it appropriate to share my letter of 31 October 2026 in its entirety, so that its intent and context are clear. The letter was written before the elections, in a spirit of constructive engagement and with the larger interests of Indian sport at heart."

"I had raised a specific question concerning an apparent inconsistency between the IOA Constitution and the electoral rules. While I received an indication of which rules were being followed, the underlying constitutional question remained unanswered. To date, I have received no substantive clarification from either the Electoral Officer or the IOA leadership," he added. In his post, Bindra said that his intention was not to question "individuals or influence an electoral outcome" but to "encourage greater clarity, transparency and confidence in our institutions". "I have always believed that the strength of an institution lies not in the absence of questions, but in its willingness to address them. As India looks towards an increasingly ambitious future in world sport, the credibility of our institutions will be just as important as the achievements of our athletes," he added.

Abhinav called for strong governance in sporting institutions, saying it is not "merely an administrative necessity; it is the foundation upon which lasting sporting progress is built." He also said that the credibility of sporting institutions does not rest merely on the decisions made, but on the fairness and integrity of processes followed to reach them. "Strong governance is not merely an administrative necessity; it is the foundation upon which lasting sporting progress is built. My sincere hope is that we move forward with a shared commitment to constitutional clarity, fairness and integrity in all our institutional and electoral processes. These principles must never depend on individuals or outcomes. Ultimately, the credibility of our sporting institutions rests not merely on the decisions they make, but on the fairness and integrity of the processes through which those decisions are reached. Indian sport deserves nothing less," he signed off.

In his letter to the IOA, he had written to President PT Usha and CEO Raghuram Iyer, "I wanted to share a thought with you in the spirit of goodwill and with the larger interests of the Olympic movement in India at heart." "As you may be aware, I had written to the Electoral Officer seeking clarification on an apparent inconsistency between Article 3.7 of the IOA Constitution and the recently notified rules governing the election of Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit. I had also followed up and, while I did receive a response indicating which rules were being followed, my specific question regarding the apparent inconsistency between those rules and the IOA Constitution remained unanswered. It was this clarification that I had genuinely hoped to receive," he said.

Abhinav also said that while he had independently decided not to contest for any elections, with the Executive Council elections also coming on December 5, he still believes that the questions raised by him stay relevant irrespective of his participation in the electoral process.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Siddhu10 Begins with Grand Pooja Ceremony



Telugu actor Siddhu Jonnalagadda's next Telugu film, which is yet to be titled and which is tentatively being referred to as #Siddhu10, went on the floors on Wednesday with a grand pooja ceremony that was attended by the core team of the film.

Popular producer Allu Aravind, who is also the father of Telugu star Allu Arjun, clapped the board for the first shot of the film, signalling its official launch. The makers disclosed that regular shooting for the film would begin later this month with the filming of a song sequence.

The film, which is to be directed by Mohan B, has triggered great interest as it is has ace director Sukumar as one of its producers. Sukumar in association with well known producers Bunny Vas, Anmol Sharma, and Ashok Bandireddy is producing the film.

The film, which will be a romantic entertainer, features actress Nayan Sarika as the female lead. Taking to his Instagram page to share images of the pooja ceremony, director Sukumar, who is producing the film, wrote,"With divine blessings and boundless excitement. The journey of #Siddhu10 begins with a grand pooja ceremony.Shoot begins soon to bring a beautiful love story to life." The film is to have music by three-time National Award winning music director, G V Prakash Kumar.

It may be recalled that director Mohan B, on Tuesday, had taken to his Instagram page to pen an emotional post before the launch of the film.

He had said,"Every storyteller carries a dream within. Today, that dream takes its first step towards the silver screen.A new beginning, a new journey, and a dream turning into reality. Here's to new beginnings! #SIDDHU10. A BEAUTIFUL COLLABORATION to celebrate the magic of LOVE. @sukumarwritings x @bvworksoffl Production No 2 is StarBoy #Siddhu10. Pooja Ceremony, Tomorrow, 11th Nov at 9:32 AM."

Sources close to the unit said that the film makers would announce the other members of the cast and crew shortly.

Mani Ratnam's new film 'Inji Vellam' release date finalized

The release date of the new film 'Inji Vellam', directed by renowned director Mani Ratnam, has been finalized. The film team, which stars veteran actor Vijay Sethupathi and Sai Pallavi in the lead roles, has officially announced that the film will be released worldwide on January 29 next year. Mani Ratnam and Subhaskaran are jointly producing the film under the banners of Madras Talkies and Lyca Productions.

To this extent, Madras Talkies announced the release date on social media.. "Remember this date. 'Inji Vellam' will be making waves worldwide from January 29th." The head of Lyca Productions is presenting the film. It is known that the title of the film was announced last September through a special voice-over clip. The funny conversation between Vijay Sethupathi and Sai Pallavi about who is 'Inji' (almond) and who is 'Vellam' (ginger) has impressed the audience.

This is Vijay Sethupathi's second film under the direction of Mani Ratnam after 'Chekka Chivantha Vaanam' (Nawab). Oscar winner AR Rahman is composing the music for this film, while Avik Mukhopadhyay is the cinematographer and Sreekar Prasad is the editor. There are huge expectations among movie fans on this crazy project, which is coming with a combination of top-notch actors and veteran technicians.





Allari Naresh-starrer 'Alcohol' to hit screens on December 18

Telugu star Allari Naresh's eagerly awaited action comedy entertainer, 'Alcohol', will hit screens on December 18 this year, its makers announced on Thursday. Taking to its X timeline, Sithara Entertainments, the production house producing the film, wrote, "The countdown to madness begins! #Alcohol is all set for a GRAND WORLDWIDE RELEASE ON DECEMBER 18th! Brace yourselves for a WILD ride! #AlcoholFromDec18th."

A teaser that the makers had released last year showed that the film would revolve around actor Allari Naresh's character, an absolute teetotaler. The teaser opened with a conversation between Satya and Allari Naresh. Satya asks Allari Naresh, "You earn lakhs and lakhs. Yet you do not drink. Why?" Allari Naresh retorts, saying, "What is the connection between earnings and drinking?" Satya persists with his questions. He asks Allari Naresh why he does not drink. Allari Naresh tries to joke this time around. He says, "I don't drink because you won't have a driver to drive you around if I do." Satya, who is determined to get a proper reply, tells Allari Naresh not to joke and to give him a serious answer.

Allari Naresh then replies, "If we drink, we will not be under our control. I do not like alcohol controlling me."

At one point, the teaser shows Satya saying that he had now given up alcohol. He asks, "Whom should I throw the party for now?" Allari Naresh says he has invited his friends Secret Sharath, Sound Sunder, Ramesh, Suresh, Subash and Sanya and that they will drink. To this, Satya asks, "What if they don't drink?"

Allari Naresh responds in a menacing tone, "Get them to drink." Directed by Meher Tej, the film features Allari Naresh, Ruhani Sharma, Niharika NM and Satya in the lead. Apart from the lead actors, the film will also feature actors Girish Kulkarni, Harshavardhan, Chaitanya Krishna, Ravindra Vijay, Raghu Babu, Venkatesh Kakumanu, Kireeti, Hariteja, Surya Bhagavan Das and Flora Jacob in pivotal roles.

On the technical front, the film has music by gifted Tamil music composer Ghibran. Background score for the film is by Chaitan Bharadwaj and cinematography is by Jiju Sunny. Editing for the film has been handled by Niranjan Devaramane.

Produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, the film is being presented by Srikara Studios.

Sanjay Dutt Links Hardships to Past-Life Karma



Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt's life is known to be full of dramatic twists, controversies and challenges. However, his previous comments that the hardships and incidents in his life are due to the influence of past life karma are always interesting. While participating in the talk show 'Koffee with Karan' Season 5, hosted by famous director and producer Karan Johar, Sanjay Dutt shared a strange experience related to his past life with actress Sushmita Sen.

On this occasion, Sanjay Dutt recalled that he had gone to a small village in the past on the advice of his friend. He said that after examining the palm leaves based on his fingerprints (similar to Nadi Astrology), the scholar there explained about his past life. Describing the experience, Sanjay Dutt said, "If you give your fingerprint in that village, they will find the relevant key document. According to those documents, I was a king during the Ashoka Empire in my previous life. My wife loved my minister. She sent me to the battlefield with a conspiracy to kill me in war. But I killed many enemies in that war and returned alive. When I reached the kingdom of Thira, I found out about their deceit and killed the minister along with my wife. Since I was a great devotee of Shiva, I went into deep remorse and went to the forest. There, I starved to death without eating anything and died," said Sanjay Dutt.

Sanjay Dutt strongly believes that the result of the karma done in the previous life has determined his life in this life. "It was because of my devotion and merit in my previous life that I was born in a good family in this life. I was given a good lifestyle and a great film career. But at the same time, I had to pay the price in this life for the sin of many murders I committed in that life. That is why I faced so many obstacles and difficulties in my life," he said. Sanjay Dutt, who made his debut on the silver screen with the film 'Rocky' in 1981, later became recognized as a leading actor in Indian cinema with successful films like 'Khal Nayak' (1993), 'Vastav' (1999), 'Munnabhai MBBS' (2003), and 'Lage Raho Munnabhai' (2006).

Kareena Kapoor Khan gets legal notice over Ayat-ul-Kursi pendant

Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan has landed in controversy over her royal jewellery, with a 30-carat emerald pendant from the Bhopal royal family now becoming the centre of a religious debate. What was initially admired as a stunning piece of family heritage has now invited a legal notice, with questions being raised over the actress wearing a Quran-inscribed pendant at a Diwali celebration. Congress leader Abbas Hafeez has issued a legal notice to Kareena and celebrity stylist Rhea Kapoor, alleging that the manner in which the pendant was displayed hurt religious sentiments. The notice reportedly demands the removal of the photographs from social media and a public apology.

However, the controversy has now taken another turn after lawyer and political analyst Imran Ahmad Ali questioned the actress's decision to wear the sacred inscription at a party.During a discussion on News18's Brass Tacks, hosted by journalist Nabila Jamal, lawyer Imran Ahmad Ali argued that the religious significance of the pendant should have been considered before wearing it to a social gathering.

According to Imran, the fact that the pendant is a family heirloom does not change the religious sentiments associated with the Quranic verse engraved on it.

He maintained that wearing jewellery containing sacred religious text to a party could hurt the sentiments of believers and warned that Kareena would have to answer questions in court However, anchor Nabila Jamal presented a different perspective. Defending the actress, Nabila pointed out that the pendant featured a beautiful Quranic verse and that Kareena was wearing it close to her chest, suggesting that the gesture could also be viewed as one of respect rather than disrespect. Imran, however, was unconvinced. "Would you wear it to a party or wear it to a prayer?" he countered, questioning whether a religious inscription should be treated as an accessory for a social occasion. The exchange highlighted two contrasting perspectives, with one side questioning the appropriateness of the occasion and the other arguing that wearing a sacred verse close to one's heart does not necessarily amount to disrespect. The jewellery that has sparked the controversy is no ordinary Bollywood accessory. Kareena wore the 30-carat emerald pendant during her Diwali celebrations, pairing it with a beige kaftan and turban designed by Punit Balana. Celebrity stylist Rhea Kapoor revealed that the emerald originally belonged to the Begum of Bhopal and features Ayat-ul-Kursi, the 255th verse of Surah Al-Baqarah in the Quran. The pendant is part of the royal heritage of Kareena's husband, actor Saif Ali Khan. His grandmother, Sajida Sultan, was the daughter of Bhopal's last ruling Nawab, Hamidullah Khan.



Kareena also wore a 200-year-old royal kalgi associated with the Nawab of Bhopal, making her festive appearance a tribute to the family's history. According to the reports, Congress leader Abbas Hafeez issued the notice on November 11 in his individual capacity, objecting specifically to the presentation of the sacred inscription rather than Kareena's personal clothing choices. The notice seeks the removal of the photographs and videos featuring the pendant, along with a public apology and an assurance that religious inscriptions will be treated with appropriate reverence. While the complainant has alleged that the presentation hurt religious sentiments, there has been no reported court ruling establishing that Kareena committed any wrongdoing. As the debate continues, the controversy has raised a larger question about the intersection of religious symbolism, royal heritage and celebrity fashion.

Kareena Kapoor Khan has not publicly responded to the legal notice at the time of writing.

Sidharth Malhotra takes a dig at Kartik Aaryan's PR budget

Karan Johar's popular celebrity chat show Koffee With Karan 9 is grabbing attention once again, and this time, it is Sidharth Malhotra's remark about Kartik Aaryan that has become a talking point. The latest episode, featuring Sidharth and Kiara Advani, saw the actor opening up about Bollywood's growing obsession with paid PR, image building and the pressure to maintain a certain perception in the industry.

However, it was his response to a question involving Kartik Aaryan that stood out, especially considering the much-discussed equation between Kartik and Karan Johar. During the rapid-fire round, Karan asked Sidharth what he would take from Kartik Aaryan. Without much hesitation, Sidharth responded, "The PR budget that he has." Karan simply reacted with an "Okay" before moving ahead with the conversation.

While the remark appeared to be a cheeky dig at Kartik, Sidharth's larger conversation about the current state of Bollywood made the response even more interesting. The actor spoke about the industry's increasingly aggressive paid PR culture, where building perceptions around celebrities has become a significant part of the business. He also discussed how stars are increasingly focused on creating a particular public image rather than allowing their performances and box office numbers to speak for themselves.



His comments highlighted the growing debate around Bollywood's publicity machinery and whether manufactured popularity is beginning to overshadow genuine audience appreciation. Interestingly, Sidharth's comment came in front of Karan Johar, whose professional relationship with Kartik Aaryan has made headlines several times. For those unaware, Kartik was initially supposed to star in Dharma Productions' Dostana 2 alongside Janhvi Kapoor. However, his sudden exit from the film in 2021 sparked widespread speculation about a fallout between the actor and filmmaker. The controversy became one of Bollywood's most talked-about industry disputes, with questions surrounding Kartik's relationship with Dharma Productions. However, the two eventually appeared to bury the hatchet, with Karan publicly acknowledging their past differences and praising Kartik's work. The actor is also associated with Dharma Productions' Naagzilla, indicating that their professional relationship has improved. Against this backdrop, Karan's brief reaction to Sidharth's comment added an interesting layer to the conversation. While Sidharth did not directly accuse Kartik of manipulating public perception, his remark about the actor's PR budget, followed by his broader observations about Bollywood's publicity culture, has certainly given viewers something to discuss.

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