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PM Modi urges India to accelerate Science and Research

PM INAUGURATES INDIA'S FIRST LED DOME PLANETARIUM IN MYSURU, HIGHLIGHTS PROGRESS IN SPACE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Prime Minister praised Indian students for their achievements in international scientific competitions, particularly in astronomy and astrophysics. He recalled that India had hosted the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics in Mumbai last year and said Indian students had participated enthusiastically.



Mysuru, Nov 13 (Way to News): Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that no nation could afford to undermine or slow down its progress amid rapidly changing technology, stressing that India was creating a strong ecosystem for science and research to keep pace with global advancements.

Speaking after inaugurating COSMOS-Mysuru Planetarium, India's first LED Dome planetarium, he said the country had made significant progress in astronomy, astrophysics and the space sector over the last decade, with several achievements placing India among a select group of countries capable of undertaking complex space missions. "Today, technology is changing rapidly. No country can take the risk of undermining or slowing down its progress. A strong ecosystem for science and research is being created in the country," he said.

PM Modi said the inauguration of COSMOS-Mysuru marked another important milestone in India's efforts to promote scientific temper and research, particularly among the younger generation. Recalling his earlier visit to Mysuru for the inauguration of Viveka Smaraka, he said the two occasions carried a deeper message about India's cultural traditions and values. While Viveka Smaraka inspired people to look within themselves and seek spiritual knowledge, COSMOS-Mysuru encouraged them to look towards the sky and explore the mysteries of the universe. "To understand this vast universe and unravel the secrets of the world is an inspiration in itself. In Bharat, the traditions of science and spirituality have always travelled together," he said.

Highlighting India's ancient contributions to astronomy, the Prime Minister said ancestors had studied celestial bodies in detail, calculated the movements of stars and planets, developed calendars and understood solar and lunar eclipses. He recalled the contributions of renowned astronomers such as Aryabhata, Bhaskaracharya and Nilakantha Somayaji, noting that they made complex scientific calculations and discoveries despite not having access to modern technology and sophisticated instruments. PM Modi said Mysuru had a long tradition of promoting knowledge and scientific inquiry. During the reign of Maharaja Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, the University of Mysore was established, while the Wadiyar family also played a significant role in the establishment of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru.

He said the royal family had consistently supported researchers and institutions that encouraged scientific advancement. "At a time when Bharat is achieving one milestone after another in science, Mysuru is adding a new chapter with the establishment of COSMOS Planetarium," he said, describing the facility as a state-of-the-art institution dedicated to the youth and people of the country. Sharing his experience of watching a show at the planetarium, PM Modi described it as wonderful and congratulated the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, the University of Mysore, government departments and everyone involved in executing the project.

Microsoft services recover across 74 countries following global outage



New Delhi, Nov 13 (Way to News): Microsoft services began coming back online after a global outage left millions of users without access for nearly 18 hours, disrupting businesses, schools, government agencies, and airline operations across at least 74 countries, including the United States.

Major services impacted during the event included Outlook email, Microsoft Teams, and Copilot. The disruption also affected airline operations worldwide, prompting major Indian carriers to issue passenger advisories.

According to Microsoft 365 Status (the official Microsoft account for updates on certain Microsoft 365 service incidents), the outage was not caused by a cyberattack. Instead, overwhelmed servers responsible for establishing secure connections failed, preventing them from processing user requests.

In an update posted on X, Microsoft 365 Status detailed the ongoing restoration efforts across various continents. "We're seeing continued recovery progress across affected regions, with broader improvements in North America, sustained improvements across much of Europe, and encouraging recovery signals in Asia Pacific," Microsoft 365 Status said.

Despite the recovery, the company noted that full stability has not yet returned for everyone.

"Some users may still experience intermittent access issues or delayed email delivery as mitigation continues across remaining affected infrastructure," the update added. "Our focus remains on stabilising recovered infrastructure, completing mitigation in remaining impacted areas, and reducing delayed email queues and backlogs while we validate service consistency across connection methods," Microsoft 365 Status said.

The outage disrupted Outlook, Teams, and other Microsoft 365 services for over five hours on Thursday, affecting thousands of users alongside AI service connectors used by OpenAI and Anthropic, Reuters reported.

Data from outage-tracking platform Downdetector showed the scale of the user complaints during peak hours. Reports of Outlook outages peaked at 138,058 around 1 pm ET before declining to 34,490 by Thursday evening.

Rahul Gandhi alleges phone tapping, renews debate challenge to Modi



New Delhi, Nov 13 (Way to News): Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday hit back at the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) allegations that he is receiving "help from foreign powers" to create "anarchy" in the country, alleging that his phone is being "tapped on the directions" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Moreover, the LoP renewed his one-on-one debate challenge to PM Modi, claiming that the exchange would "end the latter's political career".

In a video posted on Congress's official X account, Rahul Gandhi held up his phone, saying, "The proof is here." "It is in this phone. The Prime Minister (Modi) knows it because he taps my phone, the moment he comes for the one-one-one debate, everybody will know who is controlled by foreign powers and who is an anti-national, since when he's been an anti-national and lots of other details that I know and are on my phone," he alleged. Rahul Gandhi also took a jibe at Prime Minister Modi over his previous "debate" challenge.

"If he (PM Modi) comes to debate he will have to come out of his air chamber and breathe what everybody else breathes," the LoP said, referring to the rising pollution levels in Delhi-National Capital Region. Earlier, Rahul Gandhi had challenged PM Modi to directly engage in a debate on a host of issues.

Reacting to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's challenge for debate in the Parliament, the LoP said: "I tried to do it in the Parliament but my mic is switched off. I was not allowed to speak on Kisan Bill, 'vote chori', SIR, China and other issues." Urging for an one-on-one political exchange, Rahul Gandhi said: "I don't want a speech based debate."

"I guarantee that after a one-on-one debate, Prime Minister won't be able to hold on to his post," the LoP claimed. Later in a video message on his official X account, Rahul Gandhi said: "The Prime Minister's political career will be over if he comes and debates with me. He knows that and I know that."

"He (PM Modi) keeps calling me anti-national, I want to show the nation exactly who is anti-national, exactly who is controlled by whom and since when. He knows the truth of that," the LoP added. The Congress MP also claimed that Prime Minister Modi has "fear in his mind" which is why "he is no longer commenting about me". "He (PM Modi) is no longer attacking me, he is being very very careful. There is a reason for it," Rahul Gandhi remarked.

26 Killed, 20 Seriously Injured in Minibus-Truck Collision in Assam



Kaziranga, Nov 13 (Way to News):At least 26 people died, including women and minors, and 20 others were injured in a head-on collision between a minibus and a container truck near Kaziranga National Park in Assam on Friday, officials said. Many of the victims were college students who were returning from their classes. The accident occurred at Rangajan near Hathikuli Tea Estate in Kohora range on National Highway-715 when the passenger vehicle collided with the truck, a senior officer said.

"The total number of dead in the accident has increased to 26. Ambulances have taken the people to different hospitals, and we are collecting the data from them," said Dipam Kumar Barman, a senior doctor at Kohora Model Hospital. At an official function in Biswanath earlier, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that at least 24 people lost their lives and college students were among the dead. Several critically injured people are being treated at Bokakhat Civil Hospital and Jorhat Medical College and Hospital, he added.

"Minister Ranoj Pegu will soon visit Kaziranga, and I will also go tomorrow," Sarma said. Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Atul Bora is already at the accident site overseeing the relief arrangements. Earlier, an Executive Magistrate of Golaghat district told reporters here that the death toll was rising very fast as many of the injured are critical.

"Already nine ambulances have been operating to ferry the injured people. Doctors here have referred 20 people to Jorhat for advanced treatment," he added. Out of the deceased, 14 people have been identified as Jyoti Majhi, Darpana Majhi, Anurag Goala (a 12-year-old boy), Abdul Mujid (driver of the minibus), Subhash (handyman of the minibus), Rashid Ali, Hafiza Khatun and Farhana Yasmin, KR Lobho, Amjad Ali, Bulbul Ali, Baby Karmakar, Damini Ghatowar and Dipanjali Rongphar, he added.

India Seeks Positive, Constructive Ties with Bangladesh



New Delh, Nov 13 (Way to News): The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday that India desires a "positive, constructive and forward-looking relationship" with Bangladesh. Addressing a bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi on Friday, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal expressed India's readiness to discuss all bilateral issues with Bangladesh through these existing mechanisms, including at the technical level.

When asked about reports claiming that India-Bangladesh consular dialogue has been postponed, Jaiswal responded, "India desires a positive, constructive, and forward-looking relationship with Bangladesh. Accordingly, initiatives have been taken and meetings held under structured mechanisms in areas such as trade, railways, water resources, and border management, among others."

"The next round of India-Bangladesh consular dialogue, which will also take up the matters relating to revised travel arrangement, will be held on a mutually convenient date. India remains ready to discuss all matters or all bilateral issues with Bangladesh through these existing mechanisms, including at the technical level. S

On October 7, Bangladesh's outgoing High Commissioner to India, Riaz Hamidullah, held a farewell meeting with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri in New Delhi, with both sides reflecting on the gamut of bilateral ties and cooperation under existing institutional mechanisms.

SC: Public Servants in Judicial Custody for Over 48 Hours Deemed Suspended



New Delhi, Nov 13 (Way to News): If a public servant is arrested and remains in judicial custody for more than 48 hours, he or she is deemed to have been suspended, the Supreme Court has ruled. "Once a public servant is arrested and remains in judicial custody for more than 48 hours, there is a deemed suspension. Being a public servant, he could be said to have been placed under deemed suspension. No specific order is required to be passed in this regard," a Bench of Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manmohan said.

The Bench, however, restored the bail granted to Vishwajeet Singh, the Administrator of Sadar Hospital, Samastipur, in Bihar, who was accused of demanding a bribe of Rs 4,000 to clear a contractual worker's pending wages of Rs 36,421. While allowing his appeal, the top court set aside the Patna High Court's July 1, 2026, order cancelling the bail granted to Singh by the sessions court. An FIR was registered against Singh at the Vigilance police station in 2025 under Section 7(b) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. He remained in judicial custody for nearly 15 days before the sessions court granted him bail. However, acting on the complainant's plea, the Patna High Court cancelled his bail and sent him back to jail. Singh was initially suspended following his arrest, but his suspension was subsequently revoked.

The Supreme Court restored his bail, noting that the High Court had intervened nearly a year after he was released on bail.

The tenor of the High Court's order suggested that the sessions court's reference to the bribe amount as being paltry had weighed with it while cancelling the bail.

"Ordinarily, in cases of this type, having regard to the maximum punishment that the trial court would impose, ultimately, if the accused is held to be guilty, bail is to be granted," the top court said. It added that bail could be denied in cases involving criminal antecedents or where the facts and circumstances were particularly grave.

Centre Merges Central Bureau Of Communication And Press Information Bureau

New Delh, Nov 12 (Way to News): In a major development, the Union government has announced the merger of the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) and the Press Information Bureau (PIB) at the headquarters level.

In an attempt that appears aimed at an administrative overhaul and to create a unified public outreach mechanism, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) has brought about an integration of the government's flagship advertising and publicity agency and the primary media relations arm.

The unified organisation will be called PIB, according to the ministry.

The strategic consolidation is expected to eliminate functional overlaps, optimise resource allocation, and deliver efficient messaging on government policies, welfare schemes, and national initiatives, said ministry sources.

The combined entity will be headed by the Director-General (Coordination), PIB, New Delhi, who will report to the Chairman/Communication Board, they added. All the state- and branch-level organisations will also be replicated.

By combining the CBC's extensive advertising and overall outreach infrastructure with PIB's daily information and press dissemination capabilities, the MIB intends to establish a faster, more responsive, and integrated communication ecosystem. The CBC is a unit of the MIB and has the mandate of providing all-round communication solutions to ministries, related departments, Public Sector Undertakings, and autonomous bodies.

It was set up on December 8, 2017, with the integration of the erstwhile Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP), Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP), and Song and Drama Division (S&DD).

This change was made with the purpose of maintaining uniformity and streamlining the vocabulary of the state and central divisions, according to ministry officials at that time.

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Mars Opens New Hyderabad GCC, Plans to Create 1,000 Jobs in Coming Years

Hyderabad, Nov 13 (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 further strengthen the digital, data and artificial intelligence capabilities required for Mars' global operations.

Mars Chief Financial Officer Klaus Aagaard, Genpact representative Tarun Chopra and US Consulate General Hyderabad representative Emilia B. Smith were among those present at the inauguration. The Minister said the establishment of the Mars GCC reflected Hyderabad's growing appeal as a destination for multinational companies. He added that the government would continue strengthening infrastructure, promoting industry-academia partnerships and developing skilled talent to attract more global firms and generate quality employment opportunities in Telangana.

Mahesh Bhagwat Takes Charge as Police Commissioner

Hyderabad, Nov 13 (Way to News): Nov 13, Dr. Mahesh Muralidhar Bhagwat, IPS, officially assumed charge as the new Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad City, today (13.11.2026) at 11:00 AM at the Telangana Integrated Command and Control Centre (TG ICCC) Building, Banjara Hills. Addressing a press conference held shortly thereafter, the Commissioner outlined his priorities and action plan for city policing.



The Commissioner expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Deputy Chief Minister, the Council of Ministers, Advisors, the Director General of Police (DGP), and senior officials for entrusting him with the opportunity to serve Hyderabad City once again. Recalling that this is his third stint in Hyderabad City, he noted that prior to 2004, he served as DCP (South Zone) under Commissioners Sri R.P. Singh and Sri Dinesh Reddy, and in late 2010, served as Joint CP (Admin) for two years and Joint CP (Special Branch) for 7–8 months. Subsequently, he served as the Commissioner of Rachakonda, worked for a year in CID, served in the Railways and Road Safety departments, and held responsibilities as Additional DG (Law & Order) and in the DG rank for approximately two years and five months.

He noted that following the recent reorganization of the Core Urban Region—with the inclusion of new zones such as Shamshabad and Rajendranagar along with areas from the erstwhile Rachakonda jurisdiction like Adibatla, Pahadishareef, Balapur, and Shadnagar—the jurisdiction of the Hyderabad Commissionerate has expanded significantly, while the nature of policing challenges remains similar even after the bifurcation of the Malkajgiri Commissionerate. He added that efforts will be made to overcome the existing staff shortage within the Commissionerate.

The Commissioner affirmed that maintaining Law and Order, ensuring women's safety, and curbing cybercrime are his foremost priorities.

Stating that Hyderabad has a team of experienced officers, he emphasized that everyone will work together as a cohesive team to uphold Hyderabad's reputation as a 'Safe City'. He remarked that strong law and order directly attracts greater investments to the city, and ensuring that every citizen feels free and safe is the primary goal of both the Government and the Police Department.

To curb organized crime gangs, group rivalries, and retaliatory offenses, a specialized 'Jail Release Watch' will be maintained on individuals released from prison by integrating jail release data with 'T-SPARK' and CCTNS. Intelligence will be gathered through local police, Special Branch, and community networks regarding those indulging in retaliatory attacks, leading to fresh bind-over proceedings, collection of financial surety, and opening of rowdy sheets. He stated that immediate arrests will be made in heinous cases like murders, and measures will be taken to ensure first-time offenders do not relapse into crime.

The new provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) will be utilized to tackle organized crime. He declared that the Preventive Detention (PD) Act will be strictly invoked against habitual offenders and accused involved in commercial-quantity drug cases (20 kg and above), ensuring they remain incarcerated for 8 months to a year. Investigation quality will be enhanced through the 'EAGLE' wing, and in coordination with the concerned Magistrates and the Metropolitan Sessions Judge, drug cases will be transferred to Fast Track Courts with dedicated trial monitoring to secure strict convictions in pending cases.

Telangana plans major statewide groundwater recharge drive



Hyderabad, Nov 13 (Way to News): Bracing for the looming El Niño threat and the possibility of groundwater stress during the coming months, the Telangana Government is preparing a coordinated State-wide action plan to boost groundwater recharge, regulate extraction and ensure sustainable management of available water resources, said the Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies, N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday. The initiative will focus on scientific assessment of groundwater availability, strengthening recharge measures while guiding farmers towards water-efficient cropping patterns ahead of the ensuing Rabi season.

Reviewing the groundwater situation with senior officials and experts at his Secretariat chambers along with Vakiti Srihari, Minister for Diary Development, Animal Husbandry, Youth Services and Sports, Uttam Kumar Reddy said a comprehensive paper would be prepared on the groundwater situation facilitating further discussions with officials to formulate a coordinated action plan.

An expert from the CSIR-Northeast Institute of Science and Technology, Prof. Virendra Tiwari, who is also an adjunct professor at IIT Hyderabad, joined the review virtually, suggested an immediate assessment of precipitation against groundwater storage using the Groundwater Estimation Committee (GEC) model. He said a preliminary assessment could be completed within a few days. Pointing out that more than 94 per cent of water utilisation in Telangana was accounted for by irrigation, while domestic and other uses constituted only about 1.8 per cent, the expert stressed the need to quantify groundwater availability and requirements at the watershed level.

The expert recommended mapping water availability against irrigation requirements in every watershed and using the findings to guide farmers on suitable crops. While paddy cultivation might remain feasible in areas with adequate water storage, farmers in water-stressed regions should be encouraged to consider alternatives such as maize and millets, with the government explaining their potential economic returns. The expert proposed constituting a small task force reporting directly to the State leadership, with weekly, 10-day or fortnightly meetings to monitor the situation and coordinate corrective measures.

Responding to the suggestions, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the government would hold detailed consultations on strengthening the Groundwater Department, including improving its infrastructure, financial resources and technical capabilities.

Referring to Israel and other countries that conserve and utilise every available drop of rainfall despite receiving comparatively less precipitation, he said Telangana should adopt a similar approach to water conservation.

The Minister said the State should treat the challenge as a collective responsibility of the government, elected representatives and departmental officials until the next monsoon. He also called for institutionalising rainwater harvesting and conservation so that future rainfall deficiencies could be managed more effectively.

Mahabubnagar MLA Yennam Srinivas Reddy and ENC (General), O. V. Ramesh Babu, Joint Secretary, K Srinivas and Ground water Director, Krishna were among those who took part in the review.

TG Approves 2,000 Affordable Flats for Auto Drivers

Hyderabad, Nov 13 (Way to News): The Telangana government has decided to launch an affordable housing scheme for auto-rickshaw workers in Hyderabad. The government has permitted the Telangana Housing Board to implement the scheme for Rs 220 crore. Under the scheme named "Auto Nagar Colony", 2,000 Economically Weaker Section (EWS) flats will be constructed at four locations in the core urban region.

According to a government order issued on Friday, November 13, this scheme will be on par with Indiramma Indlu-Towers.

Vice Chairman & Housing Commissioner, Telangana Housing Board, had submitted a proposal for construction of an exclusive affordable housing scheme for auto rickshaw workers under the name "Auto Nagar Colony" in Hyderabad and its surrounding urban areas. The government issued an order, accepting the proposal. The government has already accorded in-principle approval for construction of one lakh affordable ownership flats in the CURE area and Municipal corporations under LIG and MIG categories based on demand survey. Permission was also accorded for the construction of 12,000 flats as a pilot project in the CURE area.

According to the government order, the permission was accorded as per the government's view and policy for providing affordable housing to all weaker section people for making the state "Hut-free Telangana".

Telangana to Launch Universal Rs 5 Lakh Life Insurance Scheme

Hyderabad, Nov 13 (Way to News): Telangana is all set to become the first and only state in India to provide universal life insurance to every family in the state with its Indiramma Kutumba Jeevitha Bhima Pathakam, for which enrolment will begin on November 19, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said on Friday. "There have been some insurance schemes in the state in the past that were limited to some department and select sections of the people. The idea is that if a wage earner in a family passes away, the family should not suffer. This is the reason why the Cabinet under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy decided that every family in the state should have life insurance coverage," he said.



Vikramarka said: "The Indiramma Kutumba Jeevitha Bhima Pathakam is a truly universal life insurance scheme. The Rs 5 lakh insurance scheme will be applicable to all families, cutting across caste, creed, religion and incomes, and the enrolment will be formally launched by the Chief Minister." Addressing a video conference with all district collectors and senior government officials, Vikramarka said starting November 19, statewide simultaneous enrolment of beneficiaries will begin in a saturation mode in every village, every town and city.

Vikramarka said not only is the Indiramma Kutumba Jeevitha Bhima Pathakam unique in its expanse but also in its provisions. "If there is one wage earner in a family, that person will be insured. If there are multiple wage earners, the family can decide who the insured will be. And there can be either a single nominee or multiple nominees. This will be up to the family. And the insured person and family can also decide the percentages of the insured sum they will receive," he said. The Deputy Chief Minister said officials should be diligent in getting enrolment details, the name of the insured, the names of beneficiaries and should read out the filled information to the family before taking the signature of the insured person.

BrahMos Signs Missile Deal with Vietnam

Hyderabad, Nov 13 (Way to News): BrahMos Aerospace CEO and MD Jaiteerth R Joshi on Friday, November 13, said the company has supplied BrahMos missiles to the Philippines and signed an agreement with Vietnam, with several other Southeast Asian countries also showing interest. Talks with those countries are at an advanced stage, he said. "Once the government clears it, we will have a deal with them," he told reporters here. Joshi was responding to a question on which countries had finalised deals and with which others talks were under way, given the surge in demand for the missile after Operation Sindoor.

He said Operation Sindoor had not been anticipated, and that non-destructive testing (NDT) had ensured the missiles' reliability. "NDT plays a vital role for any product. Operation Sindoor was never anticipated. The missiles were made 10, 15, 20 years back. NDT has ensured their reliability. The moment we took the item and fired, it went and delivered," he said. Joshi was briefing reporters on the 36th Annual Conference on Non-Destructive Evaluation and Enabling Technologies (NDE 2026) and AeroNDT 2026, the 15th International Symposium on NDT in Aerospace, to be hosted by the Indian Society for Non-Destructive Testing (ISNT) here from November 15 to 17. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will be the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony on November 15. NDE 2026 is expected to draw more than 2,000 professionals, researchers.

Vakiti Srihari Praises Sonia Gandhi's Life, Sacrifice and Dedicated Service to India

Hyderabad, Nov 13 (Way to News): Telangana Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries, Youth Services and Sports, Vakiti Srihari, praised senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, describing her life journey as a remarkable example of love, sacrifice, family values and dedication to the people of India.



The Minister expressed keen interest in reading Sonia Gandhi's autobiography, "Belonging: A Journey of Love," which highlights her personal journey, family relationships, sacrifices and emotional bond with India. Speaking on the occasion, Srihari said Sonia Gandhi's life was an extraordinary example of how a person could become part of the hearts of millions of people. Born in Italy, she embraced Indian culture and traditions after marrying former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and became closely connected with the lives of the Indian people. He said her relationship with Rajiv Gandhi, her deep affection for her family and the courage she demonstrated while facing personal tragedies and difficult circumstances were truly inspiring. "Losing a loved one is one of life's greatest tragedies. Despite enduring such immense personal grief, Sonia Gandhi fulfilled her family responsibilities and continued to dedicate herself to the people of the country. Her courage and determination are remarkable," the Minister said.

Srihari observed that India had become an inseparable part of Sonia Gandhi's life and that her journey reflected her affection and commitment towards the country despite being born abroad. He also appreciated her leadership in the Congress party, stating that she faced several political challenges, criticism and difficulties with patience, dignity and commitment to her values. Describing her decision not to accept the Prime Minister's post in 2004 as a significant chapter in her political career, Srihari said Sonia Gandhi demonstrated that principles were more important than positions and public trust was more valuable than power.

The Minister also highlighted her initiatives for the welfare of the poor, farmers, women and weaker sections of society, as well as her commitment to social justice.

Referring to the formation of Telangana, Srihari said the people of the state would never forget Sonia Gandhi's historic role in fulfilling the long-standing aspirations of Telangana and facilitating the formation of the separate state.

"Sonia Gandhi holds a special place in the hearts of Telangana people. Her initiative and decision in the formation of Telangana will remain forever in the memories of the people," he said.

Congress Reaffirms Commitment to Inclusive Growth and Social Justice in Telangana

Hyderabad, Nov 13 (Way to News):Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President B Mahesh Kumar Goud said on Friday, November 13, that the vision behind the formation of Telangana was to ensure equitable development and opportunities for every region and every section of society, and that fulfilling that vision remains the party's commitment.



He spoke at a session on 'Telangana Rising – Economic Justice' at Bharat Summit 2026. He claimed that under the leadership of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the Congress government is working tirelessly to improve people's lives through employment generation, Indiramma Indlu, 200 units of free electricity, fine rice distribution and several welfare initiatives. "Despite economic challenges, we remain committed to giving equal priority to development and welfare. Development for every region. Employment for every youth. Welfare for every poor family. This is our vision for Telangana Rising — Economic Justice, Inclusive Growth and Social Justice," he said. The TPCC chief shared his thoughts on Telangana's development journey, equal opportunities, employment generation and social justice.

TPCC Vice-President Dr Kota Neelima said that welfare is a right citizens can claim, not a favour. She called for regular welfare audits to ensure effective implementation, accountability and the delivery of benefits to every intended beneficiary. She said the Congress made welfare an enforceable right through the RTI Act, MGNREGA, the Forest Rights Act, the Right to Education Act and the National Food Security Act.

"Welfare is not charity; it is a constitutional commitment," she said. "It is not a slogan but the harder path of governance. Unlike the BJP and the BRS, it demands conviction and long-term vision. Divisive politics and hollow promises cannot replace real development," Kota Neelima added. Neelima said the six guarantees, including Mahalakshmi and Rythu Bharosa, and investments in education, healthcare and nutrition, reflect the Congress government's commitment to inclusive growth.

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India aims to lead emerging global economic order: Vice President



Visakhapatnam, Nov 13 (Way to News): Vice President of India, C. P. Radhakrishnan, said on Friday that India aspires to play a leading role in shaping the emerging global economic order. Emphasising India's growing economic strength, young and skilled workforce, vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem and expanding manufacturing and services sectors, he said that India aspired not merely to participate in the emerging global economic order but to play a leading role in shaping it.

Addressing the valedictory session of the 31st CII Partnership Summit here, he expressed confidence that India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, was moving firmly towards becoming a developed nation by 2047.

Referring to the theme of this year's Summit, 'Navigating the New World Order – Trade, Technology and Trust', the Vice-President observed that geopolitical uncertainties, technological disruptions, climate change and evolving supply chains were reshaping the global economy. However, every period of uncertainty also presented new opportunities, and nations demonstrating adaptability, innovation and trusted partnerships would be best placed to shape the future. The Vice-President highlighted the transformative potential of artificial intelligence, semiconductors, quantum computing, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing and digital platforms.

He stressed that Atmanirbhar Bharat should not be understood as turning inward, but as building domestic capabilities, enhancing competitiveness and integrating more deeply with global markets.

Calling for a collective national endeavour towards Viksit Bharat 2047, Radhakrishnan emphasised that the responsibility of building a developed India could not rest with the Government alone. It required the active participation of industry, academia, entrepreneurs, young people and international partners, in keeping with the Prime Minister's call for Sabka Prayas. The Vice-President appreciated the remarkable development achieved by Andhra Pradesh under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. He noted that the State had attracted 714 investment projects worth over 22 lakh crore since June 2024, reflecting strong investor confidence and economic momentum. He said that the State's vision of Swarna Andhra 2047 was aligned with Prime Minister Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The Vice President highlighted Andhra Pradesh's emergence as a major gateway for India's global economic engagement, driven by strong investment momentum and focused growth in green energy, AI, semiconductors, advanced manufacturing and infrastructure.

Andhra Pradesh Governor S. Abdul Nazeer; Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu; Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Education, Pralhad Joshi; Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu; and others were present during the occasion.

Delhi Air Quality Remains Severe, AQI Hits 419



New Delhi, Nov 13 (Way to News): Air quality remained in the 'severe' category on Friday morning in Delhi, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded at 419 at 8:40 a.m., as a thick layer of smoky haze continued to envelop the national capital.

Out of the 58 air quality monitoring stations across Delhi, 33 recorded 'severe' air quality, with several locations reporting AQI levels above 450, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Among the monitoring stations, Burari recorded an AQI of 398, Karala 340, Ghoga 365, Nangloi 365, Maidan Garhi 367, Tikri Kalan 402, Ghummanhera 353, Chhawla 425, NIH Narela 445, Talkatora Garden 436, Badarpur 403, Aya Nagar 433, Punjabi Bagh 456, Shadipur 385, Sirifort 418, Pusa 469, Chandni Chowk 479, Burari Crossing 456, North Campus, Delhi University, 478, IIT Delhi 488, Mundka 435, DTU 443, Okhla Phase-2 400, Sonia Vihar 409, Bawana 413 and Cantonment Area 160. The average AQI in adjoining Noida was also in the 'severe' category at 474, according to CPCB data recorded at 8:05 a.m. Other cities in the National Capital Region (NCR) reported 'very poor' air quality, with Gurugram recording an AQI of 352, Ghaziabad 369 and Greater Noida 351. According to CPCB standards, an AQI between 0 and 50 is classified as 'good', 51-100 as 'satisfactory', 101-200 as 'moderate', 201-300 as 'poor', 301-400 as 'very poor' and 401-500 as 'severe'.

Meanwhile, data from AQI.in showed that 86 of the world's 100 most polluted cities on Friday were located in India. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast that Delhi's air quality is likely to remain between the 'very poor' and 'severe' categories until November 16. Improved wind conditions may bring some relief thereafter.

Air pollution levels in Delhi generally rise sharply during the winter months. The situation is aggravated by several factors, including post-Diwali firecracker emissions, stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana, vehicular pollution, falling temperatures, low wind speeds, and emissions from industries and coal-fired power plants.

On November 6, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) invoked Stage III restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) across Delhi and the National Capital Region as a precautionary measure amid deteriorating air quality.

Supply shocks may weaken interest rate policy: CEA



New Delhi, Nov 13 (Way to News): Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran stated on Friday that traditional monetary policy instruments, such as modifying interest rates, might lose their effectiveness in addressing inflation in a world that is increasingly susceptible to supply-side disruptions. He noted that fiscal and other public policy strategies will become more crucial, as simply increasing interest rates will not resolve problems caused by supply issues. In fact, it could potentially have the opposite effect, he remarked at the 9th Annual Food Systems Dialogue held here.

"Fiscal and other public policy measures will be more important because raising interest rates will not solve the supply-induced problems. If anything, it may even be counter-productive," he said at the 9th Annual Food Systems Dialogue here. Given the ongoing supply-related challenges, nations will need to adopt various flexibilities concerning their inflation targeting strategies, he added. "Since 2022, only a small number of countries have achieved their inflation targets. Therefore, it will remain a framework, but I believe countries will interpret it flexibly, as circumstances require," he added.

Supply chain disruptions resulting from the Russia-Ukraine war, which has continued since February 2022, followed by the crisis in West Asia, have caused prices — particularly energy prices — to surge worldwide.

To curb inflation, major central banks around the world, including the US Federal Reserve, have raised interest rates. "Since 2022, very few countries have met their inflation target. So, it will be there as a framework, but I think countries will take creative liberties with it, as they have to," he added. Citing various reports, Nageswaran predicted that supply shocks will shape the global landscape for the next 25 to 30 years, or possibly even longer.

He explained that as nations increasingly weaponise supply chains and exploit natural waterways and other strategic chokepoints, traditional monetary tools, such as adjusting interest rates, will no longer be effective in addressing these challenges. Given this environment, Nageswaran advocated for restoring agriculture as the primary engine of economic growth.

He stressed the need to strengthen domestic agricultural production, improve supply chain resilience and invest in food security to minimise the impact of global disruptions. He also called for coordinated policy measures to protect farmers and consumers from price volatility and ensure long-term economic stability.

India, Nepal discuss expanding tourism, aviation and infrastructure cooperation ties



Kathmandu, Nov 13 (Way to News): Newly appointed Indian Ambassador to Nepal, Sudhakar Dalela, on Friday called on two Nepali cabinet ministers and the country's Foreign Secretary, as the two countries prepare the groundwork for an upcoming visit by Nepal's Prime Minister Balendra Shah to New Delhi. Dalela met Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Khadak Raj Paudel and Minister for Infrastructure Development Sunil Lamsal and discussed ways to expand cooperation in tourism, aviation and infrastructure.

In a statement, Nepal's Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation said the two sides discussed developing integrated Buddhist and Ramayana tourism circuits and expanding bilateral air connectivity, including regular commercial flights linking Nepal's two international airports outside Kathmandu with major Indian cities. Nepal and India share Buddhist and Ramayana heritage and several important religious pilgrimage sites. Lumbini in Nepal is the birthplace of Lord Buddha, who attained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree at Bodh Gaya in India's Bihar and attained Mahaparinirvana at Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh.

Likewise, the two countries share important pilgrimage sites associated with the Ramayana. Ayodhya in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh is traditionally regarded as the birthplace of Lord Ram, while Janakpur in Nepal is revered as the birthplace of Goddess Sita. Preparations are also underway to launch a special train service connecting Janakpurdham with Ayodhya. In early November, India conducted a trial run for the proposed Ayodhya-Janakpur railway service, marking a step towards establishing a direct rail connection between the two religious cities.

According to the ministry, the two sides also discussed joint tourism promotion and the development of integrated Buddhist and Ramayana tourism circuits to promote their shared religious and cultural heritage and strengthen people-to-people ties. Both sides underscored the importance of preserving their common cultural heritage and expanding cooperation in areas of mutual interest to further deepen the longstanding historical, cultural and friendly relations between the two neighbouring countries.

Rajnath Singh Urges Leaders to Prioritise Future Generations Over Elections



New Delhi, Nov 13 (Way to News): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday advised governments that instead of only focussing on how to win the next election, they should think about how to secure the future of the next generation in India.

"For us, a 'Viksit Bharat' does not merely mean a five-trillion-dollar economy. While that is certainly an important component, our vision for a 'Viksit Bharat' is far broader," Rajnath Singh said while addressing an event to mark 90 years since the establishment of the Brahma Kumaris and 72 years of its spiritual services in Lucknow. He explained that 'Viksit Bharat' signifies a nation where citizens are honest, families are rooted in values, society lives in harmony, women are respected, the youth are disciplined, and every individual possesses a sense of duty towards the nation. "In our decision-making, we should not just look at the political gains we might derive; rather, we should consider the benefits to society. Don't think about how to win the next election, think about how to make the future of the next generation better. The true essence of politics lies in conducting governance through policy and morality. Politics is not merely a means to attain power; it is a tool to provide direction to the future of society and the nation," the Defence Minister stated. Further, Rajnath Singh cautioned that if politics is perceived only as a arena for competition, mutual accusations, and personal ambition, the youth will distance themselves from it. "However, if they see the potential for service, nation-building, character development, and social transformation within politics, they will undoubtedly engage with it," he said while emphasising that the youth are not just the future of this country, but also its present. "The future of a nation does not simply emerge out of nowhere at some point in the future—it is shaped today. It is shaped by the efforts made today. In essence, the seeds sown in the present determine the fruits reaped in the future," he stressed.

Moreover, Singh advised youngsters to focus on building character along their careers and use technology responsibly. He urged the youth to seek information without losing their power of discernment, and to engage with the world while remaining firmly connected to their own roots. "Being modern and forgetting one's cultural identity are two different things; one must learn to distinguish between them," he stated."Success which merely enriches an individual's own life—without providing any direction to society—remains limited in its value. Young people should not focus solely on building a career; they must pay equal attention to building their character," he added.

The Defence Minister further said that when one observes a shortcoming in society, rather than merely criticise it, one should also take responsibility to address it. "This is the perspective that transforms an ordinary youth into a responsible citizen, and a responsible citizen into a participant in nation-building. If today's youth cultivate wisdom alongside knowledge, restraint alongside strength, empathy alongside success, and a spirit of service to the nation alongside ambition, then our resolve to transform India into a developed nation will surely be realised," he said.

Tri-Services Meeting Focuses on Maintenance, Logistics and Joint Capabilities



Jabalpur, Nov 13 (Way to News): Looking to strengthen inter-service synergy, a tri-services Principal Maintenance Officers' Committee (PMOC) on Friday took key decisions on enhancing tri-services maintenance and sustenance issues, an official said. The meeting was held at the Military College of Materials Management (MCMM), a premier training and educational institute of the Indian Army located in the Civil Lines area, Jabalpur, the official said.

In a message on X, the Integrated Defence Staff, Headquarters, wrote: "Presided over by Air Mshl KAA Sanjeeb, Air Officer-in-Charge, Maintenance, the meeting was attended by senior officers of all three services and HQ IDS." "Key decisions on enhancing #TriServices maintenance and sustenance issues were taken, thereby fostering greater synergy amongst the three Services. PMOC has been taking steady and firm steps towards #Integration and #JointCapability enhancement concurrently with efforts towards #Atmanirbharta," wrote the HQ IDS. "The meeting strengthened inter-service synergy through the exchange of best practices, deliberations on maintenance, logistics and sustainment, further enhancing joint operational effectiveness across the three Services," it wrote.

In another development earlier, with the purpose of harnessing innovation and advancing indigenous defence capabilities, Lieutenant General Sandeep Jain, Vice Chief of the Army Staff, met innovators and defence industry players in Chennai.

In a message on X, the Additional Directorate General of Public Information, IHQ of MoD (Army) wrote, "Lieutenant General Sandeep Jain, #VCOAS, visited Chennai and interacted with leading indigenous innovators, academia and defence industry in the field of aerospace, unmanned systems and emerging defence technologies." "The visit showcased advancements in space technologies, autonomous systems, drones and next-generation logistics solutions, highlighting their potential to enhance battlefield effectiveness," it wrote.

Sonam Wangchuk claims house arrest amid protests over winter Ladakh council elections



Leh, Nov 13 (Way to News): Ladakhi climate activist Sonam Wangchuk on Thursday claimed that authorities have placed him under house arrest in Leh after he and other regional representatives demanded the postponement of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) elections scheduled for December. Taking to social media platform X, Wangchuk stated that dozens of armed guards had been deployed around his residence, disputing official claims that he was merely advised to remain indoors.

"I AM UNDER HOUSE ARREST. Dozens of armed guards surround my house while the government version says 'I have been advised to stay at home'. All for asking uncomfortable questions like… why is the Judicial Enquiry Commission Report (of last year's killings in Leh) delayed and a phoney Council election is foisted on people with rocket speed in mid-winter," Wangchuk posted.

He further alleged that the entire region of Ladakh is protesting and claimed that the reach of his X, Instagram, and YouTube accounts had been drastically suppressed. In a video message accompanying his post, Wangchuk said he and his associates had been demanding the release of the inquiry report on last year's firing in Leh, alleging the administration was trying to sidestep the issue by rushing through the council elections.

"Yesterday evening we were planning a dharna against this when some people calling themselves policemen came and told us we should not move out. They were wearing masks and hoodies, and they looked more like hooligans than policemen," Wangchuk alleged in the video.

He added that after he told the personnel he was prepared to be arrested, they escorted him to his institute, where his residence is also located, and instructed him not to leave the premises. "Dozens of policemen have been placed around to enforce my house arrest. Authorities are publicly saying that I have been advised to remain at home as a prohibitory measure. Peaceful dharnas were held yesterday, and these will continue to be held tomorrow so that our demands are accepted," he said.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Editorial

Building Equal Paths to Opportunity

FOR a fortnight, Parliament debated education with unusual seriousness. The trigger was a young generation's anguish over the integrity of its examinations, and that anguish was just. An examination is the Republic's promise that talent will be weighed and birth will not. When a paper leaks or a seat is sold, the promise breaks, and faith in the Republic breaks with it.The anger was earned. But anger is diagnosis, not design. Parliament supplied the feeling. The Republic now owes the architecture. Say the position plainly. An honest examination is necessary, but it is not enough. It guards one door where a nation needs a house. The task before the Republic is not a fairer door. It is a second way in. Begin with the harder question. Suppose every examination became honest tomorrow. Every leak stopped, every corrupt official gone, every result pure merit. Would opportunity then be equal? It would not. For even a perfectly honest examination guards a single narrow door. Consider the one that provoked this debate. In 2024, more than 23 lakh young Indians appeared for the medical entrance examination. Over 13 lakh crossed the qualifying threshold. Against them stood roughly 1,15,000 MBBS seats. An honest examination would still have denied an MBBS seat to more than nine out of every ten candidates it had declared qualified. Nor is medicine an exception. In two recent Railway recruitment examinations alone, some 2.37 crore candidates competed for approximately 1.31 lakh eventual recruitments. The same young person may, of course, appear in several examinations; that duplication is itself evidence of repeated attempts to enter the same narrow passage.

Parliament debated the young who were cheated, and rightly. But it never counted the far larger number who were not cheated at all, who sat a fair examination and found that fairness had no seat to give them. The arithmetic is not corrupt. It is merely cruel. We have mistaken uniformity for fairness, and scarcity for merit. This is not an administrative fault. It is a philosophical inheritance, and it has two fathers and a date apiece. In 1835, Thomas Macaulay wrote his Minute on Indian education and sought to create a class of persons, Indian in blood and colour but English in taste, who would serve as interpreters between the colonial administration and the millions it governed. The individual mattered because the system needed him. In 1893, from a platform in Chicago, Vivekananda presented a different conception of man to the world. He would define education as "the manifestation of the perfection already in man." One design begins with the requirements of the system. The other begins with the person. India kept Macaulay and quoted Vivekananda, which is the most Indian compromise of all.

We built Macaulay into the machinery, the schools, the services, the whole apparatus that turns a person into a qualification, and we kept Vivekananda for the convocation address. One we obey every working day. The other we quote on ceremonial occasions and forget by the afternoon. The credential runs the country. The perfection within is left on the platform in Chicago.

A philosophy of education never stays in the classroom. It becomes a mindset, and the mindset becomes the social order, deciding what a people honours and whom it rewards. Macaulay's order made the credential the measure of a man, and the effect reaches all the way into the home.

Factories rise, foreign money falls: new india recovery

SHIVAJI SARKAR



Time to cheer, industrial output grows 7.3 per cent in June as against 2.2 per cent a year ago, said to be fastest in 22 months, with 'strong expansion' of manufacturing, electricity, gas supply and resilient domestic demand. Music to the ears amid the West Asia crisis, Trump tariff, issue of balance of trade and core sector growth reported in end of June.

The favourable growth effect is said to have helped as well. Among the manufacturing sector 19 of 23 industries recorded growth in June. Sectors like motor vehicle trailers grew 17.5 per cent, textiles 18.7per cent, beverages 12.5per cent and food products 10.8per cent.

The IIP growth may not grow so fast in July. It is estimated to moderate to 5.4per cent. Sustaining the pace is not easy with adverse base effect. Global growth is slowing. Is the sudden manufacturing growth a fluke?

The core sector growth reports of June 22, 2026 say it grows at slowest in seven months, in May. It was not encouraging. It is being interpreted as lower growth on low base attributed to the decline in production from the petro-based sector – that supports wider products from paints, plastics, home appliances to roads as also rising costs and prices.

India's 7.3 per cent industrial and 7.8percent manufacturing growth in June 2026 is not a complete fluke, but rather a reflection of genuine near-term momentum supported by robust investment demand and government capital expenditure, though analysts warn it faces headwinds from external risks and a low base effect. The data points to a rebound in industrial activity, but not necessarily to a broad-based acceleration in India's overall economic growth. Industrial output strengthened in June 2026, led by manufacturing, which expanded 7.8percent, its fastest pace in nearly two years. Strong growth in capital goods (14.2percent) suggests continued investment in productive capacity, while robust gains in electrical equipment (34percent) and motor vehicles (17.5percent) indicate healthy demand in select industries. Electricity generation also surged 10.6percent, driven largely by exceptionally high summer temperatures.

However, the impressive numbers require caution. Part of the rise reflects a favourable base effect, making year-on-year growth appear stronger than underlying momentum alone would suggest. India's recent growth remains driven largely by manufacturing and investment rather than broad consumer demand, while the surge in electricity output was partly weather-induced. The recovery faces risks from West Asia tensions, volatile crude oil prices, uneven monsoon rains, weaker rural demand and rising food inflation. Higher food and fuel costs could erode household purchasing power, slowing consumption—the largest contributor to India's GDP. The inflation is biting many industries. Among the latest with inflationary pressures, the Hindustan Unilever (HUL) decides to hike prices of its products.as its profits take a minor dip from a Rs 2768 crore in 2025 to Rs 2680 crore now and overall revenue rise of by 10 per cent to Rs 17,141 crore.

As the consumers wonder why a small drop could not be absorbed by the company for detergents to soups after a 13-quarter high, the HUL says the market situation is volatile as its stock prices fall 7per cent. Foreign portfolio investors have pulled over Rs 2.6 lakh crore ($27 billion+) from Indian equities since January 2026, driven by high local valuations, geopolitical conflicts, and rising US yields. Major indices like the Sensex and Nifty dippped significantly during the first half of the year. It is ascribed to high valuations, rising West Asia tensionspushing up crude oil prices, and global liquidity shifts toward higher US yields and AI-driven markets such as South Korea and Taiwan. As a result, foreign ownership of Indian equities fell to a 14-year low of 14.7per cent.

The Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) outflows have increased market volatility and pressured index heavyweights in sectors like banking and IT, but record Domestic Institutional Investor (DII) inflows have heavily absorbed the selling pressure. Domestic ownership has risen to roughly 19.2percent, surpassing FII ownership at 18.8percent for the first time. However, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) offset much of the selling with record mutual fund inflows of over Rs 6.1 lakh crore, supported by steady retail SIP investments, making Indian markets increasingly resilient to foreign capital withdrawals. The DII inflows have remained strong, led by robust monthly systematic investment plan (SIP) contributions offsetting persistent foreign selling, while large-cap banking valuations trade near or below long-term historical averages despite healthy multi-year low asset stress. The DIIs invested over Rs 82,600 crore in May and Rs 85,800 crore in June 2026, supported by monthly SIP inflows of Rs30,000–31,000 crore. They accumulated banking, IT and consumer stocks amid FII selling. Large-cap banks continue to trade at attractive valuations despite record-low bad loans, with investor sentiment restrained by concerns over deposit growth, funding costs and narrowing interest margins. The data points to a structural shift in India's equity markets, not merely a temporary episode of foreign selling. The heavy FPI withdrawal in Indian equities since January 2026, reflect concerns over stretched valuations, geopolitical uncertainty in West Asia, higher crude oil prices, and the attractiveness of higher US bond yields and AI-led opportunities in markets such as South Korea and Taiwan. Consequently, foreign ownership has fallen to a 14-year low, underscoring a reassessment of India's risk-reward profile.

However, the episode also marks a turning point. For the first time, domestic institutional ownership has overtaken foreign ownership, demonstrating the growing depth of India's capital markets. Record DII inflows—powered by sustained mutual fund investments and monthly SIP contributions of over Rs30,000 crore—have absorbed much of the foreign selling, preventing a sharper correction in the Sensex and Nifty. Banking, financials and IT bore the brunt of FII selling, yet domestic investors used the decline to accumulate quality stocks. Large-cap bankssuch as HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, and SBItrade at compelling price-to-earnings ratios, continue to trade at attractive valuations despite historically low non-performing assets,.

Iran War Strains US-Gulf Ties

By Nantoo Banerjee



The U.S. President Donald Trump seems to be desperately looking for a graceful exit fast at least to save the U.S. partnership with the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and also the massive financial cost of war. The financial cost of the Iran war already reached approximately $37.5 billion in direct Pentagon expenditures, with broader economic impact estimates running much higher. The war has severely impacted the GCC member states – Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Although these states have nothing to do directly with the US-Iran war, they have become natural victims of the war as they host large US military assets. The GCC members have been absorbing extensive Iranian retaliatory strikes on their civilian, energy, and logistics infrastructure.

Despite seeking neutrality and trying to stay out of the crossfire, the geographic and strategic realities deeply entangled these nations. The GCC member states have indeed been severely impacted in the ongoing US-Iran conflict, suffering direct retaliatory missile strikes, major energy infrastructure damage, and vital trade route closures. The Gulf states are losing faith in the high-cost US protection. Although these states do not directly pay any fixed sum for US military protection, they traditionally contribute huge amounts by hosting US bases, purchasing billions in American military equipment, and investing heavily in US markets. The GCC members like Saudi Arabia and the UAE spend vast sums of money buying advanced US defence systems, aircraft, and missiles. They provide land, logistics, and varying levels of financial support for US military installations on their territory.

Since March last, Iran has launched thousands of missiles and drones targeting all six GCC members because they host US military assets and personnel. Iranian projectiles struck non-military and civilian infrastructure, including airports, residential areas, and critical water desalination and power plants in Kuwait and Bahrain. The air defence systems across the Gulf have been forced into continuous, high-cost activation to intercept incoming Iranian military threats. The de facto closure of the Strait of Hormuz and direct hits on facilities like Qatar's RasLaffan industrial hub have halted or heavily reduced major oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports. At the same time, tourism, aviation, and major transit hubs in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Doha have suffered massive capital flight, prolonged airspace closures, and tens of thousands of cancelled flights.

However, a graceful US exit from the conflict with Iran remains elusive as fragile ceasefires, volatile shipping lanes, and stalled diplomatic frameworks define the current standoff. Earlier, the US military paused airstrikes on Iran for several consecutive days, and Tehran similarly halted its retaliatory actions. However, the tension seems to be brewing up once again. The US president often claimed that the US is holding "very friendly" and "good" talks with Iranian officials, but Tehran's foreign ministry publicly denies direct negotiations are underway. In fact, last week, the US claimed it completed a "heavy wave" of strikes against Iran in retaliation for Iran's attempted ballistic missile attacks on American forces.

Iran confirmed that the latest US strikes had killed three people, including a two-year-old child, on Qeshmisland, while other locations were also hit in the south and west of the country. Joint US-Saudi strikes targeted Iranian proxies in Iraq. The Strait of Hormuz, the vital waterway, continues to remain a major flashpoint, with Iran asserting ongoing control despite a brief June memorandum of understanding intended to de-escalate the war. President Trump has warned that strikes will resume swiftly if a comprehensive and lasting deal is not achieved. In the meantime, clashes involving regional proxies, including Saudi Arabia and Houthi forces, continue to expand the geographic scope of the instability.

It may be noted that the US had rarely come conclusively victorious in its major long-drawn military conflicts since World War II. Most of its protracted military conflicts had ended with stalemates and graceless exits. They included the 1950-53 Korean war, the 1955-75 Vietnam war, the 2001-21 Afghanistan war and 2003-11 Iraq war. The Korean war ended in an armistice rather than total victory, leaving the Korean Peninsula divided at the 38th parallel. The Vietnam war concluded with a military withdrawal and the fall of South Vietnam to the North. Though the Afghan war had achieved the initial goal of removing the Taliban from power, it ended in a complete Taliban resurgence after a 20-year occupation. The Iraq war successfully deposed Saddam Hussein, but dissolved into a prolonged insurgency and regional instability in the state.

An exit from the Iran war may lead to a substantial loss of US military and strategic grip over the Gulf countries. Questions are hovering around the very reliability of the American security umbrella, which has faced severe strain and skepticism, on the Gulf countries. While advanced American air defence systems intercepted the vast majority of incoming projectiles, the conflict exposed deep vulnerabilities as host nations still suffered massive physical damage, infrastructure disruptions, and economic tolls from regional retaliatory strikes.

Energising Viksit Bharat



A country of nearly 150 crore people cannot meet its energy needs by looking backwards. Vice President C P Radhakrishnan reminded the nation that electricity consumption could rise nearly sevenfold by 2070 as transport, industry, farms, homes and kitchens are electrified. That projection is both a challenge and an invitation. The case for urgency begins with the economics. India's reliance on imported oil and gas has significantly burdened the exchequer for decades. Each spike in global crude prices swells the import bill, strains the rupee and squeezes resources that could have gone to hospitals, schools and infrastructure. Fossil fuels are, moreover, the world's largest source of pollution and greenhouse gases. A developing nation cannot afford to pay twice: once at the pump and again through choking air and a warming climate.

Recent geopolitics has sharpened the lesson. Two parallel wars have disrupted energy markets and exposed how fragile supply chains are when they pass through a handful of vulnerable routes. The dependence on fossil fuels of any variety is a risky proposition. Energy security is now inseparable from economic security. It is against this backdrop that electricity has emerged as the preferred fuel of the future. Electric vehicles are steadily gaining ground on the roads. Induction and hotplate cooking are entering urban kitchens. Industry and households alike are discovering that electricity should be cleaner. The transition is no longer a matter of ideology but of practicality.

India has already shown that dramatic change is possible. Not long ago, millions of households cooked and heated their homes with wood, charcoal and kerosene, inhaling smoke that sickened women and children in particular. Government initiatives have transformed this picture. Kerosene supply was wound down long ago; strict pollution norms have pushed even commercial establishments towards gas chullahs, and LPG, CNG, and PNG have become the standards for clean and safe cooking. The record on renewables is equally encouraging. Non-fossil capacity has crossed 300 GW, and India reached the 50 per cent non-fossil milestone in 2025, five years ahead of its Paris commitment. Solar capacity has grown from under 3 GW to more than 170 GW in about a decade, and solar power, once many times costlier than coal, is now among the cheapest electricity sources in the country. Schemes such as PM Surya GharMuftBijliYojana, under which more than 65 lakh families now generate their own electricity, show how clean energy can empower households while creating work for electricians, technicians and vendors.

Yet deployment alone will not suffice. The Vice President was right to urge industry to partner closely with universities, technical institutions and researchers and to give them the chance to test promising ideas under real conditions. The technologies of 2040 will come from the laboratories and start-ups of today. Solar output rises and falls with the sun, so the grid needs indigenous battery storage and smart management systems. Green hydrogen could decarbonise steel, fertiliser and heavy transport, where electricity cannot easily reach. Better photovoltaic cells, long-duration storage, advanced transmission and efficient appliances all await breakthroughs, and the country that masters them will set the terms of the next energy order. History offers encouragement. Not long ago, few could imagine cooking without a flame, yet induction has dissolved that assumption. Such shifts are less a matter of luck than of focus and the quality of research. Countries across the world are pouring funds into energy innovation, and India cannot afford to be a mere buyer of technology developed elsewhere. Importing solar panels and batteries in place of oil would only exchange one dependency for another.

India possesses a remarkable advantage in its young technocrats, many of whom have led the world's major technology giants. The challenge is to harness that talent at home through generous research funding, closer academia-industry links, patient capital for start-ups and a culture that rewards bold, unconventional thinking. As the Vice President noted, a movement is not created by Government alone; it needs teachers, students, entrepreneurs and citizens who change their habits. The destination, a Viksit Bharat by 2047 and net-zero emissions by 2070, is clear. It is now time to think outside the box and make India truly self-reliant in renewable energy.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Seeds of sabotage: The 'Agro-Terrorism' threat India can't ignore

AVM (Retd) Manmohan Bahadur



The India-US impasse over tariffs has, besides Russian oil imports by New Delhi, another major causative factor - India's insistence on safeguarding the interests of its farmers. While tariff percentages are dominating discussions and media coverage, there is another insidious threat that Indian strategic planners need to consider - agro-terrorism.

Two Chinese researchers were arrested in the US in June by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for smuggling in a particular strain of fungus. This story, which appeared in the inner pages of newspapers, deserves greater attention as it points to a novel warfare threat that New Delhi must prepare for.

In conflict, innovation sometimes becomes the difference between victory and defeat. The Trojan Horse enabled the Greeks in 1184 BC to breach the ramparts of Troy and capture it. In World War II, the development of radar in Britain gave it an unprecedented advantage for prioritising scarce RAF (Royal Air Force) fighter aircraft to intercept incoming Luftwaffe strikes. And just in the past year, the Israeli innovation of booby-trapped pagers wreaked havoc amongst the Hezbollah, while Ukraine's audacious placement and launch of UAVs thousands of kilometres away within Russia caused heavy air force losses. Historically, threats from innovations have been sector-agnostic; poisoning of water wells, using bodies of plague victims, and distributing blankets of small pox patients amongst the enemy's prisoners, et al - the methods have been innovatingly cruel. It is, thus, imperative to study and pre-empt such surprises in areas of non-traditional security, since warfare has evolved into a hybrid model where no sector of daily life is safe from being targeted.

Food security is one such vital area. It has been thought of earlier too (scorched earth policy used in war), but ongoing research to affect a nation's food supply is at a different level; studies in altering DNA of bio-organisms are underway in America, which, if misused, can terrorise a populace on an unprecedented scale. In 2016, the Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) of America started a USD 27 mn four-year programme called Insect Allies, in which it asked for "proposals that enable expression of crop traits within a single growing season … by delivering a modified virus to target plants by a mobile insect vector; ….(the) target crop must be an important annual, perennial, or subsistence plant." The project was called out for its disturbing implications by scientists worldwide and through articles in the Science magazine; it was also flagged in September 2019 at the UN Biological Weapons Convention held at Geneva, which this writer attended as a security expert.

Four years have passed since the planned culmination of the Insect Allies programme, but there is no information about its further trajectory. If it has been successful, the US can develop genetically modified viruses, which will be carried by insects to work on fully mature crops of agricultural importance in a nation's diet. The viruses, the programme claimed, would modify the genes of targeted crops and protect them from damage from man-made or natural vagaries like drought, salinity, flooding etc. However, the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) went on to add that it would also address "a wide range of threats (that) may jeopardize food security, including intentional attack by an adversary." A malicious tweak of the virus and its dispersal in an adversary nation would make it a destroyer of food crops. This is threatening for any country, and it is no surprise that the Chinese (and others, too) may already be experimenting with it.

The two Chinese researchers, Yunqing Jian and Zunyong Liu, arrested in the US, were charged with smuggling in a fungus called Fusarium graminearum, which is a potential agroterrorism weapon. They would have done further studies on this fungus that, as per the US Department of Justice, causes "head blight", a disease of wheat, barley, maize, and rice; it is responsible for billions of dollars in economic losses worldwide. Fusarium graminearum's toxins cause vomiting, liver damage, and reproductive defects in humans and livestock.

The development of such non-traditional threats raises new questions deserving serious analysis; the fact that it is difficult to trace their origin (like the novel Coronavirus) adds to their lethality. Would such an attack be considered adequate to justify a kinetic response, or would only a tit-for-tat retort be acceptable? What about a response by cyber, electro-magnetic or economic means? These questions are being debated worldwide, and India, actually, has taken the non-traditional route of holding the Indus Water Treaty in abeyance after a kinetic event - the Pahalgam terrorist massacre. If terrorism can become a tool to affect a nation's societal harmony (as the Pahalgam attempt was), then nothing stops adversaries from using bio-weapons, like Insect Allies, for agro-terrorism. 'Capability takes time to build; intentions can change overnight' is an oft-quoted axiom in security studies. If American and Chinese ongoing research in genetic engineering of food crops through insect dispersion is anything to go by, then India's security agencies have an additional danger of agro-terrorism on their already cluttered threat radar; this is not fear-mongering but a reality that needs clinical evaluation.

India must therefore strengthen its biosecurity framework by closely monitoring research involving genetically modified organisms, crop pathogens and insect-based delivery systems. Greater coordination among agricultural institutions, scientific laboratories, intelligence agencies and border security authorities is essential to identify potential threats at an early stage. Investment in disease surveillance, rapid diagnostic facilities and resilient crop varieties would also help minimise the risks to food production.

Equally important is the need for international cooperation to ensure that advances in biotechnology are used for peaceful purposes. India should actively engage in global discussions on biological weapons, strengthen safeguards under the Biological Weapons Convention and promote transparent scientific research. Protecting food security must now be viewed not only as an agricultural priority but also as a critical component of national security.

China Is Playing the Long Game on Trade. It's Working

Karishma Vaswani, Bloomberg



President Donald Trump's trade war was meant to rebalance global power in America's favor. Instead, China is playing the long game, enduring short-term economic pain to shape any eventual deal to its advantage. The strategy appears to be working - for now. On Monday, Washington granted Beijing another 90-day reprieve, extending a pause on tariffs through Nov. 10. China announced it would do the same. Markets welcomed the move, which offered some relief after months of tension. The delay will give President Xi Jinping's policymakers more time to plan their next move.

Time is Xi's ally. So far, the clearest outcome of each round of talks has been a commitment to meet again. Despite Trump's insistence that China has taken significant steps to improve their trade relationship, Beijing has made no consequential concessions on any of his key concerns. (China has offered some small compromises, none on the scale of American demands.)

The extension has come at a delicate time for the economy, which is plagued by sluggish domestic demand and a slowdown in the property sector. Bloomberg Economics says that China is among the few major nations without a clear timeline or terms for a deal, while others have struck agreements to secure lower tariffs. Even with this reprieve, it notes, Beijing faces average US tariffs of 40% - almost 25 percentage points above the global average. This will hurt prospects for Chinese citizens, who have enjoyed more than three decades of near double-digit growth. The economy expanded by 5.2% in April-June from a year earlier - enviable by global standards - but anxieties among the once-thriving middle class over the future for their children are rising. Youth unemployment remains stubbornly high, with joblessness at 14.5% in June. That figure has improved in recent months, but analysts point to significant challenges: More than 12 million university students are set to graduate with hopes of joining the workforce. Still, China is betting that despite these economic costs, it can fight this trade war to the end. Politically, Beijing is preparing the population for a long battle. State media editorials in recent months have lauded a Mao-era philosophy as a possible strategy to counter American pressure. They reference the former Chinese leader's 1938 essay On Protracted War, which laid out his approach to combating the invading Japanese between 1937 and 1945. During a series of lectures in May and June 1938, Mao spoke of how the "contest of strength is not only a contest of military and economic power, but also a contest of human power and morale." Scholars say the idea was to alert his fellow citizens that the war would be long and grueling, but could be won through endurance and unity.

> *"This will hurt prospects for Chinese citizens, who have enjoyed more than three decades of near double-digit growth. The economy expanded by 5.2% in April-June from a year earlier - enviable by global standards - but anxieties among the once-thriving middle class over the future for their children are rising. Youth unemployment remains stubbornly high, with joblessness at 14.5% in June. That figure has improved in recent months, but analysts point to significant challenges: More than 12 million university students are set to graduate with hopes of joining the workforce. Politically, Beijing is preparing the population for a long battle. State media editorials in recent months have lauded a Mao-era philosophy as a possible strategy to counter American pressure. They reference the former Chinese leader's 1938 essay On Protracted War, which laid out his approach to combating the invading Japanese between 1937 and 1945."*

Despite millions of Chinese dead, Mao refused to yield. The conflict only ended after Japan surrendered in World War II in 1945. (Mao's civil war with the Nationalists lasted another four years.) Xi appears to be heeding his predecessor's counsel: Patience, at all costs - with the aim of shifting the odds in Beijing's favor. Domestically, Xi has the levers of the Chinese state at his disposal to help him craft a now well-worn narrative that the West is keeping China down. The trade war has fueled those views, which play well with an already disgruntled citizenry. Internationally, Trump is doing much of the work for him. In contrast to Washington's chaos on everything from trade to international students' university admissions, Beijing is presenting itself as a champion of multilateralism - notwithstanding that it's also trying to reshape the world order to its advantage.

China is happy to keep the talks going, but is unlikely to make any concessions, as William Yang, the International Crisis Group's senior North East Asia analyst, says in a note. "China believes momentum is on its side because Trump has a stronger desire to sign a deal with Beijing so that he can claim victory and secure a summit with Xi in the fall." But Washington's economic leverage is gradually eroding, as China pushes ahead with its strategy of self-reliance. Beijing wants to reduce dependence on US markets, and deepen control over critical supply chains, as a report from the RAND thinktank notes. China on Monday urged local firms to avoid using Nvidia Corp.'s H20 processors, especially in government projects, following a White House directive requiring it and Advanced Micro Devices Inc. to pay 15% of Chinese AI chip sales to Washington. As Mao wrote, "final victory will not come about without human action." Trump may tout his successes in bringing China's economy to heel. By betting on time and resilience, Beijing is showing it's willing to wait for the win.

China's strategy also reflects its broader ambition to strengthen economic independence and reduce vulnerability to American pressure. By investing in domestic technology, diversifying trade partnerships and securing control over critical supply chains, Beijing is seeking to improve its bargaining position. The prolonged trade dispute could therefore reshape global economic alliances, with countries increasingly reassessing their dependence on the world's two largest economies.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

India eyes top 10 spot in global shipbuilding by 2030: Sonowal



New Delhi, Nov 13 (Way to News): India will be among the world's top 10 shipbuilding nations by 2030 and in top five countries by 2047, according to Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), Sarbananda Sonowal. The mission of Viksit Bharat at 2047 blends speed, scale, sustainability and self-reliance," he said.

Inaugurating India's first port-based Green Hydrogen Pilot Project at VO Chidambaranar (VOC) Port in Tamil Nadu, marking a major step in India's clean energy transition, the minister said the projects launched will generate thousands of jobs, attract global investments and position Tamil Nadu as a key contributor to India's economic aspirations.

"Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we continue to make new strides towards achieving our goal of world's Top 10 shipbuilding nations by 2030, Top 5 by 2047," Sonowal highlighted. Built at a cost of Rs 3.87 crore, the facility will generate green hydrogen to power streetlights and an electric vehicle charging station in the port colony. With this launch, VOC Port has become the first port in the country to produce green hydrogen. Sonowal also laid the foundation for a pilot green methanol bunkering and refuelling facility at a cost of Rs 35.34 crore.

Aligned with the proposed Coastal Green Shipping Corridor between Kandla and Tuticorin, the initiative is expected to position VOC Port as a key green bunkering hub in south India. Additional projects launched include a 400 KW rooftop solar power plant, enhancing the port's rooftop solar capacity to 1.04 MW, the highest among Indian ports, and a Rs 24.5 crore link conveyor connecting Coal Jetty-I to the port stack yard, increasing efficiency by 0.72 MMTPA. Sonowal also laid foundation stones for a 6 MW wind farm, a Rs 90 crore multi-cargo berth, a 3.37 km four-lane road, and the Tamil Nadu Maritime Heritage Museum.

The minister highlighted that Tamil Nadu's three major ports Chennai, Kamarajar, and VOC have seen transformative growth under Sagarmala, with 98 projects worth Rs 93,715 crore taken up in the past 11 years, of which 50 are already completed.

Electronics manufacturing hits 11.5 lakh cr, adds 25 lakh jobs: Minister



New Delhi, Nov 13 (Way to News): Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary schemes, the electronics manufacturing has emerged as a top sector in India, with production increasing 6 times in past 11 years -- resulting in it becoming a Rs 11.5 lakh crore industry, Union Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters over the recent GST overhaul here, the minister said the electronic products exports jumped eight times during the period and the industry now provides employment to over 25 lakh people.

"In the last 11 years, electronics manufacturing has emerged as a very big sector in India. Electronics production has increased 6 times, exports have increased 8 times, and it has become an industry of Rs 11.5 lakh crore, providing jobs to 25 lakh people," the minister said. Vaishnaw informed that India has now started manufacturing every single item that an electronic product needs in the country. "If we talk about a mobile phone, then every item of the phone -- be it glass, cover, chip, printed circuit board (PCB) or camera module, has started being produced in the country," the minister stated.

He further informed that recently, a factory was inaugurated at Sohna, Haryana, in which the battery used in the smartphone will be manufactured.

The country needs 50 crore batteries, and 20 crore battery packs will be manufactured from a single factory, the minister informed. He urged citizens to adopt India-made products as much as they can. "It is time for a self-reliant India in which, everyone is adopting 'Swadeshi' with great enthusiasm. All of you are also requested to increase the use of 'Swadeshi' products in your life," Vaishnaw noted. The minister said that with GST reforms, PM Modi has provided great relief to middle-class families.

He said the prices will come down for various sorts of electronic devices like televisions, refrigerators, dishwashers, microwaves and power banks, which are household needs.

food to household items to everyday essentials, the tax burden on all items has been reduced.

Renault reduces prices up to Rs 96,000 post-GST reforms

New Delhi, Nov 13 (Way to News): Renault India announced a significant price reduction for its cars on Saturday, following the rollout of GST 2.0, passing the entire benefit on to customers. Prices of its three modelsKwid, Triber and Kiger have been slashed by up to Rs 96,395. As per the French carmaker, with this revision, the Kwid now starts at Rs 4,29,900 (ex-showroom), while both the new Triber and the new Kiger begin at Rs 5,76,300 (ex-showroom). The updated prices will apply to all deliveries made on or after September 22; however, bookings at the revised rates are open immediately at Renault dealerships.

"Passing on the full GST 2.0 benefit is a reflection of our unwavering commitment to our customers. We believe this timely initiative will not only make our cars more accessible but also energise demand during the festive season," said Venkatram Mamillapalle, Managing Director, Renault India.

The move comes after Tata Motors also confirmed that it would pass on the full benefit of the new GST rates, effective from September 22. As a result, the Tiago will see price reductions of up to Rs 75,000, while the Nexon will become cheaper by as much as Rs 1,55,000.

Under the new GST 2.0 framework, all internal combustion engine (ICE) cars are now taxed at either 18 per cent or 40 per cent. Smaller cars such as hatchbacks, compact sedans, and compact SUVs fall under the 18 per cent slab, while mid-size, larger, and luxury models attract 40 per cent. Previously, ICE vehicles were subject to 28 per cent GST plus an additional compensation cess ranging between 1 per cent and 22 per cent depending on size and engine capacity.

For electric vehicles, the GST rate remains unchanged at 5 per cent, while hydrogen fuel cell vehicles (FCEVs) have seen a reduction from 12 per cent to 5 per cent.

Immigration crackdown at US battery plant: S. Korean foreign minister may visit US

Seoul, Nov 13 (Way to News): Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said on Saturday he may visit the United States to discuss with Washington the arrests of hundreds of South Koreans by U.S. immigration authorities at a South Korean battery plant site in the state of Georgia. Cho made the remarks as he presided over an emergency meeting on the immigration crackdown, confirming that more than 300 out of 457 people who were taken into custody are South Korean nationals.

"We are deeply concerned and feel a heavy sense of responsibility over the arrests of our nationals," Cho said at the start of the meeting, attended by two vice ministers, officials from the ministry and overseas missions, reports Yonhap news agency. "We will discuss sending a senior foreign ministry official to the site without delay, and, if necessary, I will personally travel to Washington to hold consultations with the U.S. administration," he said. Cho said President Lee Jae Myung has instructed officials to make all-out efforts to swiftly resolve the matter, stressing that the rights and interests of South Korean nationals and the business operations of South Korean companies investing in the United States must not be infringed upon.

Second Vice Foreign Minister Kim Ji-na expressed regret and concern over the crackdown during a meeting with acting U.S. Ambassador to Seoul Joseph Yun on Thursday, Cho said.

U.S. authorities carried out a search warrant at an electric vehicle battery plant construction site operated by HL-GA Battery Co., the joint venture between Hyundai Motor Co. and LG Energy Solution Ltd. in Bryan County near Savannah on Thursday. They described the raid as a criminal probe into alleged unlawful employment practices. U.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday the arrested people are "illegal aliens" and the immigration officials were "just doing their job."

Steven Schrank, a special agent with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) for Georgia, said the individuals in custody include those who came in through a visa waiver program that bans them from working, or had overstayed their visas.

Most of them are being held at a detention centre in Folkston, Georgia.

India's food processing sector to touch $535 billion by FY26, growing over 7 pc



New Delhi, Nov 13 (Way to News): India's food processing sector is expected to reach $535 billion by FY26, buoyed primarily by rising consumption and increased exports.

The government support through initiatives like 'Make in India', and technological advancements in AI-driven automation and smart packaging were other factors driving the industry forward, industry experts said at an event organised by Informa Markets. India's organic food market — currently valued at $1.9 billion — is projected to expand at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 20.13 per cent to $10.8 billion by 2033. Meanwhile, the food ingredients segment is growing at 7–8 per cent annually. Experts indicate that these trends position India to become a global hub for food and packaging materials. Dr Meenakshi Singh, Chief Scientist at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), said that "food ingredients form the backbone of the food sector, with packaging playing an equally critical role in ensuring safety and quality." The three-day event featured over 350 exhibitors from India and abroad and attracted more than 15,000 professionals from 50 countries. "India's food processing sector is undergoing a transformative phase, driven by rising health consciousness, growing preference for organic and plant-based foods, and a notable shift in dietary patterns," said Yogesh Mudras, Managing Director of Informa Markets in India.

He added that the organic food market is projected to touch Rs 75,000 crore by 2025, as consumers show a growing willingness to pay a premium for healthier options. India's food processing sector contributes 7.7 per cent to the manufacturing output and supporting over 7 million jobs.

Experts at the event said that FSSAI will emphasise stricter labelling, organic food standards, and consumer awareness in 2025, shaping industry practices.

IT pact with US in 1997 crippled India Inc from producing world-class hardware



New Delhi, Nov 13 (Way to News): Economists and strategic affairs analysts on Saturday argued that the Information Technology Agreement of 1997 between India and the United States actually crippled India Inc, against its wishes, from producing world-class computer hardware like China and Taiwan. In 1997, the US and India sealed a pact that removed tariffs and barriers to trade in all services relating to information technology. However, the then Bill Clinton administration in the US convinced New Delhi that India should play to its strengths in software development and relation services, while the Indian industry was keen to maintain tariffs on computer hardware in order to nurture its growth.

In a post on X social media platform, strategic affairs analyst and columnist Divya Kumar Soti said: "Do you know that India ceded away hardware sector to the United States as part of Information Technology Agreement of 1997 against the wishes of India Inc! Clinton administration pursued GoI to remain confined to software and allied services (call centres) and remain out of hardware sector. But for this agreement, today India Inc would have been producing world class computer hardware like China and Taiwan".

Soti further argued that the US-sponsored ecosystem in India "sold this beautifully to Indians as one magazine after another and one news channel after another told us day and day out that we were the software superpower". "Today, the reality is exposed. We are such a superpower that as we are forced to enter into a confrontation with the United States, we don't even have an email platform of our own. Our IT sector is heavily reliant on the US for remaining profitable. Hundreds and hundreds of our engineering colleges churn out substandard CS graduates who can only do the jobs which are going to be taken over by the AI very soon," Soti stressed.

That is why with the advent of AI, Americans now find themselves in a position to threaten outsourcing and the H1-B system, the X post added. Responding to Soti's post, Dr Arvind Virmani, economist and member of NITI Aayog, said he was probably the only economist who opposed this (India-US) agreement, based on economics of tariffs. "After doing 5 yrs of tariff reform (1991+), It was clear to me, that it would produce an inverted duty structure and destroy domestic production of electronics assembly," Virmani informed in his reply to the post.

Today, India produces world's best software engineers but somewhat lack on producing hardware – a scenario which the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government is aiming to change with its bold reformist policies and initiatives line 'Make in India' and production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes, which can transform the country into a global manufacturing hub in several sectors.

India's assistance to Kabul not limited to quake relief



New Delhi, Nov 13 (Way to News): The humanitarian aid dispatched by New Delhi immediately after the initial earthquake rocked the southeastern parts of Afghanistan at the end of August is not a gesture in isolation. Though India has not granted recognition to the Taliban rulers in Kabul, it has continued its outreach for the common people's benefit in this beleaguered country. India's evolving engagement with the Taliban is not a matter of ideological alignment, but of geopolitical necessity. Since the regime's return to power in Aug 2021, New Delhi has recalibrated its approach from outright rejection to cautious diplomacy. India's engagement with the Taliban is driven by a range of strategic imperatives. A stable Afghan regime can help deny Pakistan-based terror proxies safe havens, bolstering India's border security.

Afghanistan also serves as a vital land bridge to Central Asia and the Chabahar port corridor, offering New Delhi alternative access for trade and energy resources.

Incidentally, a Parliamentary Standing Committee report, tabled in March this year, underscored the need for projects and programmes aimed at the welfare of women and children in Afghanistan. It noted that the allocation for 'Aid to Afghanistan' was Rs 200 crores during the Budget Estimate (BE) 2024-25, but was revised to Rs 50 crores in the Revised Estimate (RE) stage. It was then increased to Rs 100 crores in BE 2025-26. According to the External Affairs Ministry, budgetary allocation to Afghanistan since Aug 2021 was primarily aimed at stabilising the country in terms of food security, medicines and emergency supplies. The report quoted the Ministry that, now that these efforts have been fruitful, leading to marked improvement in these areas, it has been decided to explore development cooperation projects in addition to the ongoing humanitarian aid. Earlier, India put in a total of USD 3 billion for dams, hospitals and education even before 2021. The Taliban is seeking New Delhi's help in several construction projects. Operations may soon be revived as security stabilises.

New Delhi faces challenges in moving men and material via the land route as it lies through Pakistan, where several bureaucratic and political roadblocks are often created. Additionally, skirmishes at the Af-Pak border lead to long waits at the entry point. Despite several other difficulties, India has successfully invested in several long-standing humanitarian and reconstruction investments. Such gestures have helped build goodwill, countering the "Great Game" played by other countries.

The history of such manoeuvrings has been chronicled by Peter Hopkirk, who authored the book, 'The Great Game'. He wrote extensively about the diplomatic significance of Afghanistan, documenting overt and covert battles fought in the region for centuries. The title of the book – borrowed from the phrase and term coined by a British intelligence officer, Captain Arthur Conolly, in the 19th century – aptly sums up the diplomatic one-upmanship.

While some experts believe that India does not have a clear policy regarding Afghanistan, others prefer to term it as strategic patience.

IndiGo's Abu Dhabi-bound flight returns safely after mid-air technical snag



New Delhi, Nov 13 (Way to News): An IndiGo flight to Abu Dhabi returned safely to Kochi in the early hours on Saturday after witnessing a mid-air technical snag. The Airbus A320neo aircraft, carrying over 180 passengers and six crew members, departed Kochi but turned back and landed safely at 1:44 am in the early hours. The airline said the decision was taken as a precautionary measure, and the aircraft was undergoing maintenance checks.

A replacement aircraft with a new crew was arranged, and passengers departed for Abu Dhabi.

"A technical issue was detected on IndiGo flight 6E 1403 operating from Kochi to Abu Dhabi on 6 September 2025. As a precautionary step, the pilots decided to turn back and the aircraft landed safely at Cochin International Airport," the airline said in a statement.

While the aircraft is undergoing necessary maintenance checks before resuming operations, an alternative aircraft was promptly arranged for customers to complete the journey, it added. "We regret the inconvenience caused to our customers and made all possible efforts to minimise it, including offering them meals and refreshments. At IndiGo, we remain committed to the safety and security of our customers and crew," the spokesperson added.

Late last month, an IndiGo flight from Surat to Dubai carrying around 150 passengers was diverted to Ahmedabad after the aircraft developed a technical problem. The flight landed safely at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad about an hour and a half later.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Hockey India announces free entry for women's Asian Champions trophy in Bhopal



New Delhim, Nov 13 (Way to News): Hockey India has announced free entry for spectators at the Madhya Pradesh Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2026, scheduled to be held at the International Sports Complex in Nathu Barkheda, Bhopal, from November 19 to 28. The ninth edition of the continental tournament will feature 20 matches, with six teams competing for the title. The league-stage matches will take place from November 19 to 25, followed by the semi-finals on November 27 and the medal matches on November 28. Fans can obtain free entry passes through the Ticketgenie website or its mobile application. After registering, spectators can select their preferred matches from the available fixtures and receive a digital entry pass containing a QR code, which will be scanned at the venue for admission.

Hockey India said the initiative aims to bring more spectators closer to international women's hockey while encouraging greater participation and interest in the sport.

Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey said the decision would provide an opportunity for families, young players and hockey enthusiasts to witness top-level international competition. "Making entry free for fans is a great way to bring the people of Bhopal closer to international women's hockey. We want the Madhya Pradesh Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2026 to be an occasion where families, young aspiring players and hockey enthusiasts can experience the excitement of top-level competition," Tirkey said.

Hockey India secretary general and Asian Hockey Federation vice-president Bhola Nath Singh also welcomed the initiative, expressing hope that the stadium would attract strong support throughout the tournament. "We are delighted to make all matches of this prestigious tournament accessible to fans without any entry fee. Bhopal has an opportunity to witness some of Asia's finest women hockey players in action, and we hope the stands will be filled with enthusiastic supporters," he said. India will begin their campaign against Malaysia on November 19 before taking on South Korea on November 21 and Thailand on November 22.

The hosts will then face China on November 24 before concluding their league-stage campaign against Japan on November 25. The tournament will provide India's women's team an opportunity to compete against some of the leading sides in Asian hockey on home soil.

The tournament is expected to generate considerable excitement among hockey fans and provide a platform for emerging players to witness international talent. With India enjoying home advantage, the team will look to make the most of local support as it competes for continental honours. Free admission is also expected to encourage young athletes, particularly girls, to take up hockey and pursue the sport.

New Zealand crush India by 244 Runs



Mount Maunganui, Nov 13 (Way to News): Matt Henry ripped through India's top order with a triple-wicket maiden in the first over and finished with career-best figures of 6-27 as New Zealand won by a whopping 244 runs in the fourth ODI at the Bay Oval on Friday.

Chasing 334, India were bowled out for just 89 in 26.4 overs, as the visitors slumped to their second-heaviest defeat in terms of runs in ODIs. The result cuts India's lead to 2-1 and sets up a series decider at the same venue on Sunday. It proved to be a Friday the 13th to forget for the Indian batters, with only Ishan Kishan, Axar Patel and Naman Dhir reaching double figures. The damage was done before India had scored a run. Rohit Sharma edged the first ball of the chase from Henry to Finn Allen at first slip after being squared up. Virat Kohli played for the inward movement too late and was castled through the gate four balls later.

Stand-in captain Shreyas Iyer, the 29th man to lead India in men's ODIs, lasted just one delivery – trapped lbw by a sharp in-seamer from Henry after New Zealand successfully overturned an on-field not-out call. It was only the second time that Rohit and Kohli had both made ducks in the same ODI for India.

Kyle Jamieson then had Ruturaj Gaikwad caught at second slip for five, leaving India at 9/4, matching their score at the same stage against Zimbabwe at Tunbridge Wells in the 1983 World Cup. On that day, Kapil Dev rescued India by hitting an unbeaten 175, but here in Mount Maunganui, there was no heroic knock to rescue the visitors.

Brief Scores: New Zealand 333 in 50 overs (Will Young 125, Tim Seifert 58; Axar Patel 2-39, Auqib Nabi 2-59) beat India 89 all out in 26.4 overs (Ishan Kishan 27, Naman Dhir 21; Matt Henry 6-27, Matthew Fisher 3-31) by 244 runs

'Ends Speculation': Lalit Modi Welcomes BCCI's Stance On 12-Team IPL



New Delhi, Nov 13 (Way to News): Indian Premier League (IPL) founder Lalit Modi has welcomed the BCCI's clarification ruling out an immediate expansion of the league to 12 teams, but stressed that the tournament's schedule must be revised to accommodate the mandatory 94-match format and avoid the extreme heat in the final weeks of May.

Modi's comments came after BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said the proposal to expand the IPL from 10 to 12 teams by 2028 had not been discussed, either formally or informally, within the Board.

Taking to X, Modi said he was glad the official statement had put an end to speculation about the possibility of a 12-team competition in the immediate future. "I am glad this official comment for now ends speculation of 12 teams. Also, I showed you all what it will take to get the games scheduled to the 94 games going forward, which is mandatory," Modi posted.

He also called for changes to the tournament calendar, arguing that the schedule would need to move forward even if the BCCI could not implement the format he had previously proposed.

"Even if BCCI cannot adopt the earlier schedule and one has to live with may end finish the schedule will nevertheless has to move to second week match. Moving it up 3 weeks into the third week of February will definitely be the first step to avoiding the last three weeks of May, which is the worst heat. You cannot escape climate change; I am sorry. We have to adapt and not continue to ignore reality at the cost of other cricket," he added.

Saikia had recently stated that the Board's immediate priority was the 2027 edition that will be the 20th season of the IPL. No move has also been made yet to raise the team purse from Rs 125 crore to Rs 150 crore before the 2027 mega auction, said the secretary. It has been announced that the auction on December 16 will be the last auction of the current cycle.

Lalit Modi, the former IPL chairman and commissioner, welcomed the BCCI's position on retaining the tournament with 12 teams, saying it had put an end to speculation surrounding its expansion.

Youth Olympics: India Conclude Campaign With Win 10 Medals, Record Historic Boxing Double



New Delhi, Nov 13 (Way to News): India signed off from the 2026 Summer Youth Olympic Games in Dakar with 10 medals, including two gold, three silver and five bronze, marking the country's second-best performance in the history of the competition. India's medal-winning campaign spanned seven disciplines, with five Khelo India Athletes among the medallists. They included Tanvi Patri (Badminton), Khushbu Rajakbhai Darjada (Judo), Shourya Ambure (Athletics), Gunjan (Boxing) and Tirthank Pegu (Swimming).

Nine of India's 17 athletes returned with medals, while swimmer Dhinidhi Desinghu created history by becoming the first Indian athlete to win two medals in a single edition of the Youth Olympic Games.

India's 10-medal tally was surpassed only by its 13-medal performance at the 2018 Youth Olympics.

Boxing emerged as India's biggest success story, with Lairenlakpam Ambekar Meetei winning gold in the boys' 50kg category and Gunjan claiming the top podium finish in the girls' 48kg category. The two victories gave India its first-ever gold medals in boxing at the Youth Olympic Games and marked the country's first boxing gold double at the competition. With two gold medals, India also recorded its second-highest gold medal tally in a single edition of the Youth Olympic Games.

The campaign also witnessed several historic achievements across other disciplines. Shourya Ambure became the first Indian athlete to win an athletics medal at the Youth Olympic Games, claiming bronze in the girls' 100m hurdles. Taniya secured silver in girls' freestyle 75kg beach wrestling, giving India its first-ever medal in the discipline at the competition. India also registered its first medals in swimming and Wushu at the Youth Olympics. Swimming was the country's most productive sport at the Games, contributing three medals.

Dhinidhi Desinghu won bronze medals in the girls' 100m and 200m freestyle events, becoming the first Indian athlete to win two medals in a single edition of the competition. Tirthank Pegu added another bronze in the boys' 200m butterfly event. In badminton, Tanvi Patri won silver in the girls' singles event, becoming the first Indian woman to win a badminton medal at the Youth Olympic Games. Khushbu Rajakbhai Darjada secured silver in the girls' 63kg judo category.

U-19 Asia Cup: India Eye Record Ninth Title With Revenge Against Arch-Rival Pakistan



Al Amerat, Nov 13 (Way to News): India will be aiming to avenge their crushing 151-run defeat to Pakistan in the 2025 final when the arch-rivals meet in the Under-19 Asia Cup title clash on Saturday at the Amerat Cricket Ground (Ministry Turf 2) in Al Amerat, with the defending champions standing between the boys in blue and a record-extending ninth trophy. Pakistan, who wo their second title with last year's win, will be eyeing to defend their title, while India will be hoping to capture the trophy once again and reaffirm their supremacy in the tournament.

India's campaign has largely been led by two stars — Aaryavir Sehwag and Ishan Sood, but the team will need more support from the other batsmen and bowlers if they want to beat a strong Pakistan team. Aaryavir has scored 303 runs in four matches for a massive average of 101 so far and was the top scorer in the competition. Aaryavir has scored 303 runs for two fifties and a ton in four matches.

Sood has been the bowler spearheading the attack with pace and accuracy, taking 11 wickets in four games with the ball. India will require more backup for him and, more so, from the spin department if they are to prevent Pakistan's batting line-up.

Skipper Lakshya Raichandani and wicketkeeper-batter Anvay Dravid, along with middle-order batters Arjun Rajput and VK Vinneeth, will be key cogs in the wheels. Their impact has been more sporadic than regular during the course of the tournament. Rajput's brisk century against Pakistan in the group stage proved too late for India in that contest. But Raichandani's 93 steered India to an easy victory over Afghanistan in the semifinal, and Vinneeth's half-century was no less useful.

The Indians will be banking on all three making telling contributions in the decider. In the bowling, Rajput and Manal Chauhan will support Sood more, who has not really had any help. The two bowlers – both spinners – have picked up five wickets each, though three of those were in a game.

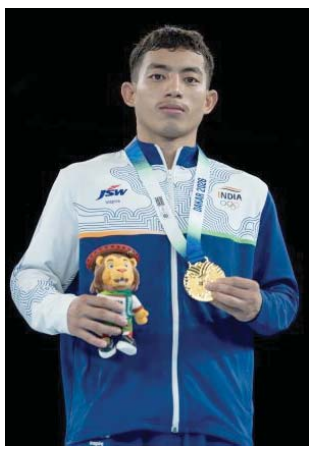
Similarly, Pakistan have had their main contributors. Usman Khan has 238 runs to his name, while pacer Rizwanullah has 11 wickets and has topped Pakistan's list. Hamza Zahoor, who scored a century against India in their group-stage match, will also be a major threat.

Pakistan also have Mohammad Sayyam with eight wickets and Ali Raza with six to their attack, which has strength in numbers. Having clashed earlier in the group stages, Saturday's final will see India seek revenge and reclaim the crown while Pakistan will aim to defend it. When: Saturday, November 14, 10:30 AM IST.

Where: Amerat Cricket Ground (Ministry Turf 2), Al Amerat. Where to watch: The U19 Asia Cup final will be broadcast on Sony Sports Network, and live streaming will be available on SonyLIV.

Squads: India U19: Lakshya Raichandani [captain], Aaryavir Sehwag, V.K. Vineeth, Yashbardhan Singh Chauhan [vice-captain], Kushagra Ojha, Arjun Rajput, Manal Chauhan, Anvay Dravid [wicketkeeper], Rajat Baghel [wicketkeeper], V. Yashveer, Aryan Savsani, Mohit Ulva, Kavya Patel, Shavin Vinod, Ishan Sood.

Youth Olympics: Boxers L Ambekar Meetei And Gunjan Clinch Gold For India; Make History



New Delhi, Nov 13 (Way to News): In a fitting conclusion to a sensational campaign, Indian boxers made history in the 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Dakar, Senegal, on Thursday as Gunjan (women's 48kg) and L Ambekar Meetei clinched the gold medals in their respective weight categories — the first time that the country has picked gold medals in the competition.

The two gold medals meant that the two-member Indian boxing contingent maintained a 100% medal record in the Games, with both winning gold medals. These were also the first two gold medals for India in Dakar. "This is a historic moment for Indian boxing and Indian sport. Winning two gold medals at the Youth Olympic Games, with India also opening its gold medal account at the Dakar 2026 edition, makes this achievement even more special," said Boxing Federation of India president Ajay Singh.

"These are also India's first-ever gold medals in boxing at the Youth Olympic Games," he added.

Before Thursday, two Indian boxers had finished on the podium at the 2010 Youth Olympics in Singapore. Shiva Thapa had won the silver medal in the men's 54kg category while Vikas Krishan bagged the bronze medal in the men's 60kg event. At Dakar on Thursday, L Ambekar Meetei opened India's gold medal count with a hard-fought 3:2 win over Jubani Kristian of Ireland in the men's 50kg final.

Gunjan had no such struggle in her women's 48kg bout against Bensalah Bouthaina of Algeria as she dominated all three rounds to get a unanimous 5:0 verdict. India had won three gold medals in the 2018 Youth Olympics, with two gold coming in shooting and one in wrestling. As things stand now in Dakar, India has so far won two gold, three silver and five bronze medals and has now jumped from 58th spot to 16th in the medal tally.

Speaking about the efforts that have gone into supporting the boxers, Singh said, "What is particularly encouraging is the depth of talent emerging in Indian boxing. We are seeing our boxers deliver across age groups and competitions, from the World Junior Championships and Youth Olympic Games to the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games. "This reflects the progress being made in building a strong talent pipeline, and our focus will be to ensure that these young champions continue to develop into world-class senior boxers. I congratulate Ambekar and Gunjan on creating history," he added.

The two gold medals also strengthen India's emergence as a powerhouse in boxing as its pugilists have won medals in all major multi-sport competitions — Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games besides Asian and World Championships.

If KKR Can't Find Anyone Else At Auction, Will Go Towards Rinku As Captain: Aakash Chopra



Kolkata Knight Riders, Nov 13 (Way to News): Former India batter Aakash Chopra has said three-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) should name Rinku Singh as captain if the IPL 2027 auction does not result in them finding a suitable leader, especially in terms of overseas options. The question of who leads KKR has come up after Ajinkya Rahane's retirement. KKR missed the playoffs last season, and must also finalise their retention list before the deadline comes on November 17. "Appoint Rinku as the captain. You made him the vice-captain, right? Then have him as the captain now. He leads his side in the UPT20. Sometimes you have to throw people in at the deep end and see what happens.

"So, this is that opportunity, unless they can find somebody at the auction. If they can't find anyone, rather than looking at overseas players, I'll actually go towards Rinku," said Chopra on JioStar.

He also felt KKR would have the funds to look for a captain at the auction if they released two of their most expensive players, all-rounder Cameron Green and pacer Matheesha Pathirana. "I am looking to leave out Cameron Green at Rs 25.2 crores. It's a World Cup year, and it's an Ashes year, so I am not sure about his availability or how many matches he will play.

"If you release him, even if you feel like buying him back, you can easily get him for 50 per cent cheaper. Secondly, Matheesha Pathirana is also not playing, so that's another Rs 18 crore buy. KKR are likely to walk into this auction with the most amount of money, so that will be the big story.

"We also don't know what is going to happen with Mustafizur Rahman. If he is available and can play, you would want to retain him, but can he play? We don't know about that. If he can play, I would still have him retained because you already have a surplus of Rs 43 crore with those two releases," added Chopra.

He further questioned whether keeping all-rounder Ramandeep Singh and tearaway pacer Umran Malik made sense, given how little they played in IPL 2026. "I'm slightly worried about Ramandeep Singh personally at four crores. He's not getting utilised at all, so that is my area of concern. If I'm not going to play him and he's not doing well, then do I want to go elsewhere?

"I know that's just Rs 4 crores, but that money can be utilised better. Another player is Umran Malik.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Mammootty wins hearts of both orthodox and Jacobite Churches



For two churches of different denominations in Kerala, an unlikely common bond has emerged in Malayalam superstar Mammootty. In a remarkable coincidence, the actor has been celebrated by both the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church and the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, appearing at important gatherings of the two churches within a fortnight of each other.

On November 1, Mammootty was the chief guest at the concluding public meeting of the pilgrimage week marking the 124th remembrance feast of St Gregorios of Parumala at the Parumala church in Pathanamthitta district. The meeting was presided over by Catholicos Baselios Marthoma Mathews III, supreme head of the Orthodox Church. On Friday, the actor was back a ong the faithful, this time at Puthencruz, where the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church honoured him with its Shreshtha Bava Award.

Instituted in memory of its late Catholicos Mor Baselios Thomas I, the award recognises Mammootty's contributions to the welfare and progress of society. The gathering was part of the 150th anniversary celebrations of the historic Mulanthuruthy Synod and the Holy Mooron consecration ceremony.

It was led by Patriarch Ignatius Aphrem II, the supreme head of the Jacobite Church based in Lebanon, and Catholicos Mor Baselios Joseph, its head in Kerala. Kerala Chief Minister, V.D. Satheesan, inaugurated the meeting. The two churches, despite sharing a common Malankara Christian heritage, are at loggerheads over church ownership and spiritual authority. Chief Minister Satheesan used the ccasion to make an emotional appeal for unity, offering to act as an interlocutor between the two sides. "I just imagined if unity takes place. It would be a huge thing for Kerala. All of you also imagine the same scenario," he said. Mammootty, meanwhile, offered his own simple reflection on what makes life meaningful. Material possessions, he said, do not bring happiness, peace does."What I do often is I always convert all as my friends," he said.There was something particularly poignant about those words coming from a man whom both sides were happy to embrace. Mammootty's presence at both church gatherings has attracted attention, given the long-standing differences between the two denominations. His participation offered a rare moment of shared appreciation for a public figure respected across religious and social boundaries.

The actor, known for his decades-long contribution to Malayalam cinema, has also earned recognition for his philanthropic activities and commitment to social causes. His work beyond films has strengthened his image as an influential personality in Kerala. The Chief Minister's appeal for reconciliation has once again brought the issue of church unity into public discussion. While differences over ownership and spiritual authority remain unresolved, the call for dialogue has raised hopes for renewed efforts to bridge the divide.

Ram Charan Visits Shirdi Sai Baba, Seeks Blessings



Veteran actor Ram Charan visited Shirdi Sai Baba, a famous pilgrimage site in Maharashtra. After performing special pujas at the temple, he spoke to the media. He said that getting darshan of Baba after many years gave him immense happiness and his long-standing wish has now been fulfilled.

Speaking exclusively to IANS after the darshan, Ram Charan reminisced about his childhood memories. "My greetings to everyone. I have been wishing and praying for Baba's blessings for a long time. I have been fortunate enough to have this opportunity for all these years. I am very grateful for this. I came here when I was very young. Baba's pujas and his memories will always be a part of our family. My heartfelt thanks to the temple staff, administrators, and Mahesh garu for providing me with a good darshan. It was a great pleasure to meet all of you. I hope to come back soon for Baba's darshan," Ram Charan explained. When it comes to Ram Charan's film projects, he is busy with a series of big films. He recently started shooting for his latest film (working title 'RC17') directed by star director Sukumar. This crazy project began on November 1st in Hyderabad with a grand pooja ceremony.

A special video of the muhurta ceremony was shared by the production house Mythri Movie Makers on their official social media platforms. Megastar Chiranjeevi, who was the chief guest at the ceremony, clapped for the muhurta shot and blessed the film unit by breaking a coconut. At that time, Ram Charan bowed to his father Chiranjeevi's feet and took blessings, and then both of them embraced each other intimately, which impressed the fans. After an industry hit like 'Rangasthalam', there were huge expectations among the audience on this film, which is coming in the Ram Charan-Sukumar combination. Ram Charan's visit to Shirdi has also drawn attention from fans, who welcomed his heartfelt expressions of devotion and his memories of visiting the shrine during childhood. Meanwhile, his upcoming collaboration with Sukumar has generated considerable excitement, as audiences eagerly await the duo's reunion after the success of Rangasthalam.

'I Am Game' Review: Dulquer Salmaan's Film Fails to Impress



Dulquer Salmaan has a good craze in Malayalam, Telugu and Tamil languages. There is also a good market for his films. Dulquer is moving forward by choosing different concepts and roles from time to time. His latest film is 'I Am Game'. The film, which was released in theaters on September 3rd, was directed by Nahas Hidayat. The film, which stars Kayaadhu Lohar as the female lead, is also streaming in Telugu from the 6th of this month on Jio Hotstar.

Dan John (Dulquer Salmaan) is the only son of a rich man. He interprets his father's words that respect in this society is only possible if there is money in a different way. A desire to earn that money as soon as possible takes root in him. While he does not care about business at all, the fact that he is going into crores of debt is mentally debilitating for his father. No matter how much his parents tell him, it is of no use. He starts gambling for easy money. John, who has lost a lot of money in gambling, gets into a fight with the locals. He loses his right hand in the danger of escaping from their clutches. Due to spending a large amount of money, someone else's hand is implanted in John. At that time, a 'physiotherapist' named 'Isha' (Kayadu) Lohar serves him. Because of her, he recovers quickly. John likes Isha, who is the reason for his physical and mental recovery. However, the newly implanted hand starts working without his control.

John is surprised to see his right hand reacting unexpectedly on its own. Sometimes it attacks itself, which makes him angry. The hand keeps typing on the phone and telling him what it means. When it sees the money-loving 'David Abraham' (Miskin), John's hand tries to attack him. It types on the phone that it wants to kill him. Who actually owns the hand that was implanted in John? What is the relationship between that person and David? What are the experiences that John encounters as he tries to find out the secret? What does David plan to do after realizing the matter? This is the rest of the story.

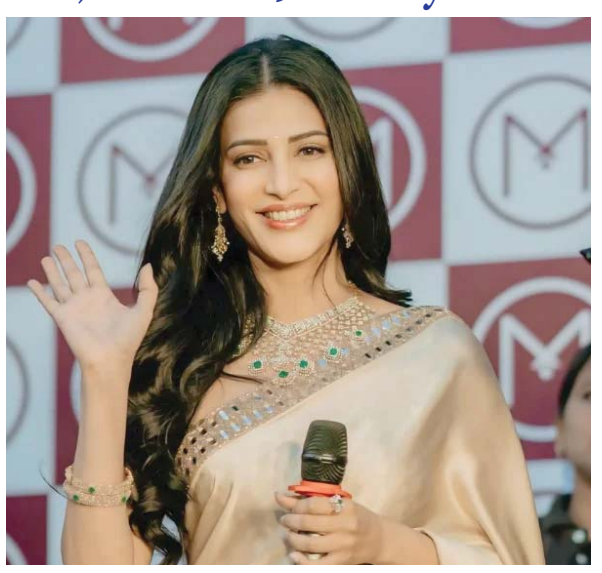
Some movies have been made with stories like the eyes of one person being implanted in another, and the person who has those eyes implanted behaves like an image of the person who has them implanted. Similarly, this movie is made with the main plot of the changes that occur in the hero's life when the arm of one person is implanted in the hero. This raises the doubt that his 'arm', which makes the hero do things he does not want, could be the villain in this story. The first half continues with scenes like John's luxurious life.. gambling.. debts.. changing his arm through surgery.. John's various troubles due to lack of control over that arm. Now, the second half continues with John's attempts to find out who owns the arm implanted in him and David's attempts to find out why John, who has nothing to do with him, is attacking him.

Regarding the first half, the question of who is the hand that was implanted in John? What is his background? arouses everyone's excitement. Everyone waits for the moment when that matter is revealed in the second half. However, the lack of novelty in the flashbacks in the second half is a bit disappointing. The long scenes involving cricket and betting make the audience a bit impatient.

The scenes where the 'hand' works against the hero have increased in the first half. When it comes to the second half, the length has increased when they try to show it in too much detail. The scenes related to action, emotion, love and drama do not have much depth. The increase in length with routine scenes and predictable scenes seems to be another minus.

All the main characters have done well. The camera work and background music are not bad. When it comes to editing, there are some scenes that need to be cut in the first half and the second half. It must be said that this movie, made with a huge budget, failed to impress due to its routine content.

Shruti Haasan Opens Up About Cosmetic Procedures, Alcohol Journey



Actor Shruti Haasan got candid about cosmetic procedures and her personal journey with alcohol. She shared her perspective on cosmetic enhancements, emphasising that she sees no reason to lie about such choices, while also making it clear that she does not wish to promote them.

Shruti spoke about cosmetic procedures and her personal journey with alcohol during her appearance on Neha Dhupia and Angad Bedi's show Double Date. Having grown up in the public eye, she believes it would be silly to deny something that people can clearly notice.

Sharing her thoughts, the actress, who is the daughter of Kamal Haasan and Sarika Thakur, said, "I speak very carefully about these things, but I have grown up in front of people and it is silly to lie about it. I am not judging anyone, but some people say, 'I was born like this.' But you were not like this three weeks before! Like, whatever!" she added with a laugh. She further clarified that while everyone has the right to make their own choices, she does not understand the need to hide them. "Sab ki marzi, khud ki marzi. I don't see the point of lying about it. But also, I don't want to be a promoter of it," she added. The conversation also touched upon a more personal aspect of Shruti's life as she opened up about her relationship with alcohol.

She revealed that she had been sober for eight years, during which she did not consume even a drop of alcohol, before eventually returning to drinking. Speaking about it, Shruti said, "I always said openly that it's not good for me! I am super careful with it now.

'DNK' Review: Mouli's Film Fails to Entertain



Mouli became known as an actor with the film 'Little Hearts'. With the success of that film, he got the opportunity to act as a hero in a famous production company like Mythri Movie Makers. 'DNK' is the film in which Mouli acted as a hero in Mythri's company. This film has been released in theaters. So what is the story of this film? Has Mouli received another hit as a hero? Let's find out.. Eeshwar (Mouli), a middle-class young man from Visakhapatnam. He dropped his B.Tech midway due to lack of education and takes up debts.. He lives his life aimlessly by betting. He also cheats Deepu (Sushmita Shetty), a girl he fell in love with for necessities, and he also cheats her of Rs. 10 lakhs worth of gold and money. When this matter comes to light at Deepu's house, problems start for Eeshwar.

On one hand, the girl's father Pullaiah (Raghubabu) is pressuring him to give them their money, and on the other hand, the debt collectors are after him, so he and his friend get ready to commit a robbery. In this process, he plans to rob a gold shop. But an unexpected development occurs there. What actually happened there? What happened in the gold shop? What troubles did Mouli's family face due to that robbery? What happened next is the rest of the story. This is a simple crime drama. A routine story without any twists and turns. The story is very dull from the beginning. There is nothing new or interesting in this story written by the director. It is surprising that the idea of making a movie on the silver screen with such a weak story comes to mind. The story is boring from beginning to end. The first half is all about the mischievous acts of Eeshwar, the comedy of the mischievous little ones, and the cringe-worthy scenes. The story of the film is as if we have never seen a more inferior comedy. Even if

we look through the entire film with a magnifying glass, we cannot find a single entertaining scene. Every sequence is like a test of the audience's patience. The scenes and confusion comedy in the second half make the audience feel so bored that they want to get out of the theater.

Diljit Asked to Skip Four Songs Ahead of Ahmedabad Concert



Ahead of his November 21 concert in Ahmedabad, singing superstar Diljit Dosanjh has been asked to refrain from performing four of his songs allegedly promoting alcohol, substance abuse and violence.

The District Child Protection Officer has written to the Police Commissioner seeking restrictions on the concert, stating that the songs should not be performed even with modified lyrics.

The official has requested that the singer refrain from performing four songs such as 'Patiala Peg', '5 Taara Theke', 'Jeb Vicho Feem' and 'Jatt Fire Karda', which allegedly promote alcohol, substance abuse and violence. The request also applies to performing these songs with modified lyrics.Diljit is all set to perform in Indore on November 15. Ahead of his performance, bomb threats have been issued to three banks and the city's Mayor's Secretariat through emails sent in Punjabi and English. The threats have put security agencies on alert, with a Bomb Disposal Squad conducting a thorough search of the Mayor's Secretariat, while police have launched an investigation to trace the source of the emails.

Following the threats, security agencies have been put on high alert, and security arrangements at the targeted locations have been tightened. According to information, threatening emails were sent targeting Bandhan Bank, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank and the Indore Mayor's Secretariat. Notably, the emails were sent in both Punjabi and English. Following the threat, a Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) team reached the Mayor's Secretariat and conducted a thorough inspection of the premises. The team carried out a search operation, keeping all security aspects in mind.

Meanwhile, Indore Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargav said that some people were attempting to disrupt good work, but such threats would not achieve anything.

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