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Rahul Criticises Govt at Bharat Summit

CALLS INDIAN DEMOCRACY A GLOBAL ASSET, VOWS TO FIGHT THROUGH TRUTH AND NON-VIOLENCE



Hyderabad, Nov 14 (Wa to News): Addressing the Bharat Summit, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi launched a fierce critique of the ruling government, declaring that Indian democracy has been systematically dismantled and is no longer functioning. Opening his address by welcoming international delegates, Gandhi issued an apology to several global guests who were barred from attending by the government, noting that it reflects the harsh realities of the current political environment.

Gandhi asserted that the world is divided between a small minority of arrogant, loud-voiced individuals who believe they know everything—whom he termed "fascists"—and a vast majority of compassionate people who listen, ask questions, and practice humility.

Reflecting on a decade of political shock following the 2014 elections, he argued that the traditional economic model has collapsed and been replaced by an unhealthy fusion of politics and business. The senior Congress leader targeted the integrity of recent electoral processes, claiming that democracy was severely compromised in 2024. He pointed to figures indicating that 140 million voters—roughly 13 per cent of the electorate—were categorised as non-existent or illegal by the Election Commission, raising serious questions about the legitimacy of the general elections. He further cited the stark political shift in Maharashtra, where an opposition victory in national polls was followed by a complete reversal in state assembly elections within three months, driven by the mysterious addition of seven million voters favouring the ruling party.

Despite facing mounting institutional pressure, including 45 legal cases filed against him, Gandhi emphasised that the opposition discovered a powerful counter-strategy during the historic "Bharat Jodo Yatra."

Walking from Kanyakumari to Kashmir taught the party that a direct, unmediated connection with ordinary citizens is more powerful than any controlled media apparatus or state-backed machinery. Reiterating that India's democracy is a vital global public good for more than 1.5 billion people, Gandhi firmly stated that "Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be defeated." However, he stressed that the battle will not be fought with anger, hatred, or violence, but through the "eternal weapons of satya (truth) and ahimsa (non-violence)." Concluding his address, Gandhi called on like-minded global allies to stand united against authoritarian trends, promising that the ruling administration will ultimately lose to love, compassion, and truth.

U-19 ASIA CUP

India Beat Pakistan to Clinch Title

One-Wicket victory seals thrilling last-ball win



Muscat, Nov 14 (Way to News): Mohit Ulva struck a boundary off the final delivery as India U19 pulled off a remarkable one-wicket victory over archrivals Pakistan to clinch their ninth U19 Asia Cup title in a thrilling final at the Al Amerat Cricket Ground (Ministry Turf 2) here on Saturday. Chasing 338, India finished at 339/9 in 50 overs, with the contest going down to the last ball. Captain Lakshya Raichandani led the chase with a composed 80, while Manal Chauhan and Ulva kept India's hopes alive with a crucial partnership in the closing stages. Ulva remained unbeaten on 49, while Chigurupati Venkata scored an unbeaten 11.

With India needing eight runs from the final over and Pakistan just one wicket away from victory, Ulva and Venkata kept their composure against Ahmed Hussain. The equation came down to three runs off the last ball after the pair collected singles and survived a stumping appeal. Ulva then connected with the final delivery and sent it to the boundary to seal a memorable win for India.

India began the chase positively, with openers Aaryavir Sehwag and Raichandani putting together 95 runs for the first wicket. Sehwag, who was struck on his right forearm by Ali Raza in the fourth over, continued batting and completed a half-century before being dismissed for 58 off 61 balls, including nine fours, in the 18th over. He was caught by Usman Khan off Niqab Shafiq. Raichandani continued to hold the innings together and added runs with VK Vineeth, who scored 24 off 21 balls before being caught by Usman off Rizwanullah in the 27th over. Rizwanullah struck again in the 31st over, removing Arjun Rajput for 16, caught behind by Hamza Zahoor.

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Jaishankar meets Armenian PM, discusses global conflicts



New Delhi, Nov 14 (Wa to News): External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar met the Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan during the latter's transit stopover in New Delhi and exchanged views on the conflicts in the Gulf and Ukraine.

"Pleased to meet with PM Nikol Pashinyan of Armenia during his transit stopover in Delhi. Our economic, security, cultural and people-to-people ties continue to gain momentum," EAM Jaishankar said on social media platform X. Highlighting the discussions, the EAM added, "Appreciate PM Pashinyan's insights on recent developments in his region. Also exchanged views on the conflicts in Gulf and Ukraine." On November 13, India and Armenia discussed bilateral ties and strengthening parliamentary cooperation during a meeting between Armenia Parliament's Vice-President Hayk Konjoryan and India's Ambassador to Armenia Armstrong Changsan. "Ambassador Armstrong Changsan called on Hayk Konjoryan, Vice-President of Parliament of Armenia and Head of Armenia-India Parliamentary Friendship Group, and members of the Group. Discussions focused on bilateral relations and strengthening of Parliamentary cooperation between India and Armenia," the Indian Embassy in Armenia had said on X.

On August 31, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting with his Armenian counterpart Pashinyan on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Kyrgyzstan's Bishkek and discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation across various sectors, as well as the situation in West Asia.

EAM Jaishankar, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and other officials were present during the meeting.

"The two leaders (PM Narendra Modi and Armenian counterpart Nikol Pashinyan) discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation across various areas, including defence, economic, pharma, science and technology, culture and education. They also exchanged views on regional and global developments, including the situation in West Asia," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had said.

No Merger, No NDA: Supriya Sule



Mumbai, Nov 14 (Wa to News): Amid ongoing intense speculation in Maharashtra's political circles regarding the potential merger of the two Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) factions—Sharad Pawar's NCP (SP) and Ajit Pawar's NCP—the NCP (SP) Working President and MP Supriya Sule on Saturday categorically rejected any talk of a merger or joining the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Sule told reporters, "There is no discussion about joining the NDA. When there is no discussion, questions of commas or full stops do not arise. If the essay itself hasn't been written, why talk about it?" With these words, she put a firm full stop to all merger speculations. Expressing her fatigue over the persistent rumours, Sule emphasised that the possibility of a merger died alongside her brother, Ajit Pawar. "I am now fed up with these merger discussions," Sule said. "The discussions about a merger, and even fixing a date, existed only as long as my brother was here. The day my brother passed away, a full stop was put on the merger in my mind and in my party—a discussion that had taken place with party office-bearers and my Dada (Ajit Pawar), videos of which you all have broadcast," she noted.

She added, "As long as my brother was there, the merger was discussed. The day my brother left, the merger came to a permanent end. We haven't made a single statement since then. We didn't even counter the statements coming from the Ajit Pawar faction. Whatever future path was charted, it was charted with Ajit Dada. Some things come straight from the heart. Ask all your questions about the merger today and let's settle it once and for all. I will not speak on the merger hereafter; I am exhausted by these discussions."

"In a vibrant democracy, everyone has the right to express their opinion. However, I am folding my hands and requesting that we stop asking questions about a merger over and over again. I am tired of this subject, and I will not answer questions about it anymore."

Acknowledging past discussions, Sule stated, "Did my brother and senior leaders from our party discuss a merger? Yes, they did. Videos of that have also come to light. The discussions regarding a merger were ongoing as long as my brother was here, and a date for it had even been fixed. Leaders from both parties have acknowledged this."

Centre Orders Strict Vigil To Ensure Lower Prices For 137 Anti-Cancer Drugs



New Delhi, Nov 14 (Wa to News): The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, on Friday directed strict monitoring of the implementation of Trade Margin Rationalisation (TMR) on 137 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs, for which the reduced prices have come into effect from November 9. The latest revised price lists, based on submissions received from companies up to November 11, are available on the NPPA website and Pharma Sahi Daam app/portal.

All manufacturers, retailers, dealers, stockists, hospitals and medical institutions have been directed to comply with the revised prices and prominently display the updated price lists at their premises and websites, according to an official statement issued on Friday. "State Drug Controllers (SDCs) have been directed to strictly monitor compliance by manufacturers, dealers, hospitals and medical institutions to ensure that the benefits of the lower MRPs are passed on to patients. Any violation may attract overcharging proceedings under the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013," the statement said.

"Complaints regarding overcharging, shortage or non-availability of medicines can be reported through the Pharma Sahi Daam app/portal, NPPA helpline (1800-111-255) or email (monitoring-nppa[at]gov[dot]in.)

Bangladesh says legal process complete to secure Hasina's return, decision rests with India



New Delhi, Nov 14 (Wa to News): Bangladesh has completed all legal procedures required to secure the return of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina from India, and the next step rests with New Delhi, Law Minister Md Asaduzzaman said on Saturday, according to local media reports.

"We have completed everything required from our side as part of the legal process. What they (India) will do is up to them," Asaduzzaman told reporters after an event at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka, according to Prothom Alo.

The minister said Hasina would return through legal means and that her extradition under the bilateral treaty would itself constitute a legal process. Asked whether Hasina would be given a legal opportunity to return, he said she would come back through due process.

On whether she would be entitled to appeal against her death sentence, Asaduzzaman said she would not have that opportunity under the relevant law, Dhaka Tribune reported. Asked whether India had held discussions with Bangladesh about sending Hasina to a third country, the minister said the Indian government would be able to answer that question, Prothom Alo reported.

Bangladesh has been seeking Hasina's extradition from India after she fled the country in August 2024 following a student-led uprising that toppled her government. Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal convicted Hasina in November 2025 of crimes against humanity for her role in the crackdown on protesters during the July-August 2024 uprising.

US proposed donbas cession for NATO membership: Zelenskyy



Washington, Nov 14 (Wa to News): US negotiators have floated the idea of Ukraine's potential withdrawal from its eastern region of Donbas in exchange for joining NATO, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, following the latest round of peace talks with Russia in Abu Dhabi.

This is the first time the question of linking NATO membership to territorial concessions has been raised during the talks, Zelenskyy said in remarks to reporters released by his office on Saturday. "The Americans raised a question: 'What if Ukraine joins NATO? Would Ukraine withdraw from Donbas?" he said. "That is why I believe NATO is back on the agenda. But you have also heard (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's signals, and this is an extremely difficult conversation." Putin has long said Ukrainian membership of NATO is a red line for Moscow, citing the issue as one reason for launching Russia's full-blown invasion in 2022.

Zelenskyy reiterated his position that Kyiv was not ready to concede territory but said that if it received a comprehensive package including security guarantees, the right to a strong and well-funded Ukrainian army and funds to rebuild, he would put the question to a national referendum.

Echoing comments made by European leaders at a summit in Dublin on Friday, Zelenskyy dismissed Russia's call for a broad agreement on European security architecture to be reached before the specifics are agreed on how to end the war in Ukraine. "We cannot turn everything upside down and start by talking about changing the security framework in the world or across the continent overall, and only then talk about ending this war.

This war must be ended first," he said. Zelenskyy also dismissed Putin's suggestion for a local humanitarian ceasefire in Kostiantynivka, a hotly contested city in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region.

India continues to provide fuel to citizens at one of the lowest prices in world: Hardeep Puri



New Delhi, Nov 14 (Wa to News): India has continued to provide fuel to citizens at one of the lowest prices in the world, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, said on Saturday. In a meeting with LPG distributors at his residence, the minister heard their ideas and concerns.

"These dedicated professionals and their hard-working teams form the backbone of India's vast energy distribution network. For millions of households, they are the first point of contact with the energy sector, ensuring that every kitchen keeps running," Puri said in a post on X. What makes them special is their progressive outlook, willingness to embrace change, and unwavering commitment to serving people. They have been valuable partners in India's energy transformation, he added.

Under the dynamic and decisive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's LPG landscape has witnessed a remarkable transformation. "LPG connections have grown from around 13 crore in 2014 to over 32 crore today, including more than 10 crore Ujjwala connections," Puri maintained. Even amid recent geopolitical challenges and global supply chain disruptions, the government's priority under PM Modi's leadership has ensured that no Indian household, particularly among the poor and underprivileged, faces a shortage of cooking fuel. "Domestic supplies have remained fully protected even as countries around the world experienced energy emergencies and price shocks," said Puri.

In a separate X post on Saturday, the minister said if diesel had become Rs 54 per litre more expensive, it would have placed a huge burden on farmers, the transport sector and ordinary consumers. "If LPG had become Rs 495 more expensive per household cylinder, how would millions of families have managed their kitchen budgets? If petrol had become Rs 19 per litre more expensive, what a huge burden it would have placed on the common person's pocket!" Puri posted.

But PM Modi's vision is clear: we will not let the burden of global price increases fall on the country's people; if necessary, the government and oil companies will shoulder it.

Seethakka launches AI-Based child welfare initiatives on children's day





Hyderabad, Nov 14 (Way to News): Reflecting on the contributions of 'Chacha' Nehru, she remarked that while individuals may be born and eventually pass away, the good deeds they perform and the service they render to society remain etched in the hearts of people for generations to come.

She recalled the sacrifices made by Nehru during the struggle for independence. Furthermore, she highlighted that following independence, both Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Jawaharlal Nehru played pivotal roles in building the nation's Constitution and its democratic institutions. It was explained that while Ambedkar made a significant contribution to the drafting of the Constitution, Nehru, as the first Prime Minister, worked towards its implementation and the strengthening of democratic institutions. It was noted that the rights, freedoms, and democratic values enjoyed by the people of the nation today are the result of the sacrifices and efforts of many great individuals. Emphasizing that Nehru believed children are the future of the nation, it was suggested that on the occasion of Children's Day, we should recognize the importance of every child and remember our responsibility to nurture them as active participants in the country's development.

The Minister stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the Department of Women and Child Welfare is undertaking several key initiatives for the welfare and protection of children. It was mentioned that, in addition to previously establishing dedicated facilities for nursing mothers at bus stands, the department is now implementing measures such as setting up 'Child Help Desks' and expanding legal adoption services.

Stating that children are the foundation of society and the bedrock for future generations, it was urged that every official, Anganwadi teacher, support staff member (aya), and departmental employee should consider the protection of children as their primary responsibility. Instructions were given to pay the utmost attention to every aspect of a child's well-being, including nutrition, health, safety, and education.

It was further emphasized that providing children with natural, nutrient-rich food is crucial, and Anganwadi teachers were advised to raise awareness among parents regarding healthy dietary habits. It was advised that an environment characterized by affection, trust, and safety be created for children at Anganwadi centers. It was emphasized that a level of closeness and trust should be fostered, allowing children to feel comfortable sharing things with Anganwadi teachers and support staff (ayahs) that they might not be able to discuss with their own parents. The Minister assured the Anganwadi staff and departmental employees that the government is prepared to address—through dialogue—any genuine challenges they face in the line of duty, as well as service-related or personal difficulties.

However, a stern warning was issued: under no circumstances will inappropriate behavior toward children—stemming from personal or family issues, mental stress, or fatigue—be tolerated.

It was made clear that there can be no compromise regarding the safety and well-being of children. The public's trust in the department, as well as the professional standing of the employees, depends entirely on the quality of services provided to the children. The Minister expressed concern over the growing addiction to mobile phones among children. Anganwadi teachers were advised to raise awareness among parents, urging them not to provide personal mobile phones to children at a young age.

Instead of mobile phones, the focus should be on encouraging games, songs, educational activities, and group-based play. Addressing the issue of child marriages, the Minister stated that awareness programs will be conducted in every village to completely eradicate this harmful practice. On this occasion, a promotional poster bearing the slogan "Child Marriage Ruins a Girl's Life" (*Balika Vivaham Bathuku Aagam*) was unveiled.

CS Reviews Preparations for Invest Telangana Global Summit



Hyderabad, Nov 14 (Way to News): Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju reviewed the arrangements being made for the upcoming Invest Telangana Global Summit and directed the officials and the event management agency to expedite the preparatory works to ensure the successful conduct of the prestigious event.

During the review meeting, the Chief Secretary instructed the event management agency to finalise the designs and layouts for various thematic sectors, including the Startup Arena, India Joy, Telangana Pavilion, Climate Conclave and other key attractions. He emphasised the need to get the overall layout ready at the earliest and ensure that all infrastructure works are completed as per the approved plan.

The event management team made a detailed presentation on the overall site plan, venue overview, stage perspectives and proposed arrangements. The Chief Secretary reviewed the presentations and issued necessary instructions to the event management agency.

He also took stock of the preparations relating to venue management and arena design, invitations to prominent global and national personalities, programme planning, hospitality and logistics, and the expo and exhibition arrangements. He reviewed the progress with the concerned sectoral officers and stressed the importance of close coordination among all departments to ensure seamless execution.

Emphasising the need to create a vibrant and memorable experience for visitors, the Chief Secretary said that Hyderabad Square should emerge as the central attraction of the summit, buzzing with energy and activity. He suggested that the space be enlivened with cultural programmes and activities during the evenings, while maintaining a classy and aesthetically appealing ambience that reflects the rich cultural heritage and contemporary spirit of Telangana. The Chief Secretary further stressed that the summit should provide an effective platform for showcasing Telangana's industrial potential, investment opportunities, innovation ecosystem and development priorities to international delegates and business leaders. He directed officials to ensure that all thematic pavilions and exhibition spaces present the state's achievements and future growth plans in an attractive and informative manner.

He also called for meticulous attention to security, traffic management, visitor convenience and hospitality arrangements.

Overburden removal must align with coal production targets

Directive from CMD Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti to overburden removal agencies in the Kothagudem region



Singareni Bhavan, Nov 14 (Way to News): Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) Chairman and Managing Director, Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti, has directed overburden (OB) removal agencies operating in the Kothagudem region—comprising the Kothagudem, Sathupalli, Yellandu, and Manuguru areas—to ensure that the removal of overburden keeps pace with coal production targets. He further instructed these agencies to deploy an adequate number of machines and human resources to meet these requirements.

On Saturday morning, at Singareni Bhavan in Hyderabad, Dr. Jyoti held an extensive review meeting with the General Managers of these areas and representatives from the OB removal agencies. The discussion covered coal production at various open-cast mines in the Kothagudem region, the corresponding progress of overburden removal, and coal transportation. He noted that, in light of 'El Niño' conditions, Singareni is required to supply 75,000 tonnes of coal daily to the thermal power plants of Telangana Genco, in addition to meeting the fuel supply obligations for other power plants that have fuel supply agreements with the company. It was emphasized that to achieve the targeted coal production, the removal of 'overburden' (the soil and rock covering the coal seam) must meet the prescribed targets.

It was explained that coal extraction is only possible if the overburden is removed daily in accordance with the set targets. To meet the coal production goals:

A collective daily target of 1.415 million cubic meters of overburden removal has been set across all operational areas. Specifically, for the four areas within the Kothagudem region, the target is to remove 0.55 million cubic meters of overburden per day. Instructions were given to discuss and resolve any challenges hindering the achievement of these overburden removal targets with the relevant officials. It was made clear that the management will not tolerate any negligence by agencies tasked with overburden removal.

The Chairman thoroughly reviewed the status of coal production, overburden removal, and coal transportation across the mines in the four areas of the Kothagudem region, and issued specific directives following detailed discussions on each aspect.

It was explicitly stated that the Kothagudem area must achieve a daily coal production of 8,000 tonnes and the removal of 0.055 million cubic meters of overburden. In the Sathupalli area, a daily coal production target of 50,000 tonnes has been set; to achieve this, 240,000 cubic metres of overburden must be removed daily.

For the Manuguru area, the target is 40,000 tonnes of coal production per day, requiring the systematic removal of 225,000 cubic metres of overburden daily.

In the Yellandu area, the target is 5,000 tonnes of coal production per day, with the removal of 10,000 cubic metres of overburden. Instructions were given to prioritize safe coal production and the transport of high-quality coal.

Tribal Pride Day Celebrated with Tributes to Freedom Fighters



Hyderabad, Nov 14 (Way to News): Under the guidance of Mr. Santosh B.M., IAS, Special Secretary & Director of the Tribal Welfare Department, 'Jan Jatiya Gaurav Divas' (Tribal Pride Day) was celebrated with great fervor today at the Tribal Cultural Research and Training Institute (TCR&TI) – Nehru Centenary Tribal Museum.

The Chief Guest for the event, Mr. Vitta Sarveswara Reddy, Additional Director of the Tribal Welfare Department, paid floral tributes to the statues and portraits of tribal freedom fighters—Birsa Munda, Kumram Bheem, Ramji Gond, and Sant Sevalal Maharaj. Speaking on the occasion, he highlighted that tribal communities were among the first to fight and sacrifice their lives during India's struggle for independence, with tribal freedom fighters at the forefront of this movement. As today also marks the birth anniversary of 'Chacha' Nehru, floral tributes were offered to his statue as well.

Dr. Vemuri Samujwala, Director of the Tribal Research Institute—who oversaw the arrangements for the event—noted that the Kumram Bheem Museum was established to appropriately honor the tribal warriors of Telangana, and that a museum dedicated to Ramji Gond is also being set up. Free entry to the Nehru Centenary Tribal Museum was provided for students. Chief Engineer Mr. Balu mentioned that his engineering department has been entrusted with the responsibility of constructing museums dedicated to the tribal warriors of Telangana.

Steel flyover construction at Banjara Hills, traffic jam expected

Hyderabad, Nov 14 (Way to News): In view of the ongoing construction works of Steel Flyover between Jubilee Hills Check Post and NFCL as part of Hyderabad City Innovative and Transformative Infrastructure (H-CITI) project, traffic congestion is expected on stretches between Srinagar 'T' Junction (SNT) to NTR Bhavan, Road No 2, Banjara Hills. Commuters must plan their travel and use the following alternate routes to avoid Road No. 2, Banjara Hills.

Vehicles coming from Srinagar Colony towards SNT Junction (near TV 9 office) and Road No. 2, Banjara Hills can take a left turn at SNT Junction and take a U-turn at NFCL towards Road No. 2, Banjara Hills, as the right turn towards Road No. 2, Banjara Hills, will be closed. Commuters coming from Begumpet going towards SNT, Sagar Society (Mugdha), KBR Park Entrance & Jubilee Hills Check Post, Road No. 36, Road No. 45 and Cable Bridge are advised to take a left turn on Panjagutta Flyover 'Y' Junction towards Taj Krishna, Road No. 1, Banjarahills, right turn at 1/10 Banjarahills Junction towards Zaheranagar, Baswatarakam Cancer Hospital, Agarasen Island towards Road No. 45 and 36 towards Cable Bridge, and Cyberabad and Madhapur, respectively.

Commuters coming from Srinagar Colony going towards NTR Bhavan and Cable Bridge, are advised to proceed towards Indranagar Gadda towards Venkatgiri and Road No. 10 and 36 Jubilee Hills towards Madhapur.

Banned e-cigarettes seized at a store in Gudimalkapur



Hyderabad, Nov 14 (Way to News): The Hyderabad Commissioner's Task Force and the Gudimalkapur Police busted a racket selling banned e-cigarettes near Olive Hospitals in Nanal Nagar.

Police raided Smoke Vault, a store located at Gandam Complex, and seized a large quantity of e-cigarettes, seven mobile phones, documents and a two-wheeler, totalling Rs 7.06 lakh. Abdullah Arshed, the store owner, and five workers have been arrested. He initially dealt in chocolates and hookah products in Kasaragod before moving to Dubai in 2016, where he worked at an IT company. He returned to India and established Smoke Vault outlets in Nanal Nagar, Gudimalkapur and Madhapur, dealing in chocolates and hookah products. Another accused, Shareef, who is based in Dubai, is absconding. He allegedly sold the e-cigarettes in bulk to Arshed, police said.

Adluri Warns Contractors Over Delays in Supplies to Government Hostels



Hyderabad, Nov 13 (Way to News): State Minister for Social Welfare, Adluri Laxman Kumar, has made it clear that any delay in the timely delivery of quality essential commodities, educational materials, and student kits to government hostels, residential schools (Gurukulas), Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs), and other government educational institutions will not be tolerated. He warned that anyone found negligent—regardless of their position—will be held accountable, especially concerning the provision of food, accommodation, and essential supplies for SC and ST students. He emphasized that any shortcomings that compromise the welfare of students will not be accepted under any circumstances.

On Friday, at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat, the Minister conducted a comprehensive review of the supply of essential commodities, student kits, and other materials to residential educational institutions, which is managed through the Project Monitoring Unit (PMU). During the meeting, he sought detailed updates and feedback from the secretaries of various departments and senior officials regarding the progress of these supplies, any pending items, the quality of the goods, and the status of field-level monitoring. Minister Issues Stern Warning to Mafatlal Group Over Supply Delays The Minister expressed strong dissatisfaction regarding the failure to fully supply goods required by residential educational institutions, despite the tender process being finalized and orders issued to the respective contractors as early as August. Specifically highlighting the delays on the part of the Mafatlal Group, the Minister directed that all pending items be delivered to the schools according to the established schedule.

A review revealed that the supply of approximately 2,000 pairs of white socks (as part of the second phase) and 3,000 storage trunks remains pending. The Minister instructed representatives of the supplying firm to present a clear action plan detailing the dates by which the remaining items will be delivered to the respective schools. The Minister warned that failure to meet the stipulated deadlines would result in strict action, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the tender agreement.

Learn Python, AI tools for IT Jobs in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Nov 13 (Way to News): Jobseekers, both freshers and experienced professionals, looking for IT jobs in Hyderabad should consider learning Python and AI tools to improve their employment prospects.

In order to help jobseekers on their journey to becoming masters in Python, Siasat's Mahboob Hussain Jigar Career Guidance Centre is going to start a training programme. The programme is designed to help participants develop programming skills and prepare for job opportunities in Hyderabad's growing technology industry.

Two-day bootcamp is going to begin at 5:30 pm on Sunday, November 15. They will be conducted at Mahboob Hussain Jigar Hall on the second floor of The Siasat office, opposite Ramakrishna Theatre in Abids, Hyderabad.

The programme combines Python programming with artificial intelligence tools to help students learn how to develop modern web applications. Participants will receive training in both frontend and backend technologies. The course will also provide practical exposure to AI tools, with guidance on using them during software development.

Apart from technical lessons for python language, the programme focuses on preparing participants for recruitment and workplace requirements in Hyderabad.

The job-readiness training will cover resume preparation, interview skills, soft skills and workplace etiquette. These sessions are intended to help participants improve their confidence and prepare for employment opportunities.

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India, Italy discuss institutionalising Naval engagements, deepening operational cooperation

New Delhi, Nov 14 (Way to News): Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Krishna Swaminathan held a meeting with the Italian Navy's Chief of Staff Admiral Giuseppe Berutti Bergotto in New Delhi on Friday, with discussions held on institutionalising navy-to-navy engagements, deepening operational cooperation, expanding multilateral cooperation on shared maritime security priorities and strengthening professional exchanges. The discussions were held after Admiral Giuseppe Berutti Bergotto was received by Admiral Krishna Swaminathan and accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour at South Block Lawns in New Delhi.



"Adm Giuseppe Berutti Bergotto, Chief of Staff, Italian Navy, on an official visit to India, was received by Adm Krishna Swaminathan, CNS, and accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour at South Block Lawns, New Delhi. Building on the momentum of the India–Italy Special Strategic Partnership, discussions focused on: Institutionalising Navy-to-Navy engagements, including bilateral naval exercises and Staff Talks," Indian Navy Spokesperson posted on X.

"Deepening operational cooperation through enhanced maritime interactions and interoperability. Expanding multilateral cooperation on shared maritime security priorities. Strengthening professional exchanges through training and sharing of best practices," the spokesperson added. Earlier on October 21, the Italian Navy's Multi-Purpose Combat Ship (MPCS) 'Giovanni delle Bande Nere' arrived in Mumbai, as part of the Italian Navy's operational deployment in the Indo-Pacific. Consul General of Italy in Mumbai, Walter Ferrara, welcomed the vessel in Mumbai.

In a statement shared on Instagram, Italy's Consulate General in Mumbai stated, "Consul General Walter Ferrara welcomed the Italian Navy's Multi-Purpose Combat Ship (MPCS) "Giovanni delle Bande Nere" during her port call in Mumbai. The vessel's visit is part of the Italian Navy's operational deployment in the Indo-Pacific, promoting naval diplomacy, international cooperation and Italy's excellence in defence technology and innovation."

"The visit also highlights Italy's commitment to strengthening cooperation with partner navies, protecting maritime communication lines and safeguarding freedom of navigation. A heartfelt thank you to the crew of the Giovanni delle Bande Nere for this opportunity to celebrate the enduring friendship and cooperation between Italy and India," it added.

India Recovers 650 Stolen Statues in 12 Years: Modi

New Delhi, Nov 14 (Way to News): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that India has recovered more than 650 stolen ancient statues over the past 12 years, highlighting the government's efforts to preserve the country's cultural heritage. He also said that a revival of India's cultural centres was taking place from north to south and east to west.

Addressing the Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav Global Sammelan in New Delhi, PM Modi said preserving India's heritage was one of the missions of Swami Chinmayananda, the founder of the Chinmaya Mission.

"There was another mission of Swamiji: the conservation of Indian heritage. You have seen the Vivekananda Rock Memorial. Today, it is a source of inspiration for millions of people visiting from across India and the world," he said. The Prime Minister cited several examples of India's cultural and spiritual heritage being restored to prominence, including the Kashi Vishwanath Dham, the Ram temple in Ayodhya, and the sacred sites of Kedarnath and Badrinath.



"A revival of India's cultural centres is taking place from north to south and east to west. Whether it is the new look of the Kashi Vishwanath Dham, the grand temple of Lord Shri Ram in Ayodhya, or our sacred sites such as Kedarnath and Badrinath, these places are regaining their prominence," he said.

Referring to Kedarnath, PM Modi said a magnificent statue of Adi Shankaracharya had been installed at the site where the philosopher is believed to have attained his final state of existence.

"If you visited Kedarnath recently, you would have seen a magnificent and divine statue of Adi Shankaracharya installed at the place where he left his mortal body. These sites are now returning to their former gran-

Fadnavis orders forensic probe into Jarange's Rs 500-cr audio claim

Mumbai, Nov 14 (Way to News): Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday, October 23, announced a forensic investigation into audio recordings released by Maratha reservation activist Manoj Jarange-Patil, which allegedly refer to a 500-crore payment routed to him through Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde. The recordings have triggered a political dispute between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, both constituents of the ruling Mahayuti alliance. The alleged payment has not been independently verified, and the identities of the speakers in the recordings remain unconfirmed.



Fadnavis said the recordings would be examined using forensic methods to establish whose voices feature in them and determine their authenticity. He also questioned why the conversations had surfaced after a gap of around two years and what motivated their release now.

The investigation follows demands from leaders of both the BJP and Shiv Sena for the recordings to be examined, including checks for possible manipulation or the use of artificial intelligence. The controversy escalated on Thursday, October 22, when Jarange-Patil played purported audio recordings at a press conference in Jalna district. He claimed they supported his allegation that efforts had been made to silence him and weaken the Maratha reservation agitation ahead of the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly elections.

In one recording, a woman is purportedly heard claiming that 500 crore had been given to Jarange-Patil through Shrikant Shinde, the son of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. The conversation allegedly discusses whether Jarange-Patil's political influence would benefit the BJP in the Assembly elections.

Left Parties, Student Groups March Towards EC HQ, Demand Gyanesh Kumar's Resignation

New Delhi, Nov 14 (Way to News): Several Left-Wing organisations, student leaders and civil society members on Friday took part in a protest march towards the Election Commission of India (ECI) headquarters in the national Capital amid heavy security, demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Gyanesh Kumar, over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.



The participants, including members of Left-Wing's All India Students' Federation (AISF) and All India Youth Federation (AIYF), gathered near Bangla Sahib Gurdwara at Delhi's Connaught Place to march to the Election Commission's headquarters near Patel Chowk. CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat, CPI leader P Sandosh Kumar and political activist Yogendra Yadav also took part in the protest.

Speaking to reporters, Yadav said: "The protests will continue uninterrupted. If you shut down one Jantar Mantar, hundreds of Jantar Mantars will emerge. You may silence one person, but you cannot silence the people. This movement will continue in its own form because it is about the most basic democratic rights of the people of this country."

P Sandosh added: "… We will intensify our movement in the coming days, and there will be larger gatherings. We will continue our agitation until the resignation of Mr. Gyanesh Kumar. No one can save him for sure." Heavy security deployment was also witnessed outside the ECI headquarters and several protesters were detained by the police.

Earlier in the day, the Delhi Traffic Police had advised commuters to avoid affected routes in view of the protest march.

In a post on 'X', the Delhi Traffic Police said: "In connection with the anticipated movement of a large number of people from Bangla Sahib Gurudwara towards Jantar Mantar today, traffic diversions will be in place from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M."

"Commuters are advised to avoid affected roads, plan their journeys in advance and follow traffic police instructions," it said.

PUNJAB ASSEMBLY PASSES RESOLUTION TO PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS UNDER SIR



Chandigarh, Nov 14 (Way to News): The Punjab Vidhan Sabha on Friday unanimously passed a resolution moved by Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, calling for constitutional safeguards to protect the voting rights of eligible citizens during the revision of electoral rolls under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process.

The resolution also urged the Union government and relevant constitutional authorities to ensure transparency, impartial scrutiny of electoral roll discrepancies and accountability in the election process.

Addressing the House, Cheema emphasised that protecting every eligible citizen's right to vote was essential to strengthening Indian democracy. He said the Constitution was founded on the principles of equality, justice and the supremacy of the people.

"Articles 324, 325 and 326 play a pivotal role in supervising the electoral machinery, preventing discrimination in voter rolls and guaranteeing universal adult suffrage," he said.

Recalling the pre-Independence era, when voting rights were restricted to a select section of society, the Cabinet Minister paid tribute to Bharat Ratna Babasaheb Ambedkar for laying the constitutional foundation for equal voting rights for every adult citizen.

RAHUL GANDHI IS FAILED PRODUCT, SAYS SUDHANSHU TRIVEDI, CITING CONGRESS POLL LOSSES



New Delhi, Nov 14 (Way to News): BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi on Friday launched a fresh attack on Rahul Gandhi, describing him as a "failed product" and alleging that repeated attempts to establish him as a national leader had resulted in political setbacks for Congress.

During a press conference, Trivedi argued that while Prime Minister Narendra Modi's political record was marked by achievements, Rahul Gandhi's leadership had brought repeated difficulties for his party.

"While Prime Minister Narendra Modi's track record is outstanding and full of achievements, Rahul Gandhi's track record has been full of problems for the Congress party. As the Prime Minister said, the Congress party has put not only its own future but also the country's constitutional system at stake by repeatedly trying to launch a failed product," Trivedi said.

He added that he would present what he described as evidence of Gandhi's unsuccessful political launches, referring to his education, professional associations, the Congress's electoral performance and several initiatives undertaken to project him as a leader. "I will present facts and evidence to support the claim that he (Rahul Gandhi) is a failed product," the BJP MP said.

Stranded Umrah pilgrims returned safely to India, remaining being assisted: Rijiju

New Delhi, Nov 14 (Way to News): Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Friday said that the stranded Umrah pilgrims have returned to India safely, and the remaining Umrah pilgrims are being assisted, stressing that the government is always proactive in addressing the issues and concerns of Indian citizens. In a statement shared on X, Rijiju also mentioned the contact details of the 24×7 control rooms set up at the Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia's Riyadh, Consulate General in Jeddah.



"Govt is always proactive to the issues and concerns of Indian citizens. The stranded Umrah pilgrims have returned to India safely in addition to more than 10,000 normal Umrah pilgrims who have returned earlier. Remaining Umrah pilgrims are being assisted," Rijiju posted on X.Earlier on Thursday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that the Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia's Riyadh and Consulate in Jeddah are actively engaging with concerned airlines and tour operators to facilitate the early return of affected pilgrims.

An Indian national was among two people killed, while two other Indian nationals were injured, in an attack on King Fahd International Airport in Saudi Arabia's Dammam on Wednesday. According to the MEA, over the past week, about 3,000 stranded Umrah pilgrims have travelled from Saudi Arabia back to India on available flights. "This is in addition to more than 10,000 normal Umrah pilgrims who were booked on the available flights and have travelled back to India over the past week. Arrangements are being discussed to facilitate the return of other Umrah pilgrims at the earliest. Our Embassy and Consulate, with the support from community volunteers are extending all possible welfare assistance. 24×7 Control Rooms have been established to help Indian nationals and regular advisories are being issued," read a statement issued by the ministry.

CM Naidu holds talks with Pawan

Madhav on rural poll seat-sharing

Vijayawada, Oct 23 (UNI): Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu held separate meetings with Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan and BJP state president P.V.N. Madhav on seat-sharing among the ruling alliance partners for the rural local body elections.



The talks come as the Telugu Desam, Jana Sena and BJP seek to reconcile competing claims from aspirants, prevent rebel entry and finalise allocations among the three parties. At the CM's residence, they reviewed the latest election developments and the distribution of seats in the Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) and Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) elections. Aspirants from all three alliance parties have already filed nominations in various constituencies, making it necessary for the leadership to resolve overlapping claims and ensure coordination.

After the meeting with Pawan Kalyan, Naidu met Madhav. The talks focused on the seats to be allotted to BJP candidates in the MPTC and ZPTC elections.

The alliance's seat-sharing arrangement for the municipal elections was a reference point. Of the 123 seats distributed among the partners, Jana Sena was allotted 24 and the BJP nine, accounting for around 20 per cent and seven per cent of the total, respectively. It remains unclear whether the same formula will be followed in the rural elections or whether allocations will be adjusted according to the parties' local strength and political equations in individual constituencies.

Jagan seeks court-appointed amicus curiae for local polls

Vijayawada, Nov 14 (Way to News): YSRC president and former chief minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has sought appointment of amicus curiae to supervise the ongoing local body elections, in addition to deployment of central forces and CCTV coverage of the election process. Speaking to media here on Friday, he charged that the NDA government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is violating Supreme Court directives and allowing attacks on YSRC candidates trying to file their nominations for contesting the local body elections.



Jagan Mohan Reddy reiterated that nomination papers from YSRC candidates are continuing to be snatched by alliance goons. He accused police of taking sides in the matter, threatening the democratic process. At the press conference, the former chief minister released a book titled "Pachamookala Dadulu (Attacks by Yellow Mobs)," containing photographs documenting the alleged attacks.

He stated, "We have been reporting all incidents to concerned officials. We will also move courts as democracy is at stake because of the prevailing anarchy. Telugu Desam Party is rigging nominations and even filing papers on behalf of YSRC.

TN govt fixes Rs 26 lakh car purchase ceiling for ministers, Rs 15 lakh for MLAs

Chandigarh, Nov 14 (Way to News): Power employees, who had been on strike for the past two days against the Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission's (HERC) order granting a 25-year parallel distribution licence to private company Eleven Power Private Limited in Gurugram and Nuh, called off their agitation after a marathon meeting with the state government in Panchkula on Friday evening.



The employees agreed to end the strike after the government, in keeping with the demand of the employees' union, agreed to invoke Section 108 of the Electricity Act, 2003. The Act provides that the Commission may be guided by the state government on matters of public interest and that the government's decision would be final on a direction pertaining to policy matters.

Following the talks held in the presence of Chief Minister Nayab Saini and Energy Minister Anil Vij, the state government, in a letter signed by the Chief Minister and the Energy Minister, directed the HERC not to "create, operationalise or effectuate any parallel distribution licence" anywhere in Haryana. A copy of the government's letter was also handed over to the employees' leaders led by Shailendra Dubey, chairman, All India Power Engineers Federation, during the meeting. They were arguing that the move threatens the state's public-sector power distribution system and could adversely affect farmers, economically weaker consumers and electricity employees.

Pollution, water demands threaten India's inland fisheries

Bhopal/Kochi, Nov 14 (Way to News): Pollution, damage to aquatic habitats and growing demand for freshwater threaten India's inland fisheries and the livelihoods of fishing communities, according to a report by the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The report identifies several challenges to sustainable inland fisheries. These include disrupted river connectivity, floods, droughts, and falling reservoir water levels.

These factors can affect fish populations and the communities that depend on them, as per the findings presented at a workshop in Bhopal on Thursday. The event marked the launch of work on India's National Plan of Action for sustainable inland small-scale fisheries. The report says competition for freshwater, especially for irrigation and other uses, puts additional pressure on aquatic ecosystems.

It calls for fisheries to be considered in wider water-resource planning.

It also points to problems with fishing access and leasing arrangements.

Overlapping responsibilities among fisheries, irrigation, forest, revenue and local authorities pose further challenges.

"These concerns assume greater significance amid growing attention to climate resilience and the need to manage freshwater resources sustainably," BOBP-IGO Director, Dr P. Krishnan, said.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Editorial

Punjab's Early Political Landscape

THE recent meeting of SAD president Sukhbir Badal with Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sparked speculation about a possible electoral alliance between the SAD and the BJP before the 2027 Assembly elections. The SAD is one of BJP's oldest partners. The two have been allies since 1996, till the SAD withdrew from the NDA over the three controversial farm laws enacted by the NDA government in 2020. Since then, both parties have contested the 2022 Assembly, 2024 parliamentary and local bodies' elections, but failed to make an electoral impact. Despite inducting big leaders from other parties, outreach to Dalits, OBCs, deras and babas and the presence of the RSS, the BJP could not broaden its voter base. The SAD is also facing an existential challenge amid divisions and the emergence of rival Akali Dals. These realities appear to have forced both parties to reconsider their political ties.

In the first two decades after Independence, when the Congress dominated Punjab politics, the performance of both the Jana Sangh (now the BJP) and the Akali Dal was politically insignificant. The Jana Sangh won 2, 9, and 8 seats, with 5.6%, 8.6%, and 9.7% of the votes polled in the 1952, 1957, and 1962 Assembly elections, respectively. It failed to attract the Hindu vote despite fluctuations in relations between the two major communities over the Punjabi Suba and the language issues in the 1961 Census. The SAD won 13 and 19 seats, with 12.4% and 11.9% votes in 1952 and 1962, respectively. It did not contest the 1957 Assembly elections under an agreement with the Congress; its nominees, including Parkash Singh Badal, contested as Congress candidates. Punjab's political dynamics changed after its reorganisation in 1966, making it a Sikh-majority state. This expanded the Akali Dal's political space to almost on a par with the Congress, while the Jana Sangh became weaker. In the 1967 Assembly elections, the Congress won 48 of the 104 seats, but the united opposition formed the government under Akali Dal candidate Gurnam Singh, with support from the Jana Sangh, CPI, CPM and other non-Congress parties. The SAD won 24 seats, with 20.5% of the votes, while the Jana Sangh got nine seats, with 10% of the votes polled. This post-poll alliance sought to prevent the Congress from forming the government. However, the SAD-led government could not complete its term because of large-scale defections and intra-party conflicts.

The 1969 mid-term elections were contested under a pre-poll SAD-Jana Sangh alliance, which failed to secure a majority. The SAD and Jan Sangh won 43 and 8 seats, with vote shares of 29.4% and 9%, respectively. The Jana Sangh's vote share fell despite the alliance. The coalition government was first formed by Gurnam Singh and then by Parkash Singh Badal in 1970, with the Jana Sangh as part of both governments. It later withdrew support from the Badal ministry over disputes concerning the language policy and territorial jurisdiction of Guru Nanak Dev University, newly established in 1969. In the 1972 mid-term elections, the Jana Sangh and SAD contested separately. The former contested 33 seats but won none, securing 5% of the votes. The SAD won 24 seats, with 27.6% of the votes polled. The Congress, winning 66 of the 117 seats, formed the government under Giani Zail Singh.

Post-Emergency politics became a turning point in the country and Punjab. Indira Gandhi's actions brought anti-Congress leaders and parties to one platform, resulting in the formation of the Janata Party, with which the Jana Sangh merged. In March 1977, the Janata Party formed India's first non-Congress government, which collapsed in 1979 due to intra-party contradictions. The SAD was part of the national

North-East forests under siege

Shyam Saran



THE North-East has the last remaining dense and virgin forests in India, and these are falling prey to unrelenting destruction through commercial exploitation. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura are in a race to hand over large tracts of land to private contractors to grow oil palm and manufacture palm oil, replacing relatively expensive imports.

While the government claims that these plantations are only using degraded land or "Jhum" (slash and burn) residual plots, there are reliable reports that the region's rich and variegated forests are being cut down to make way for ecologically destructive oil palm plantations. Under the National Mission on Edible Oils — Oil Palm (NMEO-OP), adopted in 2021, the current national cumulative acreage under oil palm of 640,000 hectares (ha) will be scaled up to 1 million ha by 2029 and the total potential footprint is estimated at 2.8 million ha.

Currently, the acreage is largely concentrated in the southern states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, but further expansion is likely to come from the North-East. According to official figures, the oil palm acreage in the region is 68,324 hectares, with Mizoram in the lead with 30,000 ha and Arunachal Pradesh with 25,000 ha. The immediate target for 2026 is 92,543 ha. The longer-term target for the North-East is 962,000 ha.

Under the NMEO-OP, the Union government is aggressively promoting oil palm cultivation and processing in the North-East through a public-private template. The mission pays Rs 20,000/ha for plantations using domestic seedlings and Rs 29,000/ha for those using imported seedlings.

After planting, there is a gestation period of four years before the first yield, during which a subsidy of Rs 50,000/ha is payable. There is also a guaranteed floor price of Rs 15,400 per tonne for the output. Thanks to such generosity, state governments are actively plotting and allocating tracts of land to private contractors to grow oil palm. The land thus allocated is ostensibly degraded, but peer-reviewed studies tell a different story.

Using satellite surveys, Global Forest Watch, an international NGO, claims that five northeastern states (Assam, Mizoram, Arunachal, Nagaland and Manipur) accounted for about 60% of India's total tree-cover loss between 2001 and 2023. It was found that the Dampa Tiger Reserve in Mizoram had been encroached upon for the planting of oil palm.

There are three major companies engaged in oil palm cultivation in the North-East. These are Patanjali, Godrej Agrovet and 3F Oil Palm Private Ltd, which is already a major player in South India.

How have we come to this when government figures claim that India's forest cover is 24.5% of its geographical area and is expanding? In the latest Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) that the government has submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the target for increasing the carbon sink in the form of forests is to be raised to 3.5-4 billion tonnes of oil equivalent between 2031 and 2035, on the back of the expected achievement, ahead of schedule, of the previous target of a 2.5-3 billion tonnes for 2026-30. These figures are with reference to the base year of 2005. The 4 billion-tonne figure translates into an additional forest cover of 18.7 million ha according to the methodology used by the Forest Survey of India (FSI). Is this realistic?

For years now, the FSI has been using a definition of forest which does not conform to international standards. It defines a forest as an acreage of at least 1 ha with a tree density of 10/ha and with a tree size of at least 2 metres on maturity. More importantly, this covers orchards, bamboo and oil palm plantations, which would not normally fall in the category of forest. This is what enables the State to pass off an oil palm plantation which has replaced a virgin forest as "no change in land use" and "no loss of forest". There is more. The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023, restricted the definition of forests only to those which were registered in government land records, as per the Indian Forest Act of 1927 or officially entered in government records on or after October 25, 1980. These records left out of purview forests on tribal lands or those maintained as community forests.

This was the case with forests in the North-East, which were not registered during the colonial period, and this continued after Independence. However, a Supreme Court ruling in 1996 protected forests on tribal and community land by bringing them under India's forest conservation laws. The court held that all forests that match the dictionary definition of "forest", regardless of who may own them and irrespective of whether they were officially recorded, are entitled to protection by the State.

It is this ruling which is being sought to be changed by the amendment of 2021, since most of the forests in the North-East do not figure as such in official records. They do not qualify as "forest" at all. It is through this unseemly sleight of hand that the oil palm story in the region has taken wing.

China's Tight Economic Control

Anand P Krishnan



In a recent interview, economist and part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) Rakesh Mohan called for India to have deeper economic integration with China. He cited geopolitical shifts and hardening US tariffs as reasons to open the doors for greater Chinese investments. Mohan is not the first Indian economist associated with the government to adopt such a view. Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran, through the Economic Survey 2023-24 had underlined that 'to boost Indian manufacturing and plug India into the global supply chain', the country 'had to plug itself into China's supply chain'. Over the last two years, normalisation of bilateral relations after the disengagement of troops in Eastern Ladakh has been a work in progress in the form of leadership-level talks and gradual restoration of some people-to-people engagements.

However, the economic component of the relationship has witnessed a graded response from New Delhi. The tough restrictions on Chinese investments imposed in 2020 were modified by the government in March this year. The Centre decided to expedite decisions on Chinese investments in select sectors like capital goods, electronic components and inputs in solar cell manufacturing, within a fixed period. Joint ventures between Indian and Chinese firms for assembly of electronic devices were approved. However, rather than completely opening up for investments from Beijing, New Delhi's revised guidelines reflect a limited economic re-engagement, where India seeks to widen its strategic autonomy and development interests. Free trade economists, however, find such calibrated measures piecemeal and as hindering higher dividends possible in a less restrictive environment. According to Mohan, completely unhindered economic engagement is the pragmatic approach and one that treats economic security as part of national security. In fact, I have been part of symposiums and conferences, where Indian economists have viewed counterarguments as protectionist.

Such Indian economists tend to insulate the Chinese economy and institutions from Chinese domestic politics. In doing so, the analysis elides the nature and workings of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) which is central to the country's political economy. The CPC sets the country's political-economic direction and maintains substantial influence through state-owned enterprises, state-controlled banks, industrial subsidies, regulation, and strong party organisations within all economic entities. Sustained economic growth is a major source of legitimacy for the CPC and under Xi Jinping, the Chinese Party-state's grip on the economy has only deepened. The fusion of CPC and the Chinese state differs from liberal systems where elected governments and civil services are more institutionally separate from political parties.

Chinese foreign policy and external economic engagements are thus shaped by domestic imperatives and the Party-state's political objectives like maintaining political stability, sustaining economic development, enhancing national security and increasing China's international influence. This is best illustrated by the Belt and Road Initiative, which has created opportunities for Chinese firms and expanded Beijing's global economic relations. The party-state's weaponisation of its economic and industrial dominance in global politics through export controls, denial of technological transfers and import restrictions also allude to how China uses economic power to achieve its political and strategic goals. Since April 2026, China has strengthened its economic statecraft with three laws to ringfence its outbound investments and industrial supply chains, and deploy countermeasures against foreign entities harming Chinese interests.

These measures by China are aimed to counter geopolitical pressure and maintain its central role in global manufacturing and critical supply chains. Even though the primary focus of the three laws is on the US in view of the conflictual bilateral trade relations with that country, such securitisation also carries implications for India. The Indian market and its large base of consumers is alluring for Chinese companies to endure turbulences in India-China relations.

However, Beijing has also exploited India's short-to-medium term dependence on China to stymie the latter's long-term capacity building in manufacturing and industrial development. It has been done directly in the form of curbs on Chinese engineers and machinery to Foxconn factories in India, tunnel-boring machines and fertilisers, or indirectly in the form of export controls on rare earth minerals that affect the clean energy sector. Last year, China — through the World Trade Organisation — also challenged India's incentives for its domestic EV sector.

Beyond economic data and statistical visualisation, Indian economists calling for deeper economic engagement with China would do well to pay greater attention to the CPC's control over and instrumental use of the Chinese economy and its levers. Treating this control and use as extraneous or irrelevant to India-China economic engagement will only lead to incomplete analysis and the wrong lessons for India.

RTI Act: Ensuring Transparency



In recent weeks, the Central Information Commission has issued a series of strongly worded orders targeting multiple Government offices in Jammu and Kashmir for persistent violations of the RTI Act. These cases, involving the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Kishtwar, the Mechanical and Hospital Engineering Department, the Crime Branch Headquarters, and even a prestigious university, reveal a disturbing and entrenched pattern of disregard for statutory transparency obligations. The details are telling. In one instance, a JKAS officer was denied complete access to documents relating to complaints and salary stoppage orders. In another case, a citizen's request for vehicle purchase and usage records went unanswered for months. In a third, the Crime Branch invoked an exemption clause even after the investigation in question had concluded-an argument the CIC rightly dismissed. In all these matters, the problem was not merely delay but also non-adjudication of first appeals and, most tellingly, unexplained absenteeism of PIOs from appeal hearings despite prior notices. The CIC's orders reflect a dual approach: compelling immediate disclosure of information while simultaneously holding errant officers personally accountable. Show-cause notices, warnings of penal action, and explicit compliance deadlines have been issued. The message is clear-non-compliance will not be tolerated, and accountability will be enforced. This is a welcome stance, but the very need for such repeated intervention exposes the systemic weaknesses in the RTI enforcement framework in J&K.

The RTI Act of 2005 is more than a procedural law-it is a democratic instrument designed to shift the culture of governance from opacity to openness. By empowering citizens to seek information, participatory governance is strengthened, corruption is deterred, and accountability in public administration is ensured. The Act lays down strict timelines-30 days for initial responses and a similar urgency for appeals-precisely to prevent bureaucratic evasion. Yet the pattern revealed in J&K shows that for many officials, the law remains optional rather than obligatory. When PIOs ignore appeals, skip hearings, or deliberately delay responses, they are not just failing in their professional duty-they are eroding citizens' faith in the system. The CIC's repeated references to "wilful obstruction" and "vitiation of proceedings" underscore that such conduct is neither accidental nor trivial. These incidents collectively point to a deeper malaise-an administrative culture resistant to transparency, whether through inertia, ignorance, or deliberate evasion. Several factors contribute: inadequate training of PIOs, absence of institutional monitoring.

, lack of consequences for non-compliance until matters reach the CIC, and a broader bureaucratic mindset that treats public information as a privilege to be granted rather than a right to be respected.

To address this, piecemeal directives from the CIC, while necessary, are insufficient. A systemic overhaul is required.The RTI Act thrives only in an environment where information disclosure is the norm and denial the exception. Unfortunately, in J&K, the reverse seems to be the case. This inversion breeds suspicion about what officials might be hiding. Whether the matter concerns infrastructure projects, procurement records, disciplinary proceedings, or environmental issues, the public has a legitimate stake in knowing how their Government operates.

The CIC's recent actions are therefore not merely about enforcing compliance in a few isolated cases-they are about reaffirming the principle that in a democracy, Government information belongs to the people. PIOs are not gatekeepers guarding a vault; they are custodians entrusted with facilitating access. The law is unambiguous, the obligations are clear, and the consequences for non-compliance are spelt out. What is missing is the administrative will to embed transparency into the day-to-day functioning of public offices.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Institutionalizing the cryptocurrency frontier

Dr. John Sfakianakis



Cryptocurrencies have long existed in a legal and financial gray zone — praised as disruptive innovations, dismissed as speculative bubbles and often relegated to the periphery of serious capital markets. That era is over. New US federal regulation of digital assets, especially stablecoins, signals a shift from speculation to mainstream investment. Legislation known as the Genius Act is one of three cryptocurrency bills currently advancing in Washington with President Donald Trump's support.

This is not merely a regulatory footnote. It is a structural turning point. For the first time since the publication of Satoshi Nakamoto's white paper in 2008, the debate in Washington is no longer about whether to regulate crypto, but how — and, more importantly, who gets to define the rules. With bipartisan momentum and political backing from figures such as Trump, the US is stepping decisively into a global contest over digital financial infrastructure.

The implications are material, especially for investors and financial institutions recalibrating their exposure to a space once seen as fringe. Since the collapse of FTX, the crypto industry has not only recovered market capitalization but has also ramped up lobbying efforts, poured capital into US elections and achieved a legislative milestone that provides regulatory clarity for dollar-backed stablecoins. The new framework mandates full reserve backing with short-term, Treasury-like instruments and places oversight in the hands of state or federal regulators. What was once dismissed as internet play money is now being granted legal standing and policy legitimacy. This clarity matters. It creates a regulatory perimeter in which US-based issuers like Circle can scale and in which institutional finance can enter without reputational or compliance risk. The regulatory moment resembles the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which sought to modernize laws for an internet-driven world. Like that law, today's crypto framework is racing to catch up with technological reality — aiming to open the gates to competition while preserving systemic resilience. Major players such as Citigroup and JPMorgan are not just taking notice, they are moving in. Citigroup CEO Jane Fraser has pointed to rising client demand for "multi-asset, multi-bank, cross-border, always-on" payment solutions —characteristics that programmable, blockchain-based money can deliver. JPMorgan and Citibank are developing deposit tokens: bank-backed digital instruments designed to retain institutional control while mimicking the benefits of stablecoins.

These moves underscore a deeper truth: stablecoins are not just a crypto niche — they are fast becoming a parallel infrastructure for global payments. Settling instantly, operating continuously and increasingly functioning outside legacy banking rails, these instruments resemble nothing so much as the Eurodollar markets of the 1960s — offshore dollar liquidity that reshaped global finance while evading domestic regulatory control. Stablecoins are already testing the limits of monetary sovereignty, with the potential to rival traditional payment networks in speed and reach. And like the Eurodollar, their evolution may define a generation of financial innovation unless they are absorbed by the incumbents first.

Yet crypto-native firms are outpacing the banks. Circle has soared in valuation. Coinbase, benefiting from its stablecoin partnership, has seen record highs. The market is voting with capital. The era of programmable money is not coming it is already underway. For serious investors, this presents both an opportunity and a challenge. Regulation is no longer a threat to crypto. It is a prerequisite for scale. Just as the Securities Acts of the 1930s laid the foundation for modern capital markets, today's digital asset legislation seeks to institutionalize a new financial layer — without stifling its underlying dynamism. That historical moment transformed Wall Street; this one could do the same for the blockchain economy.Still, this will not be a clean transition. A single token can be a governance tool, a medium of exchange and a speculative asset simultaneously. Decentralized exchanges mimic brokerages but lack centralized accountability. Applying legacy legal frameworks to these hybrids is like regulating aviation with maritime law.

Critics, especially among Democrats like Elizabeth Warren and Maxine Waters, have raised red flags. They worry about insufficient consumer protections, the potential for systemic risk and should stablecoin issuers fail the possibility of future taxpayer bailouts. Their skepticism is not without merit. But their remedy regulatory inaction or outright prohibition risks pushing innovation into unregulated offshore zones and ceding global leadership to more agile jurisdictions. Critics argue the legislation introduces more risk than reward. After all, the US already has a functioning payment system — it is called the dollar and, for most purposes, it works just fine. So why reinvent the wheel? For much of crypto's existence, its real-world use case — beyond underground transactions and speculative fervor — has remained elusive. While tokenization promises faster, more efficient payments, the volatility of most cryptocurrencies has made them a poor substitute for fiat money. They are not reliable stores of value and, thus, not viable as everyday currency. Stablecoins attempt to square this circle by pegging themselves to the dollar, offering price stability without sacrificing speed. Most do so by backing their tokens with low-risk reserves like Treasury bills, effectively functioning as digital wrappers for existing US assets. Europe's Markets in Crypto-Assets framework is more than consumer protection. It is strategic industrial policy. By offering a unified regulatory passport across the EU, it provides clarity, scale and first-mover advantage. While the US squabbled over jurisdiction, Europe built the infrastructure. Other jurisdictions Singapore, the UAE and even Hong Kong have embraced similar clarity. China has gone its own route.

with a state-backed digital yuan. The US, long caught in agency turf wars, is finally catching up — but only just.

This is not merely a new asset class. It is an emerging economic architecture. In countries like Argentina and Nigeria, crypto offers escape from monetary dysfunction. In Ukraine, it became a wartime financing tool. In the US, stablecoins increasingly serve as the foundation for faster, cheaper and programmable transactions.

This is not peripheral experimentation. It is foundational infrastructure. Congress' move signals a shift in political perception: crypto is no longer an anarchic subculture but a matter of financial strategy and sovereign control. But this shift is not without its complications. Trump's vocal support of crypto — and financial ties to digital asset ventures — raises uncomfortable questions about transparency and influence. The intersection of public policy and private gain in the digital asset space will require vigilant scrutiny.

Nonetheless, the legislation, despite its imperfections, marks a belated but necessary leap forward. Without regulatory clarity, the US risks becoming a bystander to innovations it helped pioneer. With it, it has a credible chance to shape — not just respond to — the financial infrastructure of the 21st century.

As of now, the total crypto asset market exceeds $4 trillion, driven by altcoin gains and positive regulatory developments. Options markets suggest growing investor confidence in continued upward movement.

Myanmar junta weaponizing starvation against Rohingya

Dr. Azeem Ibrahim



In the shadow of Myanmar's civil war, a slower, quieter but no less brutal campaign is taking place. It has claimed the lives of at least 25 Rohingya through starvation and another seven from lack of medical care in just the past few weeks. The Washington Post and a devastating new report by the Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK reveal a chilling reality: the military regime is now deliberately using starvation as a weapon of genocide against the Rohingya in Rakhine State. This marks a new and horrifying phase in a long campaign of extermination. Having razed villages, murdered families, raped women and driven hundreds of thousands into exile in 2017, the military now targets those who remain, approximately 600,000 Rohingya trapped in an apartheid system in Rakhine, by cutting them off from food, medicine and all means of survival. The June 2025 Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK report, titled "Starving to Death: The Latest Phase of the Rohingya Genocide," documents the systematic and coordinated nature of this policy. It reveals that since the resumption of conflict between the military and the Arakan Army in November 2023, the junta has blocked humanitarian aid convoys from reaching Rohingya areas. The Rohingya are not allowed to flee, not allowed to fish and not allowed to work. Starvation is not a side effect of war. It is the strategy.

The nonprofit organization's field investigators report that in townships such as Buthidaung, Maungdaw and Sittwe, the military has imposed total movement restrictions on Rohingya civilians. One mother described watching her children go to bed crying from hunger every night, unable to feed them anything more than a few spoonfuls of rice water. The elderly and sick die in silence, unable to access even basic medicines. As one witness stated: "The military are starving us to death. They are killing us without bullets."

This is textbook genocidal behavior. The UN Genocide Convention clearly defines genocide as not only mass killings but also acts intended to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, including by inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction. The Myanmar junta is now doing exactly that in full view of the international community.

The Arakan Army, which now controls much of Rakhine State, has also played a troubling role in recent months. Though it had previously attempted outreach to the Rohingya community, the group has been implicated in mass burnings of Rohingya villages and forced displacement in areas it captured from the military. Neither side in this conflict offers protection to the Rohingya. Instead, the Rohingya are treated as a demographic nuisance to be cleansed and both parties appear to be participating in that effort, directly or indirectly. This grim reality is unfolding at a time when global attention has shifted and aid is disappearing. US funding for Rohingya humanitarian programs has been slashed. With global crises from Ukraine to Gaza demanding donor attention, the Rohingya are falling off the priority list. Yet the consequences of this neglect are immediate and deadly. Starving children and dying patients are not just collateral damage of budget cuts. They are victims of deliberate political choices.

There is little reason to believe US or European funding will return to previous levels anytime soon. The broader international aid system is overstretched and increasingly politicized. So, the urgent question now is: What can be done to stop this slow-motion genocide? First, the international community must recognize starvation as a war crime and an act of genocide. That recognition should come not only from UN bodies, but also from national governments with the legal tools to act. Countries with Magnitsky-style sanctions regimes, including the US, UK, Canada and EU members, should immediately impose new sanctions targeting the military commanders responsible for the siege of Rohingya areas. These should include asset freezes, visa bans and travel restrictions. Second, the Rohingya must be given access to lifesaving aid and international agencies must demand unimpeded humanitarian access to northern Rakhine. The World Food Programme and the International Committee of the Red Cross must urgently negotiate access to these areas, not just with the junta but also with the Arakan Army, which now controls most territory. If those negotiations fail, international donors should consider air-dropping food and medicine to isolated Rohingya populations — a measure of last resort but one increasingly justified by the scale of the crisis.

Third, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and especially Malaysia and Indonesia, which have long been sympathetic to the plight of the Rohingya, must step up. ASEAN cannot continue to hide behind the fig leaf of "noninterference" while genocide unfolds within one of its member states. ASEAN's humanitarian wing should immediately attempt to deploy a response team to assess conditions and pressure both the military and the Arakan Army to allow aid through.

Fourth, Bangladesh, which hosts nearly a million Rohingya refugees and continues to accept new arrivals, must not be left to carry this burden alone. Regional powers, including Gulf countries with growing influence in Asia, should establish a special fund for Rohingya emergency relief in Rakhine and Cox's Bazar, administered by trusted international agencies.

Finally, justice must not be deferred. The International Criminal Court and International Court of Justice proceedings on Myanmar must accelerate. Evidence of starvation, forced displacement and denial of medical care should be urgently added to existing case files. Survivors must know that the world is watching and that impunity will not last forever. It is easy to speak of "atrocity fatigue." But this phrase is a luxury the Rohingya cannot afford. For them, this is not history or politics. It is a matter of life and death, every hour of every day. If the world fails to act now, it will not be out of ignorance. It will be out of indifference. And that indifference will be written in the bones of Rohingya children buried in unmarked graves.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Electronics Manufacturing to Boost Jobs: Vaishnaw



New Delhi, Nov 14 (Way to News): Electronics manufacturing in India is expanding rapidly with new suppliers and design capabilities emerging every week, Union Minister for Railways and Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw, said on Monday.

He added that the sector, driven largely by small and medium enterprises, is set to become one of the largest sources of employment in the country in the coming years. "Electronics manufacturing ecosystem is expanding. Every week new suppliers, mostly small and medium enterprises are developing," Vaishnaw stated.

In a post on X, Vaishnaw said that fresh designs and advanced manufacturing processes are being developed regularly, making India's electronics ecosystem more competitive. "Design capabilities are growing. New designs and manufacturing processes are emerging," the Union Minister said. "Over the next few years, electronics manufacturing will emerge as one of the major employment sectors in Bharat," he added.

The comments come at a time when India is moving from being just an assembly hub to building advanced design and chip-making capabilities. Earlier this month, Vaishnaw inaugurated ARM's new semiconductor design office in Bengaluru, which will focus on developing 2 nanometre chip technology -- a significant step in India's semiconductor journey.

According to the government, a 2 nm chip is being designed in India for the first time. Such technology is crucial for next-generation devices in artificial intelligence, mobile computing and high-performance systems. Smaller transistors not only mean greater efficiency and reduced power consumption, but also carry strategic importance for national security, space exploration and defence applications. The India Semiconductor Mission, with an outlay of Rs 76,000 crore, is driving the effort to build a robust ecosystem. So far, 10 projects worth Rs 1.6 lakh crore have been approved across six states. In addition, domestic startups supported under the Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme have already advanced 23 chip design projects, while 72 companies are using cutting-edge design tools.

India Holds Trade Talks with Six Nations: Goyal



New Delhi, Nov 14 (Way to News): India is in discussions with the US, the EU, New Zealand, Oman, Peru and Chile for free trade agreements (FTAs), while Qatar and Bahrain have also expressed interest, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said.

The FTA with the EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland), which was finalised in March 2024, will come into effect from October 1, Goyal added. The minister informed that the developed nations are keen to sign FTAs with India, which has already concluded such agreements with the UAE, Australia, and the UK. India's foreign exchange reserves have crossed $700 billion. Highlighting the recent GST reforms, Goyal said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has gifted the nation a transformative reform during Navaratri.

"September 22 will be written in golden letters in history. I believe this is the biggest reform since Independence, the impact of which will be felt for decades," he remarked.

The minister noted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India has transformed from a fragile economy in 2014 to the world's fourth-largest economy and will become the third-largest economy with a $5 trillion size in the next two years.

He underlined that inflation is at 2 per cent — the lowest in a decade — while GDP growth stood at 7.8 per cent in the last quarter. He also emphasised that India's banking sector is robust, and interest rates have come down. Goyal said that the government is now giving special focus to the development of the northeastern and eastern states, working hand in hand with the respective state governments to ensure inclusive growth and development. He highlighted the remarkable progress of Uttar Pradesh, noting that the state has grown by leaps and bounds under this vision of inclusive growth, which has touched every caste, class, small and big business alike. Uttar Pradesh, he said, is the first state in the country to have established a dedicated Export Promotion Ministry, reflecting its proactive approach in strengthening trade and industry.

The minister observed that the state has witnessed significant growth across sectors such as khadi, cotton, and the cottage industry. Goyal said that UP's infrastructure development — including the dedicated freight corridor, expressways, airports, multimodal logistics hubs, inland waterways and container depots — has significantly strengthened its trade and industry ecosystem.

Indian discoms' operational losses to be reduced by a third in FY26

New Delhi, Nov 14 (Way to News): State power distribution companies (discoms) will see their operating losses reduce by a third to nearly Rs 8,000-10,000 crore this fiscal (FY26) from an estimated Rs 12,000-15,000 crore last fiscal, a report said on Monday.

Improving operational efficiency, approved tariff hikes in some key states, and a slight moderation in the average power purchase cost (APPC) would drive the development. "Narrowing operating losses have slowed the pace of debt addition for discoms, leading to some improvement in their credit metrics," Crisil Ratings said in its report.

However, their dependence on state subsidies continues, with the overall debt burden remaining high and further improvement in average revenue realised (ARR) will be required to reach a higher level of cash accruals to service debt.

Moreover, discoms remain exposed to risks emanating from the increased adoption of open access for procuring renewable energy by commercial and industrial (C&I) users.

"For this fiscal, the operating gap is expected to narrow to 5-10 paise from 12 paise in the last fiscal and well below the 60 paise in fiscal 2020," said Manish Gupta, Deputy Chief Ratings Officer, Crisil Ratings. The improvement this fiscal will be driven by approved tariff hikes in 4 of the 11 states in our sample set, and the removal of compensation cess on coal as part of the goods and services tax (GST) rationalisation, which will bring down the APPC by 4-6 paise per unit, he added. The improvement in the operational efficiency is reflected in the reduction of aggregate technical and commercial losses to 15 per cent last fiscal from 19 per cent in fiscal 2020.

This follows continued investments in infrastructure upgradation, including replacement of conductors and transformers, feeder segregation and putting cables underground, the report stated.

India's industrial growth accelerates to 4 pc in August over robust mining



New Delhi, Nov 14 (Way to News): India's industrial growth, based on the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), accelerated 4 per cent in August this year driven by a strong performance in the mining sector, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics on Monday.

The industrial growth rate has accelerated for the second month in a row from a four-month high of 3.5 per cent in July which in turn had surged from 1.5 per cent in June. The mining sector bounced back with a strong growth of 6 per cent during August compared to the same month of the previous year, reversing the contraction in output during July due to the heavy monsoon rains which had hit production. The data showed that the manufacturing sector, which provides quality jobs for the young graduates passing out of the country's universities and engineering institutes, registered a growth of 3.8 per cent growth in August this year over the same month of the previous year.

Within the manufacturing sector, 10 out of 23 industry groups recorded a positive growth in August this year compared to the same month of the previous year. The top contributors were the "basic metals" segment which recorded a robust double digit at growth of 12.2 per cent and "motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers" which reported a healthy growth of 9.8 per cent. Electricity generation also improved in August with a 4.1 per cent growth compared to the July when the sector had slowed to a marginal growth of 0.6 per cent. The figures on use-based classification show that the production of capital goods, which comprise machines used in factories, went up by 4.4 per cent in August. This segment reflects the real investment taking place in the economy which has a multiplier effect on the creation of jobs and incomes going ahead. The production of consumer durables such as refrigerators, air conditioners and TV sets increased by 3.5 per cent during the month.

, reflecting the rise in demand for these products with a rise in incomes.

The infrastructure and construction sector clocked a double digit surge of 10.6 per cent in August compared with the same month of the previ-

India continues to hold top position in global milk production



New Delhi, Nov 14 (Way to News): India continues to hold the top position in global milk production for several years now, and contributes nearly a quarter of the world's supply, contributing 5 per cent to the national economy and directly employing more than 8 crore farmers, an official statement said.

The sector touches more than 8 crore rural households, many of whom are small and marginal farmers. Women play a significant role in production and collection, which makes dairy a strong driver of inclusive growth, the data showed. Over the past decade, India's dairy sector has shown a remarkable growth.

Milk production rose by 63.56 per cent from 146.30 million tonnes in 2014–15 to 239.30 million tonnes in 2023-24. "This means the country has maintained an impressive annual growth rate of 5.7 per cent over the last 10 years. Figures from the Food and Agriculture Organisation confirm that India continues to be the largest milk producer in the world, well ahead of countries such as the United States, Pakistan, China and Brazil," according to the government data.

The availability of milk for each person in India has risen sharply over the past decade. Per capita supply has gone up by 48 per cent, with more than 471 grams/person a day in 2023–24. This is far above the world average of around 322 grams/person a day. The 303.76 million bovines, which include cattle, buffalo, mithun and yak, form the backbone of both dairy production and draught power in agriculture. Sheep, with a population of 74.26 million, and goats, numbering 148.88 million, also play a vital role, especially in milk production in arid and semi-arid regions.

Between 2014 and 2022, India recorded a 27.39 per cent growth in productivity of bovines (Kg/year), the highest in the World, ahead of China, Germany and Denmark.

This growth is well above the global average increase of 13.97 per cent. The cooperative dairy sector in India is extensive and well organised. As of 2025, It includes 22 milk federations, 241 district cooperative unions, 28 marketing dairies and 25 Milk Producer Organisations (MPOs). Together, they cover about

IIFT launches International Trade Negotiations programme for govt officials



New Delhi, Nov 14 (Way to News): In a bid to strengthen the negotiation skills of government officials, the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) on Monday inaugurated the International Trade Negotiations Programme for officials of the Department of Commerce. Organised by IIFT's Centre for International Negotiations, the programme is designed to strengthen the negotiation skills of government officials and bolster India's global trade engagement. In his address on the occasion, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said, "This programme brings together all relevant topics delivered by experts in their respective fields. IIFT has always played an important role in international trade and negotiations, and we wish all participants the very best as they go through this unique learning experience."

Highlighted the institute's achievements, IIFT Vice Chancellor Rakesh Mohan Joshi said, "IIFT today enjoys top rankings on LinkedIn and NIRF, with placements reaching 1.23 crore. We have recently opened campuses at Kakinada and GIFT City. Our Dubai campus, a long-held vision, has received approvals from the Ministries of Commerce, Education and Home Affairs, UGC and the Dubai Government and will start soon." "We are also developing 30 case studies on bilateral trade and FTAs. Two landmark FTAs — the India–UK FTA and CETA — show how India can navigate complex trade scenarios even in tough times," he added. The India-UK FTA was signed amid the uncertainties in world trade triggered by the tariff turmoil unleashed by US President Donald Trump. The agreement provides 99 per cent of Indian exports, duty-free access to the UK market. A significant tariff reductions for Indian sectors such as textiles, footwear, leather, gems and jewellery, toys, sports goods, marine, processed food and garments.

It also provides enhanced market access for Indian services professionals, including IT experts, chefs, yoga instructors, musicians, and intra-corporate transferees and a finalised Social Security Agreement to eliminate dual contributions for Indian professionals working in the UK. Programme Director Rohit Mehtani said, "This programme reflects IIFT's continuing commitment to building the capacity of government officials in the complex area of international trade negotiations. The participants will gain practical insights and tools to negotiate more effectively in multilateral and bilateral forums," he said. The initiative underscores IIFT's continuing role as India's premier institution for trade-related training, research, and policy support.

The programme will cover key aspects of international trade negotiations, including bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, free trade agreements, market access and emerging global trade challenges. Through expert sessions, practical exercises and case studies, participants are expected to develop a deeper understanding of trade policy and negotiation strategies.

India's office market emerges as undisputed growth engine in Asia Pacific



New Delhi, Nov 14 (Way to News): India's office market has emerged as the undisputed growth engine of the Asia Pacific region, accounting for 44 per cent of net new supply and a commanding 61 per cent of total net absorption in the April-June period this year (Q2 2025) -- far ahead of regional peers, including the Chinese mainland and Southeast Asia, a report said.

The Indian market has consistently led in both net new supply and net absorption over the past decade.

"In Q2 2020, India contributed 26 per cent of net new supply and 30 per cent of net absorption, while in Q2 2015, those figures stood at 32 per cent and 35 per cent, respectively, according to Cushman and Wakefield's latest report.

Over the decade, India has steadily expanded its share of regional office activity, transforming from a major contributor to the dominant force in APAC's commercial real estate landscape. According to the report, this momentum highlights the country's strong growth trajectory and its resilience in sustaining demand despite global headwinds.

"India's office sector is no longer just rebounding — it's evolving into a structural growth story. From contributing a third of regional activity in 2015 to becoming APAC's dominant force in 2025, India's momentum reflects deep occupier demand and developer confidence," said Anshul Jain, Chief Executive – India, SEA and APAC Office and Retail, at Cushman and Wakefield.

This sustained momentum, backed by global capability centres (GCCs), start-ups and manufacturing, reflects robust long-term fundamentals and a clear flight to quality, Jain added.

According to the report, India's leadership in regional office demand has been underpinned by strong sectoral activity. Over the past five years (2020–2025), the IT/BPM, engineering and manufacturing, and BFSI sectors have been the key office demand drivers in the country, together accounting for a significant share of leasing activity. IT/BPM sector led with 104.9 million square feet (30 per cent), followed by engineering and manufacturing and BFSI accounting for 57.3 million square feet (MSF) (16.3 per cent) and 56.8 MSF (16 per cent), respectively, the report noted. Additionally, the nation has firmly established itself as a global hub for digital innovation and engineering research and design, powered by a skilled tech talent pool. "Today, India is home to approximately 50 per cent of the world's Global Capability Centres (GCCs), which account for around 30 per cent of gross leasing volume," the report highlighted. Notably, more than 90 per cent of this market action is concentrated around the top 6 cities – Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Hyderabad, Chennai and Pune.

Bengaluru alone absorbs more office space in one year than many European cities do in five, according to the report.

These cities have now become the gateway cities for global multinationals to station their Global Capability Centres (GCCs) or offshore captive centres.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

U19 Asia Cup Final: Raichandani, Ulva Star As India Clinch Thrilling One-Wicket Win Over Pakistan

FROM PAGE 1

India lost Yashbardhan Chauhan for nine in the 33rd over, with Usman taking the catch off Hasnain Abbas Dar. Raichandani then found support from Anvay Dravid, and the pair added 56 runs to keep India in the chase. Pakistan struck twice in the 37th over to put India under further pressure. Raichandani was caught by Hasnain Abbas Dar off Ali Raza for 80 from 101 balls, while Dravid was run out for 19 following a direct hit from Pakistan captain Farhan Yousaf.

India continued to lose wickets as Aryan Savsani fell for nine in the 41st over to Rizwanullah. Kavya Patel was then dismissed for a duck by Mohammad Sayyam in the 42nd over, leaving India in a difficult position.

With the required rate climbing and wickets falling, Manal Chauhan and Mohit Ulva launched a spirited counterattack. Chauhan struck two sixes in the 43rd over against Sayyam, while Ulva also found the boundary as India collected 19 runs from the over.

The pair kept the chase alive through the next two overs. Ulva struck a four and a six against Rizwanullah in the 44th over, while Chauhan contributed with a boundary. Ulva then pulled Ali Raza for another six in the 45th over as the partnership crossed 50 runs and India went past the 300-run mark. India collected 13 runs in the 46th over, with Chauhan and Ulva rotating the strike, but Pakistan struck a crucial blow in the 47th when Niqab Shafiq dismissed Chauhan for 47 off 32 balls. Chauhan's innings included three fours and three sixes, and he shared a 57-run partnership with Ulva. With India still needing runs and only one wicket remaining, Venkata joined Ulva at the crease. Venkata kept the chase going with a boundary in the 48th over, while Ulva struck a four and a six off Sayyam to bring the equation down further. The 49th over produced more drama as India collected 17 runs off Niqab Shafiq, leaving eight runs required from the final six balls. Ulva and Venkata kept their composure against Hussain, collecting singles and negotiating a stumping appeal before the equation came down to three runs from the last delivery. Ulva



then hit the winning boundary to complete India's title-winning chase.

For Pakistan, Rizwanullah claimed three wickets, while Niqab Shafiq took two.

Earlier, Pakistan posted a formidable 337/9 after centuries from Usman Khan and valuable contributions from Abdul Qadir and captain Farhan Yousaf. Usman top-scored with 107, while Qadir struck 80 and Yousaf added 63 to put the defending champions in a strong position. Pakistan began positively, with Usman and Hayam Khan adding 62 runs for the opening wicket. Hayam was dismissed by Kavya Patel in the ninth over, caught behind by Anvay Dravid, but Usman continued to attack as Pakistan reached 93/1 at the powerplay. Qadir joined Usman and immediately put the Indian bowlers under pressure. He scored 26 runs from his first eight deliveries and took on left-arm spinner Manal Chauhan, who conceded 40 runs in his three overs. Qadir also struck a couple of sixes in the 23rd over and repeated the feat against Yashbardhan Chauhan in the following over.

The pair added 135 runs for the second wicket before Arjun Rajput provided India with a breakthrough, dismissing Qadir for 80 off 54 balls. Usman continued to anchor the innings and brought up his second century of the tournament in the 35th over. Kavya Patel then removed Usman in the 37th over, with the opener departing for 107 off 111 balls, including 11 fours and three sixes. Yousaf kept Pakistan moving towards a big total and completed his half-century in the 43rd over.

However, India fought back in the closing overs. Chigurupati Venkata struck twice in the 45th over, dismissing Ahmed Hussain for 17 and Yousaf for 63 with slower deliveries. He returned to remove Hasnain Abbas Dar in the following over, while Kavya Patel dismissed Hamza Zahoor in the 48th over.

Kavya also bowled the final over, conceding just seven runs as Pakistan finished at 337/9. For India, Kavya Patel claimed four wickets, while Venkata took three to lead the bowling effort.

Brief scores: Pakistan U19 337/9 in 50 overs (Usman Khan 107, Abdul Qadir 80; Kavya Patel 4-68, Chigurupati Venkata 3-40) lost to India U19 339/9 in 50 overs (Lakshya Rajesh Raichandani 80, Aaryavir Sehwag 58, Mohit Ulva 49; Rizwanullah 3-53, Niqab Shafiq 2-57) by 1 wicket.*

ATP TOUR

Taylor Fritz ends season with Stockholm title



Stockholm, Nov 14 (Way to News): American star Taylor Fritz ended his season in style on Saturday at the Stockholm Open ATP 250 event, where he clawed past first-time tour-level finalist Thiago Agustin Tirante 6-2, 4-6, 7-6(3) in Stockholm. In a tight match, neither player faced a break point in the final set, with Fritz coming out on top of a tense third-set tie-break to capture his second trophy of the year after two hours and 14 minutes.

"It was a stressful match," Fritz said. "I came out and was playing really well but then let some opportunities slip. He played a good game, a good defensive game, and I made a couple of mistakes. He was playing well, has a big serve, and it kind of changed the match. I had a hard time breaking after that, and it turned into a really tight match."

Fritz, a champion at the ATP 500 event in Washington earlier this year, has now won multiple tour-level titles for five consecutive seasons. The 29-year-old is up to No. 9 in the ATP Live Rankings and is guaranteed to finish the year inside the Top-10 for the fifth straight season. Last week in Paris, Fritz was just one point away from defeating Carlos Alcaraz and therefore qualifying for the ATP Finals. The American is pleased with how he bounced back from that disappointment this week. "It is really big for me to deal with what I dealt with in Paris," Fritz said. "I wanted to go home so bad, but I knew I would feel better coming here. I am glad I came here and made the most of it."

Fritz was making his fourth appearance in Stockholm and first since 2021. The American dispatched Cameron Norrie and Lorenzo Musetti in straight sets to advance to the final. Fritz is 46-22 on the year, according to the Infosys ATP Win/Loss Index. Fritz is also now a 12-time tour-level champion, but Saturday's victory was his first indoors.

"I have lost a lot of indoor finals, but at the same time I didn't look too much into it, because when I won Tokyo, it was pretty much indoors as the roof was closed a lot," Fritz said on winning a title indoors. "It feels good to get that one now. All that is left is the clay title." The Stockholm triumph further underlined Fritz's consistency on the ATP Tour, as he continued his impressive run among the world's top players. His ability to recover from a difficult second set and deliver under pressure in the deciding tie-break proved crucial.

AFC U17 QUALIFIERS

Raj Singh scores four as India hammer guam 12-0



SAFF CHAMPIONSHIP

India beat Bhutan by 2-1 to make way in final



Dhaka, Nov 14 (Way to News): India defeated Bhutan by 2-1 in the SAFF Championship semifinals to make their way into the final at the National Stadium here on Saturday.

P.V. Vishnu and Chinglensana Singh scored the goals for India, while Kinzang Tashi Tobden pulled one back for his team to push for a win, but the defending champions romped home.

Naushad Moosa's Blue Tigers drew first blood when Vishnu scored in the ninth minute after an assist from Khaiminthang Lhungdim. India kept doing the good work and doubled the lead near the half-hour mark when Chinglensana found the back of the net after Bhutan failed to clear a corner. India went 2-0 up at the half-way mark, but Bhutan pressed much more in the second half as they looked for a first. They got their opening goal in the 48th minute. Tobden headed a Chencho Gyeltshen delivery to the net, and although the offside flag was up, the goal was later allowed after a VAR review.

India could have got a penalty for Nima Wangdi's arm inside the box, but the decision was overturned. Suhail Bhat hit the crossbar in his effort late in the game as India held a 2-1 win despite Bhutan's late attempt.

India have made it to the finals now and will be facing the winner of the other semifinal between Pakistan and Bangladesh. India are the most successful team in the SAFF Championship, having won the title nine times. They are the two-time defending champions of the South Asian tournament and have made the final in every edition since 2005.

Meanwhile, Pakistan have never reached the final of the tournament, as they have had a best third-place finish. Bangladesh have won the title once in 2003, and they were also the finalists in 2005. India's victory highlighted the team's attacking strength and ability to withstand pressure in the closing stages. The Blue Tigers started confidently, capitalised on early scoring opportunities and maintained their composure despite Bhutan's improved performance after the break. The win also extended India's strong record in the regional competition.

The final will provide India with another opportunity to strengthen their dominance in South Asian football and extend their record title tally.

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. He expressed support for the board's approach, highlighting the importance of stability and long-term planning in maintaining the IPL's growth and global appeal.

Modi also emphasised that the IPL's growing commercial and international stature made proper scheduling increasingly important. He said the Board should take into account players' workload, weather conditions and the interests of other international cricket commitments while planning future editions.

New Delhi, Nov 14 (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

'171-Run Knock Changed Women's Cricket Perception': Harmanpreet Kaur Unveils Wax Statue In Jaipur

Jaipur, Nov 14 (Way to News): Indian women's cricket star Harmanpreet Kaur on Friday joined the league of cricketing legends Sachin Tendulkar, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, and Virat Kohli as her wax statue was unveiled at a ceremony held at the Rajasthan International Centre (RIC) in Jaipur.

Organisers noted that the figure, crafted by the Historica Museum, is the world's first wax statue of a female cricketer and will be placed on permanent display at the 'Historica: Step into History' museum at Nahargarh Fort.

Reflecting on her career milestones at the event, Harmanpreet said her historic 171-run knock played a pivotal role in transforming public perception around women's cricket in India.

She observed that the sport has undergone a remarkable shift, with stadiums increasingly drawing packed crowds and growing numbers of women turning out to cheer for the national side. Drawing a parallel with India's 1983 men's World Cup triumph, she



stated that the women's team's World Cup success had similarly reshaped the landscape of the women's game.

"This is just the beginning. Women's cricket will reach even greater heights in the coming years," she said.

Recalling the World Cup victory at Lord's, Harmanpreet described lifting the trophy as one of the most unforgettable moments of her life, emphasising that the triumph was the culmination of the entire squad's collective dream and unity. During the ceremony, young aspiring cricketers from Jaipur welcomed the Indian skipper with a guard of honour using raised bats. Touched by the gesture, Harmanpreet interacted with the youngsters, posed for photographs, and urged them to pursue their sporting ambitions with dedication. Describing the wax figure as a deeply emotional milestone, Harmanpreet noted that seeing her statue displayed alongside cricketing icons she grew up admiring reflected years of perseverance and early career struggles. She also lauded the sculptors and museum team for the detailed measurements, photographs, and video recordings undertaken to create an accurate likeness.

Golf: McIlroy strengthens bid for a record-tying eighth Race to Dubai title

Dubai, Nov 14 (Way to News): Rory McIlroy strengthened his bid for a record-tying eighth Race to Dubai title after carding a second-round 70 to share the halfway lead with Ryder Cup teammate Tyrrell Hatton at the DP World Tour Championship.

McIlroy made an early charge up the leaderboard with three birdies in his first eight holes before adding another at the tenth. However, the Northern Irishman found the closing stretch increasingly difficult as windy conditions made scoring a challenge on the Earth Course at Jumeirah Golf Estates. Bogeys at the 12th, 16th and 17th threatened to undo his progress, but a birdie at the last brought him back alongside Hatton on five-under-par, who had set the clubhouse target earlier in the afternoon.

With Race to Dubai leader Eugenio Chacarra tied 11th for the tournament after the



first two days, there was a significant momentum swing in favour of McIlroy, who is currently projected to top the Ranking and capture his fifth straight Race to Dubai crown.

"I played very solidly for those first 11 holes," McIlroy said afterwards. "And then 12 felt like the first time I'd really put myself out of position. And once you do start putting yourself out of position on this golf course, this set-up, these conditions, it starts to get very, very difficult.

"It's very easy to make bogeys out there. It's very, very tricky once you get yourself out of position. So, easy to make bogeys, but it was nice to at least birdie the last and feel like I sort of salvaged the day a little bit with that birdie. "I've been coming to this golf course for 17 years, and this is the toughest I think it's ever played. So in my mind it's sort of like, well, you should be going out and shooting 66 or 65, and the course just isn't set up that way this week. And you just have to show a little bit more patience out there. And I started to get maybe a little bit frustrated with the course on the way in. But I think it's just the nature of it. It's a tough test," he said.

McIlroy boasts an impressive record at the Earth Course, having won the Tour Championship three times and finished runner-up to Matt Fitzpatrick in a play-off last year. A fourth victory at the venue would secure both the tournament title and the Harry Vardon Trophy, extending his remarkable run of Race to Dubai success.

"I want to win this tournament," McIlroy said after his round. "You know, I've won four times down the road at Emirates. It'd be nice to win four times here. So, yeah, I want to win the tournament. And if I win the tournament, that's all I can do. It doesn't really matter what any of the other guys do, you know, if they play well enough. But if I go and I win the first trophy on Sunday, then the second trophy should take care of itself." Hatton will have his own ambitions heading into the weekend as he looks to claim his first DP World Tour Championship title after coming close on a number of occasions.

IWL 2026/27: Juanita's double powers Sethu Madurai to 2-1 win over Kickstart FC Karnataka

Chennai, Nov 14 (Way to News): Juanita Aguadze's brace, including a second-half penalty, helped Sethu Madurai start their campaign in the Indian Women's League (IWL) 2026/27 with a 2-1 victory over Southern rivals Kickstart FC Karnataka at the Kalyani Stadium in Kolkata on Saturday. Ghanaian Juanita Aguadze scored twice for Sethu (18', 67'), but was also responsible for Kickstart's only goal of the game, an own goal in the 24th minute.

Kickstart FC Karnataka controlled possession to begin with, making inroads with some neat interplay in midfield. Despite having the better share of opportunities, they couldn't break the deadlock. Sethu captain Malavika looked particularly impressive on the counter-attack, creating chances down the right wing at the other end.



The forward set up the opening goal of the game, picking out Juanita, who fired her effort into the top corner to give Sethu the lead in the 18th minute. Kickstart responded within six minutes, drawing level from a corner courtesy of an own goal from Juanita. The game settled into an evenly matched contest after the goals, with possession shared almost equally and both sides probing in midfield. Each team created half-chances, but there was nothing to separate them heading into the break.

Sethu began the second half positively, cranking the intensity up a notch. Juanita had a couple of opportunities to double her tally for the day, but was kept at bay by Aiswarya Arumugam in the Kickstart goal.

The Ghanaian's industry eventually paid off as her marauding run down the left wing resulted in Musken Subba being brought down in the box.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Senior Actor Giri Babu Passes Away



Veteran Telugu actor, director and producer Giri Babu(80) passed away on Saturday while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Kondapur, Hyderabad. The senior actor had reportedly been suffering from health-related complications for some time. His demise has brought sadness to the Telugu film industry, where he enjoyed a distinguished career spanning more than five decades. Born Yerra Seshagiri Rao on June 8 in Ravinuthala village, part of Prakasam district in Andhra Pradesh, Giri Babu developed an interest in acting and theatre during his early years. His passion for performing arts eventually led him to the film industry, where he established himself as one of Telugu cinema's most recognisable character actors. Giri Babu made his acting debut with Jagame Maya in 1973. Although he initially appeared in leading roles, he subsequently gained widespread recognition for his performances as an antagonist, comedian and supporting actor. His distinctive dialogue delivery, screen presence and versatility helped him build a successful career across different genres.

Over the decades, Giri Babu appeared in more than 600 films and worked alongside several generations of prominent Telugu actors, including N. T. Rama Rao, Akkineni Nageswara Rao, Krishna, Chiranjeevi, Mohan Babu and Nagarjuna. One of his memorable early performances came in the 1977 mythological film Kurukshetram, in which he portrayed Dushasana. His other notable films included Jyothi, Merupu Daadi, Pasivadi Pranam, Hello Brother, Sisindri, Little Soldiers, Ninne Pelladata and Chandralekha. He also appeared in several films featuring younger-generation actors, including Gamyam, A Aa, Geetha Govindam, Disco Raja, Jathi Ratnalu, Most Eligible Bachelor, Oke Oka Jeevitham and Anni Manchi Sakunamule. His continued association with contemporary filmmakers reflected his ability to adapt to changing cinematic trends.

Beyond acting, Giri Babu made contributions as a director and producer. His directorial ventures included Ranarangam (1985), Indrajith (1990) and Nee Sukhame Ne Koruthunna (2008). He was also associated with the production of films such as Devathalara Deevinchandi and Merupu Daadi. Giri Babu is survived by two sons and a daughter. His eldest son, Raghu Babu, is a prominent Telugu comedian and character actor. His younger son, Bose Babu, also entered the film industry. His wife, Sridevi, passed away in 2016. With his passing, Telugu cinema has lost a veteran performer whose extensive body of work entertained audiences across generations.

Jr NTR teams up with Anil Ravipudi for comedy film



Jr NTR has joined forces with director Anil Ravipudi for his next. On Saturday, the 'RRR' actor provided netizens with a glimpse into their much-anticipated collaboration. Jr NTR took to his social media handle and shared the exciting professional update, writing, “This one’s going to be a laugh riot…(sic)”. He also tagged Anil Ravipudi and used the hashtag #NTRxAnilRavipudi.

Reacting to the announcement, Anil Ravipudi expressed his excitement, stating, “Our combination has been long overdue @tarak9999 sir… Full-on entertainer coming up! Rolling very soon... No no, ROFLing very soon… ”. The announcement has already sparked curiosity among movie buffs, which is evident from their remarks in the comment section. The post further included a picture of the actor and director duo posing with bright smiles. However, further details about the latest venture of Jr NTR have been kept under wraps for now. Meanwhile, at the moment, Jr NTR is busy working on Prashanth Neel's highly talked-about drama, 'Dragon'. If the reports are to be believed, the actor resumed the shoot for the movie in October after recovering from a shoulder injury. It is further reported that the production work for 'Dragon' is heading towards completion.

Backed by the banners, Mythri Movie Makers and NTR Arts, the film also features Rukmini Vasanth, Anil Kapoor and Biju Menon in crucial roles, along with others. 'Dragon' is scheduled to get a worldwide theatrical release on June 11, 2027. In addition to this, Jr NTR is also expected to reunite with Trivikram Srinivas, with whom he previously delivered the successful film, 'Aravinda Sametha Veera Raghava'. The actor and director duo is reportedly working on a mythology-inspired film centered on Lord Muruga/Kartikeya. The yet-to-be-titled project is being referred to as NTRxTrivikram for now. With his latest announcement, Jr NTR's lineup has become even more exciting.

Manasa Varanasi begins dubbing for Shawanand-starrer 'George Krish'



The cast of director Sreenu Vaitla's upcoming Telugu film, 'George Krish', featuring actor Sharwanand and Manasa Varanasi in the lead, has now commenced dubbing for the film.

AK Entertainments, the production house producing the film, took to its social media timelines to post a video that showed dubbing for the film beginning with a traditional pooja.

The production house wrote, "Dubbing begins for our Sankranthi special entertainer #GeorgeKrish. Our Captain of Entertainment, @SreenuVaitla, is bringing a FULL-ON FUN FEAST with Charming Star @ImSharwanand & @varanasi_manasa. JANUARY 14, 2027 - IN CINEMAS WORLDWIDE! @AnilSunkara1 @kishore_Atv." In the video that the production house posted, actress Manasa Varanasi, who plays the female lead, was seen dubbing for her character. For the unaware, Manasa Varanasi's most recent film 'Couple Friendly' had gone on to emerge a huge hit and the actress had come in for praise for her work in the film. Sources say that Manasa's role in 'George Krish' will have great significance. The film has generated excitement among fans ever since it was first announced as Sharwanand, who is riding high on the successes of his recent films -- 'Nari Nari Naduma Murari' and 'Biker' -- is teaming up with director Sreenu Vaitla for the first time.

Presented by ATV, the film is being produced by Rambabrahmam Sunkara under Anil Sunkara's AK Entertainments banner, with Ajay Sunkara opting in as co-producer. A "First Booster' video that the makers had released on the occasion of the director's birthday had given the impression that Sharwanand would be seen playing two roles in the film. The first booster featured the actor as both a Christian called George and a Hindu called Krish. The film is slated to hit screens on January 14 for the festival of Sankranthi next year. The Sankranthi sentiment is particularly special for Sharwanand as films of the actor that have released for the festival have gone on to emerge as huge successes.

Films such as 'Shatamanam Bhavati', 'Express Raja' and 'Nari Nari Naduma Murari' all released for Sankranti and emerged winners. Now, 'George Krish' too is to be released for the festival. The film boasts a strong technical crew. KV Guhan is the cinematographer of this film, which has music by Anup Rubens. Avinash Kolla is serving as the production designer and Amar Reddy Kudumula is taking care of editing. Nandu Savirigana and Gopi Mohan have written this script and Kishore Garikipati is serving as its executive producer.

Sai Pallavi's action avatar in 'Om'

The trailer of the multilingual crime drama film 'Om' starring a huge cast like Dhanush, Sai Pallavi, and Mammootty has been released. The trailer of this film, which is based on the theme of red sandalwood smuggling in the forests of Andhra Pradesh, is raising the expectations of the audience immensely. The trailer, which is about three minutes long, introduces the main characters of the film and the suspense of the story. In

this trailer, Dhanush is seen as an undercover officer. He is an officer of the Organized Crime Intelligence Unit of Tamil Nadu. He goes in disguise as an ordinary lumberjack to infiltrate a red sandalwood smuggling gang. His efforts to expose the activities of the smuggling syndicate are thrilling.

On the other hand, Sai Pallavi looks powerful in the role of IPS officer Nithya Reddy. Leading the Andhra Pradesh Exclusive Special Task Force, she is set to bust the smugglers under the name of 'Operation Mole'. As part of this, she is seen in an action avatar. It seems that the film has been titled 'Om' after the name of this operation. Malayalam superstar Mammootty will be seen in a key role as the most powerful person in this smuggling network, while Srileela plays the role of Dhanush's wife. The trailer features high-voltage action scenes, huge



Manchu Manoj Praises Wife Mounika’s Achievement

Tollywood actor Manchu Manoj has showered praise on his wife Bhuma Mounika. He took to social media to express his gratitude after their startup 'Namaste World' signed a key agreement with the Andhra Pradesh government. He said that Mounika's hard work for the company for five years is yielding good results today.

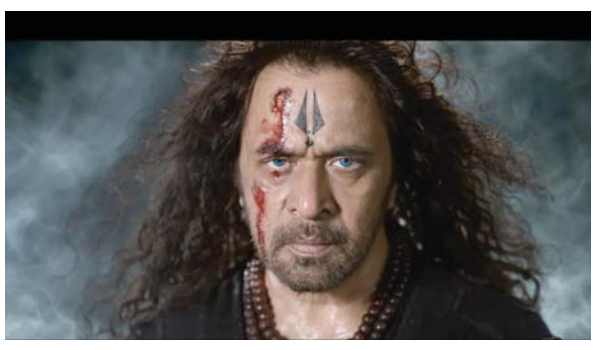
The agreement was signed at the 31st CII Partnership Conference held in Visakhapatnam. Namaste World will set up handloom and local toy manufacturing centers in Kurnool and Visakhapatnam with a proposed investment of about Rs. 36.24 crore. About 950 people will get direct employment opportunities through this project. The company aims to promote traditional arts like Atikoppaka and Kondapalli and support local handloom workers.

On this occasion, Manoj posted emotionally. ''Mounika.. I am proud to see you. "It is your hard work and perseverance over the past five years that has brought us to this level. We signed an MoU with the AP government at the 31st CII Partnership Conference. We achieved this feat within three weeks of our first MoU in Tirupati. The credit for bringing us this far belongs to you," he said.

Manoj said that their idea is to work with handloom artisans and women in Andhra Pradesh to bring Indian stories closer to today's children through modern technology like toys, animation and AI. Bhuma Mounika is the founder and CEO of this organization, while Manoj is the co-founder and chief innovation officer.



Unveiling First Look of Arjun Sarja as VIRAAVI from Polimera 3



The much-awaited third instalment of the sensational Mystic Thriller franchise Polimera3, has taken excitement to the next level with the grand unveiling of VIRAAVI’s glimpse. On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, makers unveiled the glimpse, introducing Action King Arjun Sarja in an absolutely powerful and intriguing avatar. Directed by Dr. Anil Vishwanath, the film is gearing up to expand the world of Polimera into a much bigger cinematic experience, with a grand release planned in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam. The film is being produced by successful producer Vamsi Nandipati under Vamsi Nandipati Entertainments in association with Bharath Narang of Sree Venkateswara Cinemas LLP (Asian Group).

The glimpse begins on a mysterious note, taking viewers into the darkest corners of a temple before gradually revealing the atmosphere of Amavasya. The striking transition from Lord Vishnu to Lord Shiva creates a goosebumps-inducing moment, followed by the divine reveal of Anantha Padmanabha Swamy. The spiritual imagery and captivating visuals establish the film's unique blend of divinity, mystery and supernatural elements. However, the glimpse soon shifts gears as director Anil Vishwanath takes audiences into the dark world of Polimera, showing Satyam Rajesh as Komaraiah performing black magic. The intense visuals and mysterious atmosphere build tremendous curiosity before leading to the most anticipated moment.

The glimpse gradually builds towards the grand introduction of VIRAAVI, played by Action King Arjun Sarja. His commanding screen presence, imposing warrior appearance and powerful sword-wielding pose deliver a terrific high. Arjun's intense look and striking body language make the character reveal a major highlight of the glimpse. Following the attention generated by Blast, his entry into the Polimera universe adds another exciting dimension to the franchise. The transition from the dark supernatural world to Arjun's powerful warrior avatar is particularly striking.

The impactful background score, brilliant cinematography and impressive production values further elevate the entire glimpse, making VIRAAVI's arrival a memorable cinematic moment. Arjun's inclusion has undoubtedly taken the scale and anticipation surrounding Polimera 3 to another level.

What else did you think!' The film will connect with everyone!



Vamsi Nandipati Entertainments and ETV Win jointly produced the film 'Inka Em Anukaladu!'. Produced by Vamsi Nandipati, Kannu Sameer, coproduced by Vennapoosa Srikar Reddy, Pranay Valluripally, Giri Pemmasani, this movie stars Akshay Lagusani and Keyuri as the hero and heroines, Jayakrishna, Rao Ramesh, Harshavardhan, Anita Chowdhury, Subbaraju and others in important roles. The film is going to be released on December 11. In this sequence, the song 'Meghalu Sandramlo' was launched. At the song launch event organized to this effect..

Vamsi Nandipati said.. ''Inka Em Anukaladu!'' The film will be relatable and connectable to everyone. I really liked the story told by Giri and Pranay. The industry will definitely remember the names of these two. Sinjith has given wonderful songs. Akshay and Sinjith are good friends. All the best to Keyuri. We are bringing this movie to the audience on December 11th in collaboration with ETV Win. Thank you to everyone who has supported us on this journey. ETV Win Content Head Bharan said, "'Inka Em Ankaledu!' is a very special movie for us. We are going to introduce two directors at the same time with this movie. This is Vamsi garu's first movie as a producer. That is why our movie is special. Sinjith has given good music for the movie. We are releasing our movie on December 11th.

" ETV Win Vice President Sai Krishna said, "Sinjith always gives us good songs. Sinjith has given excellent music for the movie 'Inka Em Ankaledu!' as well. I am happy that Vamsi is introducing Nandipati garu as a producer. We are going to introduce two directors with this movie."

Director Pranay Valluripally said .. Sinjith has given good music for the film 'Inka Em Ankale!'. All the songs are good. Kittu garu has given good lyrics. Rehan has given good visuals. Anurag has given good dialogues. Our film is coming out on December 11. We hope everyone will like it. Thank you to Vamsi garu and the ETV Win team for giving us this opportunity.'

Director Giri Pemmasani said .. 'Inka Em Ankale!' Thank you to Vamsi garu and the ETV Win team for giving us this opportunity. This is our first film. Sinjith has given good music. All the songs are good. We will come before the audience in more events in the future. Our film is coming out on December 11,' he said.

Akshay Lagusani said .. 'Inka Em Ankale!' Thank you to Vamsi garu and the ETV Win team for giving us a chance. Sinjith is the hero of this event. He is my flatmate. He keeps working 24 hours a day. He has given us good songs. Keep supporting us like this. We are going to come out in front of the audience on December 11th," he said. Keyuri said.. "Thanks to Vamsi garu and the ETV Win team for giving me a chance in the film 'Inka Em Anakkudu!'. Thanks to Pranay and Giri for giving me a good role. I will talk about Akshay and Jaikrishna in future events. I think everyone will like the song we have released."

Actor Jai Krishna said, "I think everyone will like our song in the movie 'Inka Em Ankale!'. Thank you to everyone who came for the song launch." Music director Sinjith said, "I worked with two directors for the first time in the movie 'Inka Em Ankale!'. Akshay is a good friend of mine. My favorite genre is rom-com, and I am happy to work on this movie. Thank you to Vamsi garu and the ETV Win team for giving me this opportunity. The movie has been very well received. Our movie is coming out on December 11th."

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