WAY TO NEWS

PRGI No: TGENG/26/A6521

ENGLISH DAILY



Telangana | Vol: 01 | Issue:98 | Tuesday 17 November 2026 | Price:1/- | Pages: 8

SC Grants Bail to Two Bilkis Bano Convicts

New Delhi, Nov 16 (Way to News): The Supreme Court has suspended the life sentences of two convicts in the case of the gangrape of Bilkis Bano and murder of seven of her family members during the 2002 riots in Gujarat and granted them bail.



A bench of Justices MM Sundresh and PB Varale noted that Bipin Chandra Joshi and Pradeep Mordhiya had been incarcerated for more than 17 years.

"Having heard the parties, suffice it to state that the appellants have been under incarceration for a period of more than 17 years, and also the fact remains that one of the appellants has a severe handicap. Certainly, there are issues to be decided in the appeal, both on fact and law," the apex court said in its October 28 order that has now been uploaded.

"In view of the above and considering the issues involved in this appeal, we suspend the sentence and grant bail to the appellants on such terms and conditions as may be imposed by the concerned trial court," the bench added. Arguing that the two men have been incarcerated for more than 17 years, senior advocate Siddharth Luthra submitted that one of the convicts had not been named in the FIR and was implicated after nearly three years following the 2002 riots. Additional Solicitor General Raja Thakre vehemently opposed the plea and said the high court and the trial court have taken into consideration the relevant material brought on record, especially as the offence committed is so serious. Bilkis Bano was 21 years old and five months pregnant when she was gang-raped while trying to escape the horror of the communal riots that broke out after the Godhra train burning incident in February 2002. Her three-year-old daughter was among the seven family members killed.

The two convicts, Mordhiya and Joshi, are among the 11 whose remission was quashed by the Supreme Court in 2024. The other convicts in the case are Govind Nai, Ramesh Chandana, Mitesh Bhatt, Bakabhai Vohania, Kesarbhai Vohania, Jaswant Nai, Radheshyam Shah, Rajubhai Soni and Shailesh Bhatt. Joshi and Mordhiya were convicted by the trial court under Sections 143 (unlawful assembly), 147 (rioting), 302 (murder) read with Sections 376 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code and were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for life with fine.

Sonia pens memoir on family narratives

New Delhi, Nov 16 (Way to News): Former Congress President Sonia Gandhi revealed that she penned her new memoir, Belonging: A Journey of Love, to correct years of inaccurate and distorted narratives surrounding her family, including her mother-in-law Indira Gandhi and husband Rajiv Gandhi, opting to present her personal life and experiences through her own eyes. The Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson officially launched her much-anticipated memoir, Belonging: A Journey of Love, in New Delhi.



Published by HarperCollins India, the book hit the market on November 10 and has already recorded robust sales, with publishers noting that more than two lakh copies have been sold in less than a week.

Speaking at the launch event, Sonia Gandhi shed light on her motivation for writing the memoir, revealing that she was initially hesitant to open up her private life to public discourse. Encouraged by her children, Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, she decided to undertake the project to set the record straight. Expressing gratitude for the public reception, Sonia Gandhi said that she was deeply touched by readers' affection, strong book sales, and critical feedback. While noting that criticism is an unavoidable part of public life, she distinguished between harsh, ungrounded remarks and genuine, honest critiques.

The memoir has naturally sparked political discussions. While the Congress party frames it as an intimate personal account, the BJP has raised questions regarding various historical and political aspects covered in the book. Sonia Gandhi reiterated that her objective was not to invite political controversy, but to share authentic details of her experiences and relationships. The high-profile launch event showcased a strong display of opposition unity, drawing numerous prominent political figures to the national capital.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Philippines President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and First Lady Louise Araneta-Marcos at the gala dinner in Manila.

PM Modi Arrives in Manila for ASEAN Summit

Manila, Nov 16 (Way to News): Prime Minister Narendra Modi, wearing Barong Tagalog, the national formal attire for men in the Philippines, arrived at the Philippine International Convention Centre in Pasay City to attend a gala dinner hosted by the country's President Ferdinand R Marcos Jr. in Manila on Monday. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and First Lady Louise Araneta-Marcos warmly welcomed PM Modi at the event for the visiting dignitaries as he arrived at the venue in an auto. Earlier in the day, PM Modi arrived in Manila to attend the 23rd ASEAN-India Summit and the 21st East Asia Summit, which the Philippines is hosting as the ASEAN Chair for 2026.

Upon arrival in Manila, PM Modi was received by the Secretary of the Department of Information and Communications Technology in the Philippines, Robert Joseph "Jay" Montes de Claro.

Sharing details regarding the Prime Minister's arrival in Manila on social media platform X, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, "The visit reaffirms India's partnership with ASEAN as a cornerstone to its Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific Vision." Members of the Indian community also extended a warm welcome to PM Modi in Manila as he arrived in the Philippines for a two-day visit. PM Modi interacted with members of the Indian diaspora, who enthusiastically chanted "Modi Modi" to welcome the Indian Prime Minister. He also witnessed cultural performances upon his arrival in Manila.

The ASEAN-India Summit will review progress in the implementation of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, including the ASEAN-India Plan of Action 2026–2030, and chart the future direction of cooperation, according to the statement released by the MEA.

"India-ASEAN relations are a central pillar of India's Act East Policy and our vision for the Indo-Pacific. The visit comes as India and ASEAN are celebrating 2026 as the ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation, and will commemorate 35 years of Dialogue Relations and five years of our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2027," the MEA said in a statement.

Big B, Son Abhishek Bachchan receive death threats from Gangster Goldy Dhillon



Mumbai, Nov 16 (Way to News): After veteran Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan greeted his fans from inside a bullet-proof glass at his bungalow in Mumbai, he and his son Abhishek Bachchan have received death threats from gangster Goldy Dhillon.

The gangster has claimed that the recent arrest of 2 of his associates by the Delhi Police has not derailed a purported plan to target the veteran actor in Mumbai.

Gangster Goldy Dhillon has claimed in a social media post that the Delhi Police Special Cell has arrested two of his accomplices, Vikas Thakur and Deepak Singh, from Mumbai. Goldy said that the two should not be linked to any other gang.

In the post, Dhillon also referred to the 1984 Sikh riots and said that the culprits of those incidents will never be forgiven. He threatened that no matter which country a person is in, those speaking against the Sikh community will be held to account. The post specifically named Amitabh Bachchan and his son Abhishek, warning that even bulletproof glass would not protect them.

For the uninitiated, a few weeks ago, Big B greeted his fans at his residence Jalsa, amidst tight security. In the visuals obtained by IANS, Big B could be seen waving at his admirers just like any other Sunday. However, this time he was standing behind a transparent bulletproof shell that was installed on an elevated platform. Abhishek Bachchan also accompanied his father as he greeted the fans on Sunday.

ECI allows deleted voters to restore names via Form 6

New Delhi, Nov 16 (Way to News): The Election Commission of India has told the Supreme Court that voters whose names do not figure in the draft electoral rolls after the Special Intensive Revision in Delhi can use Form 6 to seek restoration of their names and will not face prosecution merely because the form is meant for first-time enrolment only.



The clarification has been made in the latest affidavit filed on November 14 by Deputy Election Commissioner Bhanu Prakash Yeturu in response to a query raised by the Supreme Court during the October 28 hearing. The Court had then questioned why a person already enrolled in an electoral roll should be required to submit Form 6, which is only for first-time voters, and had suggested that the Commission reach out to electors left out of the draft rolls. The ECI has now placed on record a November 3 communication issued to the Chief Electoral Officers of all States and union Territories clarifying that no prosecution would be initiated against an elector merely for filing Form 6 for re-inclusion after exclusion from the draft roll.

The protection, however, would apply provided the elector is not already enrolled in another parliamentary or assembly constituency and the declaration accompanying the application is otherwise in accordance with law. The Commission has also placed before the Court its November 6 directions concerning electors categorised as absent, shifted, dead or duplicate, whose names did not find place in the draft rolls. Such electors have been permitted to submit enumeration forms before the Electoral Registration Officer having jurisdiction over their present place of residence.

The ECI has further clarified that persons who have shifted residence within the same State would not be required to submit Form 8 for this purpose. Booth-wise lists of such electors are also to be displayed afresh. According to the affidavit, these measures follow the Supreme Court's suggestion during the October 28 proceedings that the Commission undertake outreach to voters who may have been left out during the SIR exercise.

Bhupender Yadav Meets COP31 Negotiations President

Antalya, Nov 16 (Way to News): Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav held a meeting with the President of the Negotiations for COP31, Chris Bowen, in Turkey's Antalya on Monday, with discussions held on ongoing negotiations on matters related to mitigation, adaptation and climate finance. During the meeting, Yadav expressed India's support and constructive role to the Presidency in the ongoing negotiations towards positive solutions.



Chris Bowen also serves as Australia's Minister for Climate Change and Energy. "Glad to have met with Chris Bowen, COP31 President Negotiations, on the sidelines of COP31 in Antalya today. We had a detailed discussion on the ongoing negotiations with matters related to mitigation, adaptation and climate finance. Assured India's support and its constructive role to the Presidency in the ongoing negotiations towards positive solutions," Union Minister Yadav said on social media platform X.

Bhupender Yadav met United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Executive Secretary Simon Stiell on the sidelines of the ongoing COP31 in Antalya and expressed India's commitment to engaging constructively with UNFCCC.

After the meeting, Yadav on X said, "On the sidelines of the ongoing COP31 in Turkey's Antalya, delighted to have met with Simon Stiell, UNFCCC Executive Secretary. Our conversations focused on simplifying the negotiations process with emphasis on means of implementation, just transition, adaptation, and climate finance. India remains committed to engaging with UNFCCC constructively, extending all required support."

Earlier on Monday, Bhupender Yadav arrived in Turkey's Antalya to attend COP31. Upon arrival in Antalya, he said that India remains committed to tackling climate change. In a post on X, Yadav said, "Arrived in Antalya, Turkey, for COP31. Over the coming days, will be putting forward India's position and engage in bilateral and multilateral discussions.

FM Chairs 1st Pre-Budget Consultation With Leading Economists

New Delhi, Nov 16 (Way to News): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday chaired the first pre-Budget consultation with leading economists in connection with the upcoming Union Budget 2027-28 here, an official statement said on Monday.



The meeting was attended by Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Anuradha Thakur, and V Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) to the government, besides senior officers from the DEA.

The Finance Minister has already been meeting industry stakeholders for pre-Budget consultation meetings for the Union Budget 2027-28 In her recent meeting the PDHCCI, the industry chamber recommended a series of customs duty reforms aimed at enhancing India's position as a globally competitive manufacturing hub. During the meeting held by the Tax Research Unit of the Revenue Department under the Ministry of Finance, the industry body highlighted the need to rationalise duties on critical industrial raw materials and energy inputs. It said such measures would help reduce manufacturing costs, improve energy security, strengthen domestic value chains and enhance India's global competitiveness.

As part of its recommendations, PHDCCI proposed reducing the basic customs duty on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), heavy petroleum feedstocks and naphtha to zero from the current 2.5 per cent. It also called for rationalisation of customs duties on petroleum coke used in industrial manufacturing and sought continuation of the existing basic customs duty structure on steel scrap beyond March 2028.

The chamber noted that these inputs play a crucial role across a wide range of sectors, including energy, fertilisers, steel, aluminium, petrochemicals, infrastructure, construction, textiles and engineering.

PHDCCI said customs duties on key raw materials and intermediate goods can significantly influence production costs, investment decisions and the overall competitiveness of downstream industries.

India, Egypt have exciting opportunities in transforming transport

Cairo, Nov 16 (Way to News): Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal met several top leaders here, discussing immense opportunities for India and Egypt to strengthen trade and investments in the next five years. The minister said that India and Egypt have exciting opportunities to work together in transforming transport, logistics and supply chain infrastructure.

"Had an excellent meeting with Lt. Gen. Eng. Kamel Al-Wazir, Egypt's Minister of Transport, to explore greater collaboration in railways, highways, ports and multimodal connectivity. Looking forward to seeing Indian and Egyptian companies collaborating more in Egypt's infrastructure development," Goyal posted on X.



He met Egypt's Minister of Industry, Khaled Hasham Ali Maher, and discussed ways to strengthen India-Egypt industrial ties. "Indian businesses in Egypt are contributing to investment, jobs, exports, and innovation, and we discussed how to support their further growth. Egypt's location makes it a gateway to Africa, Europe, and the Arab world, and a natural partner for joint manufacturing, technology tie-ups, and resilient supply chains," said the Commerce Minister. They also explored how their industrial policy can complement Make in India, and how to strengthen MSMEs through joint training in automation and advanced manufacturing, and technology sharing. Goyal said on Sunday that India and Egypt will now work on the Terms of Reference and examine the potential of either a Preferential Trade Agreement or a free trade agreement (FTA). He said that there are immenseopportunities for India and Egypt to strengthen trade and investments in the next five years, adding that the presence of over 700 registered Indian companies in Egypt reflects the growing depth of business ties between the two nations.

Speaking to IANS on the sidelines of the India-Egypt Business Forum Meeting here, the minister said The relations between our leaders are very good, and the ties between our business communities are strong.

"Furthermore, the civilisations and histories of both nations are thousands of years old. So, along with working to bring both ancient civilisations closer together, we are also bringing trade and industry closer," Goyal told.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Gaddam Prasad Kumar Distributes Cheyutha Pension Sanction Letters in Dharur

Vikarabad, Nov 16 (Way to News): Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker and Vikarabad MLA Gaddam Prasad Kumar participated in the distribution of Cheyutha pension sanction letters at SR Function Hall in Dharur mandal on Monday. The programme was organised under the leadership of Dharur Market Committee Chairman Vijay Bhaskar Reddy, during which the Speaker distributed pension sanction letters to eligible beneficiaries. Speaking on the occasion, Gaddam Prasad Kumar said that obtaining new pensions had been difficult during the previous government, but the present government was extending pension benefits to all eligible people.



He stated that the government was also implementing the six guarantees promised to the people.

Despite facing financial difficulties due to debts incurred by the previous government, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was continuing welfare schemes as well as development programmes, he said. The Speaker stated that the government was paying interest on the previous administration's borrowings and had so far sanctioned funds worth nearly 1,000 crore for the Vikarabad Assembly constituency.

He assured that roads would be laid in all mandals and villages across the constituency within one year. Other essential infrastructure facilities would also be developed, and public grievances would be addressed, he added. He further announced that the State Government would soon implement the Indiramma Kutumba Bima scheme, possibly within the next two to three days. Claiming that the government was implementing several welfare and development programmes, he said the administration remained committed to public welfare. Referring to the impact of El Niño, the Speaker appealed to farmers and the general public to cooperate with the government by conserving electricity and water. He also urged farmers to follow the advice and suggestions of Agriculture Department officials.

Regarding housing, he clarified that the Indiramma housing scheme was a continuous process and assured that houses would be sanctioned to all eligible beneficiaries. He also urged people who had not yet received ration cards to apply, assuring them that eligible applicants would also be considered. Zilla Parishad CEO Sudheer Kumar, former ZPTC member Ramulu, former MPP Hanmanth Reddy, Dharur mandal leaders, party workers and a large number of local residents attended the programme.

Azharuddin gifts signed cricket bat to UAE minister

Abu Dhabi, Nov 16 (Way to News): Telangana Minorities Welfare Minister and former Indian cricket captain Mohammed Azharuddin met UAE Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi and presented him with a signed cricket bat. Sharing photographs of the meeting on X on Monday, November 16, Azharuddin described it as a warm and memorable interaction.



He also invited Sheikh Nahyan to attend the Telangana Rising Global Summit 2026, scheduled to be held from December 7 to 9. Describing the presentation of the cricket bat as a special moment, Azharuddin said he looked forward to welcoming the UAE minister to Telangana. Under the leadership of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Telangana is positioning itself as a global hub for investment and innovation, he said.

"I look forward to welcoming him to Telangana for its next big innings," he wrote. The Telangana Rising Global Summit 2026 will be held at the Young India Skills University campus in Bharat Future City, Hyderabad. The event is part of the state's Telangana Rising 2047 vision.

AIPB Competition Begins In Hyderabad



Hyderabad, Nov 16 (Way to News): More than 25 bands from various State Police organisations, Union Territories and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) are participating in the 27th All India Police Band competition, which began here on Monday amid enthusiasm and ceremonial splendour. Nearly 1500 band personnel will be taking part in the five-day competition at Group Centre, CRPF, Ranga Reddy. The participating contingents will showcase their musical excellence, ceremonial precision, discipline and artistic talent through Brass Band, Pipe Band and Bugle performances.

The prestigious national-level competition is being organised by the CRPF from 16 to 20 November under the aegis of the All India Police Sports Control Board, New Delhi. Telangana Director General of Police C. V. Anand was the chief guest at the opening ceremony held on Monday. The ceremony was attended by senior officers from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Indian Army, MCHRD, Railways, Ministry of Tourism, Telangana Police and various Central Armed Police Forces, including RPF, CISF, NIA, NPA and CRPF.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Telangana DGP Anand appreciated the rich traditions and distinguished contribution of police bands to the uniformed forces.

He highlighted that police bands are much more than musical ensembles; they represent the discipline, identity, pride and collective spirit of the organisations they serve.

He emphasised their vital role in national celebrations, ceremonial parades, Guard of Honour, investiture ceremonies, Police Commemoration Day and other important occasions.

The DGP highlighted that music transcends linguistic, regional and cultural barriers, and serves as a powerful medium for connecting the police with the public.

He appreciated the dedication and countless hours of rigorous practice undertaken by bandsmen and women, who combine musical excellence with the discipline and commitment expected of uniformed personnel. He also underscored the importance of such competitions in promoting professional excellence, healthy competition, camaraderie and national integration among different police organisations.

Ponnam Prabhakar Inaugurates Mandal Congress Office in Elkathurthy

Warangal, Nov 16 (Way to News): State Transport and BC Welfare Minister and Husnabad MLA Ponnam Prabhakar Goud, along with Hanamakonda District Congress Committee (DCC) president Enagala Venkatram Reddy, inaugurated the newly established Mandal Congress Party office at Elkathurthy in Hanamakonda district on Monday.

The leaders were accorded a warm welcome by local party leaders and workers, who burst crackers and presented floral garlands. Later, the minister and the DCC president jointly cut the ribbon and formally opened the new office. The



programme was held under the chairmanship of Mandal Congress president Muppu Srinivas.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Goud said party workers were the real strength of the Congress. He observed that the new office would serve as an important centre for addressing the concerns of party workers and ensuring greater accessibility to the public. He urged party leaders and workers to work in coordination to ensure that government welfare schemes reached every eligible poor beneficiary.

DCC president Enagala Venkatram Reddy called upon party workers to strengthen the Congress from the village level to the mandal level. He stressed the need to actively take party programmes to the people and remain accessible to them, sharing their concerns and standing by them in times of need.

Telangana Startup Unveils Counter-Drone Tech at T-Hub

Hyderabad, Nov 16 (Way to News): A Telangana-based defence and electronic warfare company unveiled two indigenously developed counter-drone and surveillance solutions as the state aims to strengthen regional defence technology.

The Unistring Tech Solutions Pvt Ltd presented the wo defence services at T-Hub's Telangana Startup and MSME Conclave in Hyderabad on Monday, November 16. T-Hub, the state government's start-up incubator, hailed the services, stating that they will boost India's defence capabilities while showcasing the strength of local deep-tech startups. UTS' GNSS Spoofing System is designed to disrupt a drone's navigation signals, helping defence forces fight potential drone threats, said T-Hub. Passive RF Detection and Direction-Finding System detects radio signals from drones and detect their location and direction, without transmiting it own signals. "Both innovations highlight the growing capabilities of Indian deep-tech startups in developing advanced solutions for national security," said T-Hub, congratulating the UTS team.

The event comes amid criticism of T-Hub for inviting Israeli tech companies, most of which have direct ties to the Israeli military.

Hyderabad auto drivers' strike on Nov 30 over revised fare

Hyderabad, Nov 16 (Way to News): The Mahatma Gandhi Telangana Auto Drivers Joint Action Committee (JAC) has announced a day-long bandh in Hyderabad on November 30. Among their top demands is implementing the revised auto meter charges within 15 days, or Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar must resign, the Deccan Chronicle reported on Monday, November 16.

Addressing a press conference at Hyderguda NSS on Sunday, November 15, JAC convenor Mohammed Amanullah Khan sought an immediate ban on green cabs, alleging they were wreaking havoc on their lives. The committee is also demanding a crackdown on the auto black market racket and payment of Rs 36,000 to auto drivers at Rs 12,000 per year as promised by the government.

Like in Bengaluru, two-wheeler taxis should be banned in the city, he said. The organisation has also sought Rs 10 lakh in compensation for the family of auto driver Mohammed Mukaram, who was allegedly assaulted in September. Earlier, the association had announced a strike in August, but after a meeting with the Transport Minister, it was called off. Issuing a statement, the JAC said Ponnam Prabhakar had positively responded to their "genuine demands".

Kavitha Demands Probe into Alleged Corruption by Harish Rao, Seeks Farmer Relief

Nizamabad, Nov 16 (Way to News): Telangana Rakshana Sena chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha has demanded a comprehensive investigation into the alleged corruption involving former minister Harish Rao, stating that all facts must be brought before the public.

Speaking to the media during her visit to Nizamabad district on Monday, Kavitha said her party would continue its public campaign against the alleged irregularities and would also pursue legal and judicial avenues. She added that all evidence related to the allegations would be submitted to the CBCID and the Central Vigilance Commission. She stressed that anyone found guilty must be punished according to the law, irrespective of their position.

Criticising Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy over the drought situation caused by the impact of El Niño, Kavitha accused him of showing a lack of seriousness towards farmers' concerns. She expressed disappointment that the Chief Minister, during his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, did not raise the issues of drought, farmers' distress and crop conditions in Telangana.



She said the Chief Minister should have sought financial assistance from the Centre to support farmers affected by the drought. Kavitha also criticised him for not raising the pending BC Reservation Bill with the Prime Minister. She alleged that the government was giving priority to contracts and commissions instead of addressing public concerns.

Demanding immediate action, Kavitha called on the state government to declare drought-affected mandals without delay. She said this was the first time since the formation of Telangana and during the undivided Andhra Pradesh period that a Chief Minister had advised farmers against sowing crops. Questioning the government's support plan, she asked what compensation would be provided to farmers if they were advised not to cultivate. She demanded compensation of Rs. 25,000 per acre for affected farmers.

Telangana BJP Lodges Complaint With FRRO Against Foreign Delegates At Bharat Summit

Hyderabad, Nov 16 (Way to News): The Telangana unit of the BJP lodged a complaint with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) here on Monday over what it termed provocative political remarks made by foreign political representatives at the Bharat Summit held in Hyderabad.

A delegation of BJP leaders led by state president N. Ramchander Rao met the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer and submitted a complaint about what they called 'anti-India' statements made by the foreign delegates at the Summit held from November 12 to November 14.



Ramchander Rao told media persons that Giacomo Filibeck, a leader of the European Socialist Party from Italy, attended the Bharat Summit and made an anti-India statement. "He said, 'Vote Chor, Gaddi Chod'. The slogan, which is being falsely narrated by the Congress party, was repeated by this man. He purposefully made the statement. This shows he has interfered in our domestic politics," he said. The BJP leader said under visa rules, a person should not speak against the country which he is entering, but, unfortunately, this man spoke against the Indian government and the Indian democratic system.

He stated that when the speaker from Italy was making this comment, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi was clapping, and Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was laughing without realising that it was an insult to India.

Ramchander Rao demanded action against Filibeck under the Immigration and Foreigners Act. He pointed out that under section 23 of the Act, a foreigner who comes to India and makes a statement against India and acts against India's interests is punishable for three years.

"We demand that the government should not only register a case against this guy, but also against the abettors — that is, the organisers who organised the meeting. Because abettors are also equally responsible for calling in all these foreign elements here and allowing them to speak on Indian soil against India. Therefore, we feel that even the people who conducted the meeting are equally responsible as abettors to this particular treason," he said.

Stating that the man from Italy ran away after making an anti-India statement, the BJP leader demanded that he be called back to India and action be taken against him.

ACB books jailed government officer in disproportionate assets case

Hyderabad, Nov 16 (Way to News): The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has charged a government officer, currently in judicial remand for a bribery case, in a disproportionate assets case, following a search operation at her residence and office on Monday, November 16. Officials searched the properties of Gundu Vani, a Town Planning Officer in the Moinabad Municipality of Rangareddy district and discovered estimated assets worth Rs 6.76 crore.

Officials raided her residence, office and properties belonging to her and her relatives, associates and benamis. Documents relating to several immovable properties, including two open plots measuring 283.11 square yards in Jadcherla, Mahabubnagar, and 424 square yards in Palakurthy, Jangaon, totalling Rs 87.67 lakh. A flat in Attapur valued at Rs 63 lakh, another residential building (G+2 floors) worth approximately Rs 2.45 crore, and a 1.10 acre agricultural land in Mahabubnagar valued at Rs 29.70 lakh were found. The market value is expected to be much higher than their official value, officials said. An investment of Rs 50 lakh in Tulja Bhavani Wines located in Mahabubnagar, shares worth Rs 1.30 crore, bank balances amounting to Rs 7.97 lakh and 175.1 gram of gold articles totalling Rs 2.54 lakh were revealed.



Furthermore, Gundu Vani owns four-wheelers valued at Rs 48 lakh and two-wheelers worth Rs 2 lakh. The total value of the vehicles was estimated at Rs 50 lakh. Household articles worth Rs 5.10 lakh were also identified. So far, the total is pinned at Rs 6,76,45,738.

Gundu Vani is currently in judicial remand after she was caught red-handed by ACB for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 75,000 through a Panchayat Secretary. The disproportionate assets case is under investigation.

Ashwini Vaishnaw Urges Media to Embrace Technology, Uphold Responsible Journalism

New Delhi, Nov 16 (Way to News): The Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw on Monday underlined the vital role of media in strengthening democracy, calling upon media professionals to adapt to the rapidly evolving media landscape and technological advancements.



Addressing the National Press Day celebrations organised by the Press Council of India (PCI) here, the minister underscored the importance of upholding responsible journalism and the media's responsibility towards society.

Vaishnaw highlighted the unprecedented pace of technological transformation, observing that the next five years could witness changes greater than those experienced over the previous two decades.

He encouraged young journalists to embrace change and continuously upgrade their skills.

Emphasising accountability of digital platforms, the minister raised significant questions over whether community guidelines are enough in the face of increasing misinformation, deepfakes, misleading advertisements, digital arrests and harmful content affecting children. He stressed the need to deliberate on how this changing media landscape be governed to empower citizens and address emerging challenges. Chanchal Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, emphasised that journalism must strike a balance between public engagement and credibility.

He observed that popularity must not take precedence over truth, nor should virality outweigh verification.

Highlighting the growing influence of TRPs, clicks and digital engagement, he stressed the importance of editorial judgement, fact-checking and distinguishing news from opinion. He underlined that AI could assist journalism but cannot assume the responsibility of a journalist.

Delivering the keynote address, seasoned journalist Rajat Sharma emphasised that there is a thin line between sensationalism and responsibility, foregrounding the importance of editorial judgement and responsible reporting.

Rijiju Takes On Rahul Gandhi For Allegedly 'Embarrassing' India

New Delhi, Nov 16 (Way to News): Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday took to the social media to launch a sharp political offensive against the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for what he termed the Congress leader having made "made fun of himself" and also "embarrassed the country" on different occasions.



His remarks followed the Congress-held 'Bharat Summit 2026' in Hyderabad over the weekend that has come under attack from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over comments and discussions having allegedly tarnished India's image before an international audience. Beginning in Hindi, the Union Minister went on to offer "unsolicited advice" with seven points with which Rahul Gandhi "can do" so the "Congress can win some trust of the people" while writing on social media platform X.

Beginning with urging him to "Spend more time in India and avoid secret foreign vacations frequently", Rijiju "advised" him to "Respect seniors and gain valuable wisdom from the elders, which is Indian tradition" and not "meet Anti-India people and stop promoting their agenda".

He also asked the Gandhi scion to "End deep hatred against BJP, RSS & Modi Ji", adding, "Treat BJP as political opponent, not enemy".

Rahul, Kharge Hold Meeting With UP Cong Leaders To Discuss 2027 Poll Preparations

New Delhi, Nov 16 (Way to News): Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi and Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday held a meeting with senior Uttar Pradesh Congress leaders in New Delhi to review the party's preparations and discuss its strategy for the 2027 Assembly elections.



The meeting was held at 10, Rajaji Marg, and was attended by Congress General Secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal, Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi, Uttar Pradesh Congress in-charge Rajendra Pal Gautam, state Congress president Aradhana Misra, UP Congress Working President Imran Masood and Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader in Uttar Pradesh Virendra Chaudhary.

After the meeting, Kharge said the discussions centred on the prevailing political situation in Uttar Pradesh and the forthcoming Assembly elections, expressing confidence that the polls would play a significant role in shaping a new direction for the country's politics.

In a post on X, the Congress President said people in Uttar Pradesh were looking for a change and seeking social justice, equal opportunities and stronger safeguards for the rights of marginalised communities.

"Today, I had an in-depth discussion with senior leaders of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee about the state's political situation and the upcoming assembly elections," Kharge said. "The upcoming elections in Uttar Pradesh will give a new direction to the country's politics. The people of the state are looking for change and want to see social justice, equal opportunities and the rights of marginalised communities strengthened," he added.

Amit Shah Unveils Bust Of Ajit Pawar In Pune; Reveals The 'Secret' Behind His Entry Into Mahayuti

Pune, Nov 16 (Way to News): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday unveiled a half-bust statue of Maharashtra's late Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar near the entrance gate of the Pune Zilla Parishad. During the emotional ceremony, HM Shah paid rich tributes to the late leader, sharing personal anecdotes about their camaraderie, Pawar's disciplined work ethic, and the real reason behind his historic decision to join the ruling Mahayuti alliance.



The unveiling ceremony saw the attendance of top political leaders across party lines. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy CMs Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Pawar, Agriculture Minister Dattatray Bharne, Union Minister Murlidhar Mohol, Minister of State Madhuri Misal, and Pune Mayor Manjusha Nagpure were present on the dais. Notably, NCP(SP) MP Supriya Sule also attended the event to pay homage to Ajit Pawar.

Dignitaries recalled Ajit Pawar's rapid pace of work, his deep-rooted connection with rural Maharashtra, and his extensive study and experience in the cooperative sector. Ajit Pawar's decision to part ways with Sharad Pawar and align with the Mahayuti alliance had sparked widespread political speculation in Maharashtra.

Addressing the gathering, HM Shah put the suspense to rest by sharing the private conversation he had with Pawar at the time. "When Ajit Dada decided to join Mahayuti, I was surprised and asked him why he was taking such a big step despite his political background, knowing it would shock the public — especially since power comes and goes," he recounted. 'Dada calmly replied, 'Amit Bhai, everything has its era. After Narendra Modi became Prime Minister, the country's development and Mahayuti cannot be separated. I want to align myself with the progress of Maharashtra and the nation, and therefore, I want to be part of Mahayuti'."

Army Fires After Suspicious Movement Along Poonch LoC

Jammu, Nov 16 (Way to News): Alert soldiers fired after noticing suspicious movement on Monday along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

Officials said alert Army soldiers opened fire after noticing suspected movement along the LoC in the Sawjian sector of the district during pre-dawn hours, triggering a search operation in the area.

The movement was noticed in the Kanari area, following which troops fired around two dozen rounds from small arms and cordoned off the area.

A search operation was launched at first light to ascertain the nature of the movement and check for any possible infiltration attempt. The operation was underway when the latest information was received.

The Sawjian sector has historically been regarded as a route vulnerable to infiltration from across the Line of Control, keeping security forces on heightened alert in the area. Before the Monday's firing incident, the Sawjian sector in Poonch district had seen multiple security operations, hideout busts, and non-combat accidents along the Line of Control.

Because of its dense forests and high-altitude terrain in Mandi tehsil, the area is frequently monitored as a traditional infiltration route.

On October 13, a joint team of the Army and the Jammu and Kashmir Police's Special Operations Group (SOG) busted a terrorist hideout in the Sutharban area. Forces seized an AK-47 rifle, one magazine, six grenades, 30 rounds of ammunition, and food supplies.

Union Minister Reviews Ahmedabad Station Revamp, Bullet Train Project And Passenger Movement Plans

Ahmedabad, Nov 16 (Way to News): Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti, V Somanna, has reviewed plans to improve connectivity between Ahmedabad's existing railway station and the under-construction Bullet Train station, with a focus on ensuring smooth passenger movement between the two facilities. Somanna inspected the redevelopment work at Ahmedabad Railway Station and the Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail station on November 15, and reviewed the progress, construction timelines and future work plans with officials from the Railways, the Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) and the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL).



During the inspection, particular attention was given to coordination between the two projects and arrangements for providing passengers with an integrated transport experience.

Officials discussed ways to ensure better connectivity between the existing Indian Railways station and the Bullet Train station, as well as convenient movement of passengers between them.

At Ahmedabad Railway Station, Somanna reviewed the redevelopment work, including the modern passenger amenities being developed, station infrastructure and arrangements for passenger movement.

He was also briefed on construction activities being undertaken to meet future requirements.

He subsequently visited the under-construction Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail station, where NHSRCL officials gave him a detailed presentation on the project's progress, construction activities, modern technological systems and various components of the station.

The minister sought details about the current status of both projects, their construction schedules and the proposed course of action from the officials concerned.

Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Ved Prakash and senior officials from the Railways, RLDA and NHSRCL were present during the inspection.

The redevelopment of Ahmedabad Railway Station is aimed at upgrading passenger facilities and station infrastructure, while the Bullet Train station is being constructed as part of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail project.

NIA Arrests Another Accused In Rs 30.72-Crore Drug Seizure Case In Mizoram



New Delhi/Aizawl, Nov 16 (Way to News): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested another accused, Nurul Islam, from Silchar in southern Assam in connection with the seizure of 236.33 kg of methamphetamine tablets, valued at approximately Rs 30.72 crore, in Mizoram's Champhai district in May last year, the central probe agency said on Monday.

Several digital devices, including mobile phones and memory cards, were also seized from the possession of the accused Nurul Islam during the arrest.

According to an NIA statement, the banned psychotropic drug was seized in Champhai district, which shares a long, largely unfenced international border with Myanmar.

The arrest of Islam is part of the agency's ongoing investigation into the major drug seizure. NIA investigation has revealed Nurul Islam to be the mastermind behind the cross-border trafficking of the seized methamphetamine tablets from Myanmar to mainland India through an interstate drug trafficking network, the statement said. The case was originally registered as FIR last year at the Dungtlang Police station. According to the statement, five accused persons, including two from Mizoram, two from Tripura and one from Assam, were earlier chargesheeted in the case. Further investigation into the case is continuing to identify other persons involved in the conspiracy and to uncover the wider network.

Meanwhile, Mizoram and Manipur have emerged as major drug-trafficking corridors in the Northeast, largely due to their long and porous international borders with Myanmar and their geographical proximity to the Golden Triangle, one of the world's major illicit narcotics-producing regions. Six districts of Mizoram and five districts of Manipur share a combined 910-km-long international border with Myanmar, making the two Northeastern states particularly vulnerable to cross-border drug smuggling.

The Golden Triangle, comprising areas of Myanmar, Laos and Thailand, has long been identified as a major hub for the production and trafficking of illicit narcotics, including synthetic drugs.

The porous international borders, coupled with difficult geographical terrain, pose significant challenges for security agencies in preventing the movement of narcotics and dismantling cross-border drug-trafficking networks.

25 Pc Drop In Sexual Crimes Against Women, Children In Delhi Since 2016

New Delhi, Nov 16 (Wa to News): Sexual crimes against women and children have shown a marked downward trend in Delhi since 2016, with registration of rape cases coming down by nearly 25 per cent during the last nine years, said a police report presented to the Union Home Ministry.



The report indicates that number of cases of rape and sexual offences against children stood at 2,155 in 2016 and dropped to 1,608 in 2025. Expecting a similar fall in these cases in the current year, the report added that as many as 1,225 cases of rape and sexual assault against children under POCSO have been registered in Delhi between January 1 and October 31, 2026.

The Delhi Police told the Ministry that they have filed chargesheets in 81 per cent of these 1,225 cases registered in the current year.

Suggesting an improvement in women and child safety in the city, the report pointed to a drop of 63 per cent in molestation cases and a drop of 59 per cent in cases of outraging modesty of women during the last nine years, an official source said. "Molestation cases registered in the city have come down from 918 in 2016 to 337 in 2025. The number of cases of outraging the modesty of women came down from 4,165 in 2016 to 1,708 in 2025," the report said.

The report, prepared after Union Home Minister Amit Shah last month asked Delhi Police officials to make a three-month action plan on women's safety, also highlighted the utility of special Pink Booths created to help women in distress.

Police Cannot Stereotype DJ Parties As Drug Dens: Kerala HC

Kochi, Nov 16 (Wa to News): The Kerala High Court on Monday questioned the basis on which the police were targeting DJ parties and nightlife in the state, observing that dancing to music cannot be presumed to lead to drug use and that policing cannot be based on stereotypes. A Division Bench of Justices Devan Ramachandran and Basant Balaji was hearing the state's appeal against a single judge order that quashed police notices restricting late-night DJ programmes at a Kochi hotel. The hotel, which has an Excise Department licence to operate its bar until 3 a.m., had challenged police restrictions on its DJ events, including a direction against holding such programmes beyond 11 p.m.



Questioning why DJ parties were being singled out, Justice Ramachandran said disc jockeying was a profession and should not be treated with prejudice.

"Why specifically DJ parties? You have said that they cannot conduct DJ parties. But they can serve liquor there. You have no problem with the consumption of alcohol because the government gets revenue from it. Should we say that nobody can dance in a bar or listen to music? How can we say that listening to music or dancing leads to drug consumption? Don't people dance in churches and temples?" the judge asked.

The Bench said the police appeared to be equating DJ parties with drug use without establishing any specific wrongdoing. "You are stereotyping DJ parties to mean parties where drugs will find their place. Policing cannot be allowed on stereotypes. Policing cannot be assumptions and generalisations," it observed.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Editorial

Musharraf's Kargil Deception Portrayed

Very rarely does one get to view a gripping Indian web series on OTT based on war or a conflict that has a well-researched and credible script, tight direction and a storyline that blends the geopolitical and military dimensions. 'Operation Safed Sagar', airing now on Netflix, is one such offering that portrays the 1999 Kargil conflict with finesse. Adding to the positives is the restrained and accurate portrayal of characters, including those of Indian and Pakistani politicians, senior military leadership on both sides, and the entire band of pilots from the Golden Arrows squadron of the IAF. The focus on the much-underplayed role of the Indian Air Force in the Kargil conflict through the lens of one squadron is a masterstroke that prevents cinematic overreach and clutter. It has allowed for a storyline that showcases the finer nuances of life in a typical IAF squadron and offers a close look at operational and tactical vignettes, camaraderie and leadership in a combat environment.

Fighter squadrons all over the world are tight-knit units, with the Commanding Officer and the Flight Commander bearing onerous responsibilities, particularly in stressful training and combat environments. The IAF squadrons in the 1990s, particularly the MiG-21s, had a disproportionately large number of young officers who needed to be trained and moulded into operationally proficient fighter pilots, ready for combat. The series portrays Wing Commander Tony Dhanoa and Squadron Leader Ajay Ahuja as good leaders — firm, empathetic and bold risk-takers with a sense of duty that ultimately leads Ahuja to take one risk too many and pay for it with his life. Siddharth as Ajay Ahuja comes across as a flight commander who means business, leads from the front and quickly understands his boys well.

Another impressive portrayal is that of Gen Pervez Musharraf and his band of conniving generals, with their obsession with Jammu and Kashmir. The General demonstrates the absolute supremacy of the Pakistan Army in strategic decision-making. Nawaz Sharif's portrayal as a bumbling but opportunistic politician kept in the dark by a cunning Musharraf is quite convincing. So is PM Vajpayee's portrayal as a well-meaning Indian PM who is blindsided by Musharraf and then goes on to demonstrate firmness by staying with a long military campaign to evict the Pakistani forces from the Kargil heights. Acknowledged as one of the IAF's best operational commanders in recent decades, Air Marshal Vinod Patney's character is played very well by Adil Hussain, with his clipped English accent and bold decision-making.

There are several authentic and heartwarming episodes in the series that reflect the human dimension of life in a fighter squadron, both in peacetime and during war. Among those that stand out are bachelors 'bouncing' their newly posted and seemingly aloof, soft-drink-consuming flight commander (Ahuja). Then late at night, they end up cutting vegetables for a delectable pulao that is served to them, even as they empty the bar. Another episode shows a young pilot being distracted by a determined girlfriend, who leaves her home to be with him. She is temporarily adopted by the squadron till they get married. The briefings, tactical discussions, exhilaration after coming out tops in an exercise and the disappointment of not being in action come across with honesty and in an 'as-it-happens' manner in a typical fighter squadron.

The areas where the director has chosen to exercise his imagination and take liberty with the actual occurrence of events during the Kargil conflict have been well chosen. For example, the exact details of Squadron Leader Ahuja's capture after he ejects, his brutal torture and killing. This part is very well handled in the episode that

Why India isn't China's priority

Rear admiral Raja Menon retd



CHINA'S rise has not been improvised; it reflects a coherent grand strategy aimed at diluting US' primacy over time. That strategy is geographically phased - focused first on Eurasia and the maritime approaches that sustain China's economy, not on peripheral land wars. Seen in this light, the Himalayan frontier with India is a secondary theatre. A large-scale war there would do little to advance Beijing's core objectives and could, in fact, set them back.

Authoritative Chinese texts reveal this hierarchy as much by omission as by emphasis. China's National Defense in the New Era (2019), the 2015 Military Strategy guideline, the National Security Law (2015) and successive Party Congress reports frame security in terms of regime survival, technological autonomy, and great-power competition. The strategic direction is unmistakable: maritime vulnerability, access to energy and trade and the capacity to deter US intervention in the Western Pacific. India is not named as a threat. This is not oversight; it is prioritisation.

China's prosperity depends on sea-borne commerce that transits exposed chokepoints - from the Strait of Malacca across the wider Indo-Pacific, the Strait of Hormz and the Suez Canal. Its military modernisation has therefore concentrated on naval power, anti-access/area denial systems, and capabilities in space, cyber and the electromagnetic spectrum. Parallel economic statecraft seeks to reshape Eurasia through export dominance, infrastructure, connectivity and finance. A popular car on London roads is a cheap Chinese version of the Land Rover and Germany's biggest carmaker Volkswagen is planning to lay off thousands of workers. Faced with mounting costs, multinational companies like Siemens are considering shifting manufacture to China, which will improve their balance sheet, but damage society. All of this points to a seaward and westward strategy across Eurasia, not southward into the Himalayas.

Equally important is what Beijing seeks to avoid: a two-front strategic dilemma. Its principal contest is with the US in the maritime domain. Opening a major continental war with India would divert resources and attention, invite external involvement and risk pushing New Delhi into tighter alignment with Washington - strengthening the very coalition that China aims to weaken. Prudence, not diffidence, explains doctrinal silence on India.

China's handling of India is therefore indirect and economical. Over decades, it has systematically strengthened Pakistan's military capacity - conventional systems, missile forces, nuclear capability and enabling technologies including satellite access. The effect is to anchor India's security calculus within South Asia, ensuring that New Delhi must continually hedge on its western front. This constrains India's ability to concentrate on the maritime domain, where geography gives it latent leverage astride key sea lanes of the Indian Ocean - leverage that could, in extremis, threaten China's energy lifelines and prosperity. The 1962 war offers a revealing precedent. China achieved limited political objectives and then withdrew unilaterally. Declassified material now says that Mao summoned his army commander six months before the war to give him a four-word directive - Teach India a lesson. What lesson? Presumably, India's place in the Confucian order, nothing about territory. Today, in sectors such as Ladakh, Beijing already controls the ground that it considers strategically necessary. Authoritative doctrine does not indicate a requirement for further large-scale territorial acquisition along the Himalayan frontier.

Contemporary posture is consistent with this reading. The People's Liberation Army prepares for limited, high-intensity, short-duration engagements under "local war" conditions - designed to coerce, deter and shape negotiations. Infrastructure build-up in Tibet and periodic standoffs enhance bargaining power. Unlike all other countries, the primary Chinese principle of war is deception. The threat of any territorial penetration into India is precisely that.

China's experience beyond Eurasia reinforces its caution. Ventures into regions such as Latin America, particularly Venezuela, exposed the risks of overreach in areas within the United States' traditional sphere of influence. Financial exposure and political volatility underlined a simple lesson: consolidate influence in Eurasia and the near seas before contemplating wider global contests. The challenge to US hegemony is thus phased and bounded.

A full-scale Himalayan war would cut across this logic. It would disrupt economic stability, internationalise the conflict and risk drawing in external powers. It would undermine China's carefully cultivated image as a stabilising economic actor across Eurasia. Above all, it would distract from the primary theatre of competition - the maritime and technological contest that will decide the balance of power in the twenty-first century. Beijing's continental strategy is to pin India down with a rearmed Pakistan and prevent an Indian maritime rearmament.

The conclusion is straightforward. China does have a grand strategy, and it is disciplined in its priorities. It seeks to reshape the international order by concentrating effort where the stakes are highest: Eurasia and the maritime domain. Within this design, India is a factor to be contained and managed, not a central adversary. A Himalayan war, far from advancing China's objectives, would detract from them. It is, in the final analysis, a strategic sideshow in a much larger contest.

GenZ unrest signals shifting sands

Ajay K Mehra



A metamorphosis in the Indian polity and politics does not merely mean a change of government through an election, but the possibility of a larger institutional and systemic transformation. The electoral change of 1977, when the Janata Party came to power, reversed some of the avoidable amendments made to the Constitution during the Emergency by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. However, it did not lead to a transition from a predominantly one-party system to a multi-party system with a stable dynamics of alternation.

The 1974 Nav Nirman movement in Gujarat flared up into the JP (Jayaprakash Narayan) movement, which led to the Emergency in 1975 after the Allahabad High Court judgment that unseated Indira Gandhi from the Lok Sabha. This paved the way for the Congress' defeat in the 1977 Lok Sabha elections. The PM lost her grip on governance amid a slump in the economy due to domestic factors and the Gulf crisis (yes, then too!).

Beginning with the ongoing Gulf conflict, the current disquiet is also linked to the destabilisation of the Indian economy. However, the trigger for the GenZ protests in New Delhi and elsewhere was the NEET paper leak that rocked India's coaching industry (worth around Rs 60,000 crore), exposing the flaws in the education system at the state and national levels. Chief Justice of India Surya Kant's comparison of a section of unemployed youth with cockroaches sparked a wildfire. Abhijeet Dipke, based in the US, reacted by calling for a protest under the banner of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP). Returning to India, he announced a movement from Jantar Mantar. The site, surrounded by the British-built Connaught Place and several post-Independence commercial buildings, is barely 2 km from the new Parliament House.

As Dipke began an indefinite hunger strike, along with some students and activist-educationist Sonam Wangchuk, thousands of youth unhappy with the Narendra Modi-led NDA government came forward in support. The movement drew considerable public sympathy and solidarity. People from across the country arranged food and water for protesters through delivery apps. The government panicked during the CJP-led march to Parliament on July 20 and allowed/ordered the police to use disproportionate force. The movement spread to other cities, compelling the government to accept the agitators' demand for the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan (he stepped down on July 25). Such a tumult at a time when India's society and polity are experiencing a maelstrom could signal unexpected changes. While the BJP has been muscling through with its Hindutva agenda, as reflected in its electoral victories in 2014, 2019 and 2024, the Opposition appears to have got a toehold only in the past couple of years.

Having fallen short of a majority in the 2024 General Election, the BJP is dependent on regional allies for the survival of its government. At the same time, it is targeting members of Opposition parties. With enormous funds in the party kitty and Central agencies at its command, a campaign has been unleashed to shore up parliamentary numbers. The popular mandate in one state after state has been undermined through defections and mergers. The role of the Election Commission of India came under scrutiny during the West Bengal Assembly polls earlier this year. Perhaps for the first time in India's electoral history, the Union Home Minister camped in the state capital to ensure, by his own admission, his party's victory.

Parliamentary business is being conducted unfairly due to the apparent tilt of the presiding officers against the Opposition. In 2023, an unprecedented 146 Opposition MPs were suspended from both Houses, enabling the passage of several disputed Bills. As the unrest among the youth is growing and the Opposition is pressing for education reforms and a review of the controversial 'One Nation One Election' (ONOE) proposal and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, the government finds itself on the back foot. The ONOE, many experts point out, will take the Indian polity towards authoritarianism; the tightening of the foreign contribution law, citing security concerns, has virtually grounded civil society organisations that had created substantial employment opportunities across the country. Since the 1990s, a collaborative approach between the government and the NGOs led to both innovation and employment. That process has now been disrupted. GenZ is upset over the rising cost of education due to a gradual decline in public investment in education at every level and dwindling opportunities for public employment, while jobs are not growing in the private sector as well. The government does not seem to be paying attention to the restlessness among the young generation. There is a counter-mobilisation by Opposition parties, which have been pointing out the alleged saffronisation of institutions and other excesses. A change in political power on the national stage in 2029 is possible if the BJP is tamed in Uttar Pradesh next year and the Opposition gets united — with the allies accommodating each other in a power-sharing arrangement .

Delhi must blame itself for air crisis





Arvind

EVERY October and November, following the paddy harvest in Punjab, air quality in Delhi deteriorates sharply — schools are closed, respiratory illnesses surge dramatically and the crisis draws international scrutiny. Repeatedly, newspapers, social media, government directives and other communication channels portray smoke from stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh as the primary cause of this pollution in the capital. Farmers are continuously urged not to burn stubble, and laws have been enacted against this practice.

From this entire discourse, it appears as though fires lit by farmers to clear their fields are the sole cause of Delhi's air pollution. Yet, when subjected to the scientific method and empirical facts, this assumption fails to hold.

Imagine a rooster crowing two hours before sunrise, followed by moss-rose flowers blooming two hours later. Although all three events are correlated, the rooster's crowing does not cause the sun to rise. Removing the rooster changes nothing, whereas keeping the moss-rose plants in the shade prevents them from blooming, demonstrating a genuine cause-and-effect relationship between sunlight and flowering.

The mere coincidence of Delhi's most polluted days with the paddy harvest window does not, in itself, prove that the capital's pollution is caused by stubble-burning smoke. The scientific method teaches us that the simultaneous occurrence of two phenomena does not automatically establish causation or a direct link between them; there can be other reasons for events occurring concurrently. To establish a cause-and-effect relationship, we need to demonstrate that changing one parameter affects the other. Confusing correlation with causation is very common. Air pollution is governed primarily by fine suspended particulate matter, particularly particles smaller than 2.5 microns (PM2.5). While larger particles settle quickly onto the Earth's surface under gravity, fine particles remain suspended for days unless washed down by rain or dispersed by strong winds. In winter, when solar energy decreases, air temperature and wind speeds also drop, increasing the likelihood of particles remaining trapped in a single region. Coastal cities like Mumbai and Chennai escape this acute buildup because their winters are mild and steady sea breezes carry particulates out into the ocean, whereas landlocked Delhi experiences seasonal stagnation.

Basic fluid dynamics also challenges the narrative of wind-borne smoke constantly pooling in Delhi. Matter cannot be destroyed; Delhi is not a black hole into which air from all directions keeps flowing endlessly. When winds blow from west to east, carrying smoke from Punjab and Haryana toward Delhi, that same air stream inside Delhi also blows eastward, carrying pollutants out of the capital at roughly the same rate.

Conversely, when winds blow from western Uttar Pradesh, air from Punjab cannot simultaneously enter Delhi. Furthermore, if air arriving from Punjab were the primary cause of Delhi's pollution, PM2.5 concentrations in Punjab would have to be vastly higher than in Delhi, because over a distance of 250 km a large fraction of particles disperses. In reality, the capital's air quality is consistently worse than Punjab's. Modern science leaves no room for guesswork regarding where these particles originate. Satellite imagery and computer models of atmospheric currents track wind trajectories and fire plumes in real time. More decisively, air samples collected on graded filters can be analysed under a Scanning Electron Microscope alongside chemical and spectroscopic assays.

The elemental composition and combustion temperature of stubble burned in an open field differ distinctly from diesel burned in an engine or coal in a thermal power plant, while construction dust contains no carbon at all. Through such characterisation, the particles themselves provide conclusive proof of their origin.

Source-apportionment research confirms that local urban activities, not distant farms, drive Delhi's crisis. A comprehensive 2018 study by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) found that vehicular emissions account for 40% of Delhi's air pollution, road and construction dust for roughly 20% and industrial emissions for another 20%, while agricultural residue burning contributes only 4-7%. Even on specific days with unfavourable meteorology, external smoke never becomes the primary cause.

Long-term trends reinforce this conclusion. Over the past 25 years, paddy acreage in Punjab has seen no major increase, hovering around 6-8 million acres, whereas Delhi has witnessed an exponential rise in vehicles, construction activities and paved surfaces replacing greenery. More tellingly, Central Pollution Control Board records.

Learning from the Past: From the JP Movement to the CJP Now

Could the scenario that led to the Emergency and Indira Gandhi's defeat in 1977 repeat itself today? It is certainly worth retracing the steps of this era.

Christophe Jaffrelot

To better understand the dynamics of the current youth movement, it is helpful to look back at the last large-scale student mobilisation the country experienced: the JP Movement. Although this movement bears the name of Jaya Prakash Narayan, it was in fact initiated by the youth of Gujarat and Bihar who, in 1973-74, were protesting – just as they are today – against government corruption amid an economic crisis marked by massive youth unemployment. As is the case today, this student mobilisation began spontaneously in 1973, with a "student morcha" – the Navnirman Yuvak Samiti – sparking street demonstrations in Ahmedabad during which students from Gujarat University carried empty oil cans and banged on thalis. In Bihar, too, students were on the front lines when that state, in turn, became the scene of protests beginning in December 1973. The student movement was then embodied by the Bihar Chhatra Sangharsh Samiti, chaired by a student destined for a political career, Lalu Prasad Yadav.

Just as today, the students demanded the resignation of politicians – not that of a minister, but, since both movements were regional, that of the chief ministers, Chimanbhai Patel and Abdul Ghafoor, two protégés of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who were held responsible for the economic crisis and widespread corruption.

Just as today too, movements that began spontaneously very quickly gained the support of student unions. In Gujarat as in Bihar, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad leaders provided logistics and discipline—something the Jantar Mantar mobilisation has partly received from left-wing student unions in recent days. As is the case today, leadership was initially provided by a non-partisan figure, JP, who owed his prestige to the Gandhian tradition – a role that Sonam Wangchuk embodies in his own way, as did Anna Hazare in another anti-corruption movement, that of 2012-13, which, however, did not originate in student circles at all.

As is the case today, political parties rallied behind this movement. In November 1974, the Bharatiya Lok Dal, the Socialist Party, the Congress (O), and the Jana Sangh formed a National Coordination Committee that foreshadowed the Janata Party. Currently, the support that the parties forming the INDIA coalition are providing to the student movement has not been formalised, but the participation of such prominent leaders as Rahul Gandhi, the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, in the demonstrations is highly significant.

As is the case today too, the crackdown on the unrest was fierce from the outset. In Gujarat, police "clashed" with protesters in 33 towns across the state, killing 42 demonstrators. In Bihar, the bandh of October 1974 led to extreme



police violence. Nanaji Deshmukh, JP's aide-de-camp, was himself injured in a lathi charge. On July 20 and 21, in New Delhi, the crackdown on students and their supporters – including Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi – was also very heavy-handed.

Could the scenario that led to the Emergency and Indira Gandhi's defeat in 1977 repeat itself today? It is certainly worth retracing the steps of this era, especially since the personalities and styles of Indira Gandhi and Narendra Modi are comparable. Both won elections thanks to populist strategies centred on themselves and demagogic promises. Both concentrated power in their own hands at the expense of the government, parliament, and federalism. Both have dismantled the country's institutions to such an extent that important checks and balances – such as the Supreme Court and the Election Commission – have been neutered. Both held power for about a decade before becoming the target of student protests.

In the mid-1970s, Indira Gandhi had finally resolved to remove the chief ministers of Gujarat and Bihar from office. But that was not enough to defuse the street protests, which ultimately demanded the prime minister's resignation. This was the explicit goal of Morarji Desai, who first forced Indira Gandhi to call elections in Gujarat – which the Congress lost – and then sought to force her to resign by intensifying street protests. On June 25, he became the chairman of a new organisation bringing together the major political parties, the Lok Sangharsh Samiti (the People's Struggle Front), which immediately announced the resumption of pan-Indian protests beginning on June 29. A few hours later, Indira Gandhi asked President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed to declare a state of emergency.

We can draw some parallels to these events to shed light on the current situation: the resignation of the education minister – which the students demanded in response to the leaks of exam questions – will likely not be enough to satisfy them. On the one hand, this man is not responsible for the crackdown that has just been unleashed on the young protesters – an event that has caused real trauma. On the other hand, the socioeconomic situation is not likely to improve anytime soon, meaning that the chronic unemployment afflicting young people is set to remain a major problem. It is worth noting that a huge section of urban youth are affected by this, and that the more educated they are, the more they suffer from underemployment. Narendra Modi, in any case, has never yielded to pressure from the streets, except in the case of the "farmers' laws" – and even then, it took more than one year of protests.

But can he afford to let the situation fester in the hope that the protesters will grow weary? That seems risky, given that the recent protests have boosted their confidence. When a government cracks down on its youth, it effectively tarnishes its image and loses all moral high ground. Meanwhile, the protesters are rediscovering the value of courage and the taste for freedom that lie at the heart of successful social movements. These were the ingredients of the movements led by Mahatma Gandhi during the British Raj and, more recently, by Gen Z in Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh. Throughout South Asia, both in the past and today, when anti-democratic and/or corrupt regimes have fallen, it has been as a result of popular mobilisations – sometimes followed by elections. And in those cases, the physical courage demonstrated by leaders willing to take blows and go to prison has played a key role. Alongside the tradition of the hunger strike – an act of self-inflicted violence, from Gandhi to Wangchuk via Morarji Desai – there is another prestigious repertoire in India, and elsewhere. This is of physical courage, from Bhagat Singh to George Fernandes's resistance to the Emergency, via Indira Gandhi in 1977–78, who was targeted by opponents and briefly imprisoned – she who had already had her nose broken by a thrown stone during her 1967 election campaign.

Alongside the successes achieved by Mahatma Gandhi, JP, and Gen Z in the countries mentioned above, we must not forget the failures suffered by protesters comparable to those of today in India and elsewhere: the anti-establishment unrest in Pakistan did not prevent the military from tightening its grip, and Indira Gandhi, with her back against the wall, chose to declare the Emergency. If the protests continue, which path will the Modi government choose? Seeking a compromise would entail significant concessions and a policy shift that meets the expectations of young people – or an escalation of repression? Unless it explores a third path based on more disinformation, increasingly unfair elections, greater control over the country's institutions, and, naturally, the promotion of Hindu majoritarianism.

Authoritarianism and allowing young people to vent their frustrations by making Muslims scapegoats, however, may not be enough. First, fear is shifting to the other side. Secondly, the current students' movement indeed reflects a return to socio-economic issues at the expense of identity-based rhetoric, whose appeal is waning: Hindus have received significant symbolic gains from the government, starting with the Ram temple in Ayodhya, but today, young people want jobs and are asking when are the "acche din" promised in 2014 com-

Russia's Shadow over India-US Defence Ties

India's long-practised policy of strategic autonomy and multi-alignment has allowed it to balance Washington and Moscow, while extracting advantages from both relationships, but that balancing act may now be approaching its limits.

Rahul Bedi

For years, India has carefully balanced its longstanding military and energy relationship with Russia, while steadily deepening its strategic and defence partnership with the United States.

That delicate equilibrium enabled New Delhi to strengthen defence, intelligence and technology cooperation with Washington while continuing to rely on Russian weaponry and, more recently, discounted Russian crude oil. But the arrangement was never entirely free of friction.

The clearest point of contention emerged over India's decision to acquire the Russian S-400 'Triumf' air-defence system, prompting President Donald Trump's first administration to repeatedly warn that the purchase could invite punitive measures under the 2017 Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), enacted specifically to deter major purchases of Russian military equipment and diminish Moscow's defence exports and geopolitical influence.

Yet, those warnings never translated into action. The Biden administration effectively gave India a CAATSA pass, concluding that Delhi's overall strategic value as a counterweight to an increasingly assertive China outweighed Washington's continuing unease over its enduring defence relationship with Moscow.

But that equation may now be changing and, ironically, the clearest indication comes not from Delhi but from Ankara, where Turkey is reportedly trying to rid itself of the very Russian S-400 Triumf air-defence system whose numbers India is preparing to double, in the hope of regaining entry into the US-led F-35 Joint Strike Fighter programme. If confirmed, Ankara's negotiations would offer a revealing glimpse of where American policy towards countries operating major Russian weapons systems may now be headed.

Turkey's difficulties stem from its US$2.5 billion acquisition in 2017 of two S-400 batteries, the first components of which were delivered in July 2019. The purchase triggered Ankara's expulsion from the US-led multinational F-35 programme and, a year later, the imposition of CAATSA sanctions. Washington's objections centred on the risks of operating America's most advanced stealth fighter alongside Russia's premier long-range air-defence system, potentially allowing sensitive electronic intelligence on the F-35's stealth characteristics to be collected.

The attempt to undo those consequences resurfaced earlier this month when President Recep Tayyip Erdo an used the NATO Summit in Ankara and a meeting with Trump on its side-lines to press for readmission to the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter programme. It is against this backdrop that, according to recent Wall Street Journal and other Western media reports, Ankara is now exploring ways of divesting itself of the S-400 – including, reportedly, a possible transfer to the United Arab Emirates – as part of a wider bargain with Washington on the F-35s. These reports remain unconfirmed, and any such transfer would require Moscow's consent and would correspondingly necessitate overcoming formidable political, legal, and regulatory hurdles within the US government, especially in Congress.



Whether Turkey ultimately succeeds in persuading Washington to overlook its acquisition of the Russian S-400 system and restore defence ties, including a return to the F-35 programme, remains uncertain. But the negotiations themselves are revealing. They serve to underscore a broader reality: operating and retaining the S-400 continues to cast a long shadow over defence relations with the US, particularly under Trump's administration, and demonstrates that major Russian-origin weapon systems can carry enduring strategic and political costs in Washington. Against that backdrop, Delhi's current trajectory appears all the more striking as on March 27, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) approval for the procurement of five additional S-400 regiments as part of a Rs 2.38 lakh crore package.

The Indian Air Force has already inducted three of five S-400 regiments acquired in 2018 for $5.43 billion, of which the fourth system is presently on its way by sea to India following extended delivery delays caused by the Ukraine war, while the fifth is expected by the year-end. And, should the proposed follow-on S-400 purchase be concluded, India will effectively double its S-400 inventory from five to ten regiments. Simultaneously, industry and security sources said the IAF is examining the possible acquisition of at least two squadrons of Russian Sukhoi Su-57 fighters – or around 40 platforms – as an interim solution until India's indigenous Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), intended to deliver a similar fifth-generation capability, enters service in the mid-2030s.

While neither the IAF nor the government has formally confirmed that such a proposal is under consideration, official sources said it was being driven largely by Pakistan's expected induction of China's J-35A stealth fighter over the next two to three years, creating what the IAF fears could be a significant capability gap unless 'bridged' by a comparable platform. Viewed alongside the planned acquisition of five additional S-400 regiments, however, the possible Su-57 procurement points not towards a significant expansion in India's dependence on Russian military hardware.

Furthermore, these developments are unfolding at a juncture when Washington's tolerance for countries maintaining major economic ties with Moscow is visibly wearing thin. India and China – the world's two largest buyers of Russian crude – have come under pressure, with Trump publicly threatening secondary tariffs of up to 100% if Moscow fails to meet US demands over ending the Ukraine war.

A bipartisan sanctions bill before Congress would further strengthen that approach by giving the US President clearer authority to impose similar penalties. Neither measure has yet become law, but together they indicate a growing willingness in Washington to use economic pressure against countries that continue maintaining significant economic ties with Moscow. That broader hardening of policy is also extending beyond defence equipment and energy.

Additional duties on Indian pharmaceutical exports have also entered Washington's policy debate, adding another potential pressure point in an already strained economic relationship. Given India's central role as a supplier of generic medicines to the US market, any escalation in this area would further complicate bilateral ties. Consequently, defence industry officials in Delhi and Bengaluru are questioning whether Russian military procurement can realistically remain insulated from a wider deterioration in bilateral economic relations between Delhi and Washington. "From Washington's perspective, India's expanding economic and military engagement with Moscow is becoming increasingly difficult to treat as separate issues," said a senior defence industry executive, who requested anonymity because of the sensitive nature of this issue. Continued purchases of discounted Russian crude, additional S-400 regiments, a possible Su-57 acquisition and expanding defence-industrial cooperation with Moscow, he cautioned, risk eroding the political willingness in Washington to continue shielding India from action under CAATSA.

Until now, Delhi has consistently argued that its dependence on Russian military equipment was the consequence of decades of Soviet-era defence ties and inherited platforms—the accumulated 'burdens of history'—rather than a reflection of a present-day strategic preference for Moscow. That explanation carried considerable weight in Washington, given that nearly two-thirds of India's in-service military equipment originated in the former Soviet Union or Russia, making rapid diversification neither financially nor operationally feasible. Washington largely accepted this reality as penalising India under CAATSA would have weakened, rather than strengthened, its own Indo-Pacific strategy of balancing an increasingly assertive and militarist China.

But CAATSA waivers are political judgments, not permanent guarantees.

A cross-section of security analysts and defence industry executives warned that every fresh major military purchase from Russia made it 'politically harder' for Washington to continue looking the other way. Moreover, the cumulative effect of an expanded S-400 inventory, a possible Su-57 acquisition and sustained purchases of discounted Russian crude would reinforce the view within sections of the US administration and Congress that India's dependence on Moscow no longer reflected inherited military realities, but had evolved into an active strategic choice. Consequently, the political argument for continuing to shield India from action under CAATSA could become difficult to sustain.

RBI Cancels Certificates Of Registration Of 49 NBFCs

New Delhi, Nov 16 (Way to News): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday said it has cancelled the Certificates of Registration (CoRs) of 49 non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).

The Central Bank, "in exercise of powers conferred on it under Section 45-IA (6) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, has cancelled the Certificate of Registration".



The RBI cancelled the registrations of 49 NBFCs under Section 45-IA (6) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. The cancellation orders for these companies were issued between October 1 and October 29, 2026.

Another 13 NBFCs and one housing finance company (HFC) have surrendered their registrations, as the central bank undertakes regulatory action involving 63 financial entities. The 13 NBFCs and one Housing Finance Company (HFC) have surrendered their Certificates of Registration (CoRs) granted to them by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

"The RBI, in exercise of powers conferred on it under Section 45-IA (6) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 ('the RBI Act)/ Section 29A of National Housing Bank Act, 1987, has therefore cancelled these CoRs," according to an official statement. Among the companies that surrendered their registrations were Manish Synthetics Private Limited, Amar Plaza and Holdings Private Limited, Viconic Vyapaar Private Limited, Right Treasure Finance and Leasing (India) Private Limited, Bravo Capital Services Private Limited and CGR Mercantile Finance Private Limited. The Central Bank also listed Manibhavnam Home Finance India Private Limited, Sun Source Leafin Private Limited and Lianer Distributors Private Limited among entities whose registrations were cancelled.

Last month, the Reserve Bank announced implementation of interoperability among non-banking financial company account aggregators (NBFC-AAs) to make it easier for customers to access and share financial information across financial information providers.

Under the move, customers registered with any licensed account-aggregator app will be able to share data with any regulated financial institution on the network regardless of which AA app, the lender, bank or wealth manager uses.

Adani Green Says Tarali PSP Has All Clearances

Ahmedabad, Nov 16 (Way to News): Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) said on Monday that no component of the Tarali pumped storage project (PSP) in Maharashtra falls within any notified Protected Area, and no forest land is involved in the project. In a fresh statement, an AGEL spokesperson said that necessary permissions/NOCs relating to land use and statutory requirements have already been obtained from the competent authorities.



"The project has also obtained Environmental Clearance (EC) on 11.02.2025. Based on this, the Consent to Establish (CTE) from Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) to start the project work was issued on 07.04.2025. The construction activities have commenced only after obtaining all the requisite approvals from concerned authorities," the company spokesperson said.

In parallel, the wildlife clearance process has also been duly initiated and pursued as part of the Environmental Clearance (EC) compliance process, according to AGEL. "The proposal for Survey and Investigation activities was submitted in January 2025 and subsequently recommended by the State Board for Wildlife. The proposal for the project has since been submitted to the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) and is currently under consideration," the spokesperson further added. According to the Adani Group company, the project is being developed in full compliance with applicable statutory requirements and the directions of the competent authorities.

Last week, AGEL vehemently denied allegations that it lowered the cost of the Tarali PSP in Maharashtra in order to diminish statutory obligations. A company spokesperson said that the allegation that the company sought to revise project costs downwards to diminish statutory obligations is "completely misleading". The spokesperson said that the online proposal in the forest/ wildlife portal was solely for site investigation purposes, while the State Board for Wildlife (SBWL) considered total project costs of Rs 5,675 crore. "Since site investigation costs are around 1 per cent of project costs, therefore clarification of the project Rs 56.75 crore.

FSSAI Cracks Down On Nutraceutical Firms Over Safety Violations, Suspends Licences

New Delhi, Nov 16 (Way to News): The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Monday said it has taken regulatory action against multiple nutraceutical manufacturers, including suspension of licences, following the detection of significant food safety and regulatory violations during recent inspections.

The action comes amid heightened scrutiny of the fast-growing nutraceutical sector, which includes food-derived products marketed for specific health benefits beyond basic nutrition.

FSSAI has intensified inspections of manufacturing facilities in recent months and has identified several instances of non-compliance relating to product formulations, labelling, hygiene and manufacturing practices.



The regulator named six companies that faced action: Airen Herbals, Aquabliss Lifesciences, Raskam Healthcare, Supercure Biotech, Ambico Ayurvedic Healthcare and Vedant Remedies.

According to FSSAI, inspections at Airen Herbals found that its product 'Lycowey Syrup' contained thiamin, vitamin E acetate, copper, selenium and zinc at levels exceeding the prescribed Recommended Dietary Allowance(RDA) limits per serving. Another product, 'Maxford Pain Relief', was flagged for making unauthorised claims related to knee relief and using imagery associated with pain relief. The regulator also observed non-compliance in botanical ingredient declarations. At Aquabliss Lifesciences, officials found expired raw materials stored at the manufacturing site along with poor sanitation and hygiene standards.

Raskam Healthcare was cited for using 'Shilajit', an ingredient not approved for use in the identified products, while inspectors also noted deficiencies in record-keeping and documentation practices. FSSAI's inspection of Supercure Biotech revealed multiple irregularities. The regulator said its 'Gemkolin 9G softgel capsules' contained biotin levels exceeding the maximum permitted limit. Another product, marketed as a vitamin E softgel capsule, was found to contain wheat germ oil instead of vitamin E, which authorities said could mislead consumers.

The company was also flagged for labelling deficiencies and the presence of non-permitted and pathogenic microbial strains in its probiotic products. Meanwhile, Ambico Ayurvedic Healthcare was found to be using expired materials in nutraceutical preparations and maintaining inadequate hygiene standards at its manufacturing premises. At Vedant Remedies, inspections uncovered the use of expired materials in flavouring products, along with sanitation shortcomings, housekeeping deficiencies and inadequate manufacturing infrastructure and testing facilities.

India Registers Improvement In Employment In Oct, Rural Areas Lead

New Delhi, Nov 16 (Way to News): The overall Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for persons aged 15 years and above improved marginally to 55.7 per cent in October, compared to 55.5 per cent in September 2026, as rural areas lead the improvement in labour force participation, the government data showed on Monday. In rural areas, LFPR increased from 58.0 per cent to 58.4 per cent over the month, while the urban LFPR stood at 50.5 per cent in October against 50.7 per cent in September.



On a year-on-year basis, the overall LFPR improved by 0.3 percentage points, increasing from 55.4 per cent in October, 2025 to 55.7 per cent in October, 2026.

During the same period, rural areas recorded a gain of 0.6 percentage points, with rural LFPR increasing from 57.8 per cent to 58.4 per cent, while urban LFPR remained unchanged at 50.5 per cent, according to the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.

Overall female LFPR improved to 35.0 per cent last month from 34.6 per cent in September, making its highest level since February 2026. Rural female LFPR rose by 0.6 percentage points over the month and reached 39.5 per cent in October. However, female LFPR in urban areas remained stable at 25.9 per cent.

Over the year, the overall female LFPR increased by 0.8 percentage points, from 34.2 per cent in October 2025 to 35.0 per cent in October 2026. Rural female LFPR gained 1.1 percentage.

IEPFA, SEBI To Hold Investor Camp For Unclaimed Shares And Dividends

New Delhi: The government-backed Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) will organise a day-long 'Niveshak Shivir' here on November 17 to help investors recover unclaimed dividends, reclaim shares transferred to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) and resolve pending investor grievances, an official statement said on Monday.

According to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the investor outreach programme is being held in collaboration with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) in the national capital.

The initiative aims to provide investors with direct assistance in recovering unclaimed dividends and shares that have remained with companies for six to seven years, facilitate KYC updation and nomination services, and address pending IEPFA claim-related issues.

MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



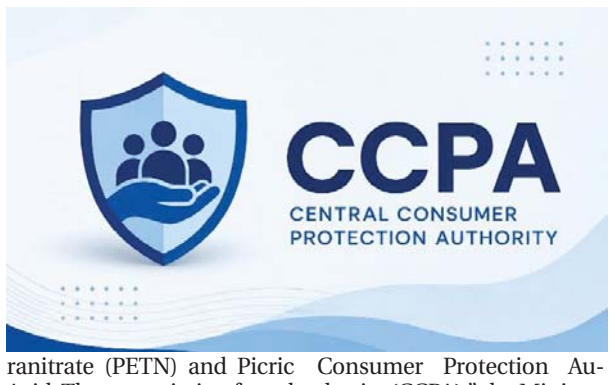
The ministry also announced that Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Corporate Affairs Harsh Malhotra and Corporate Affairs Secretary Pallavi Jain Govil have been invited to attend the event.

Dedicated service desks will be set up at the venue to enable direct interaction between investors, companies and Registrars and Transfer Agents (RTAs) with the objective of speeding up grievance resolution and reducing dependence on intermediaries, according to the statement.

CCPA Imposes Penalty Of Rs 20 Lakh On Exportersindia.Com Over Online Listing Of Explosives

New Delhi, Nov 16 (Way to News): The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) on Monday imposed a total penalty of Rs 20 lakh on Weblink.In Private Limited, which operates ExportersIndia.com, for listing and facilitating the sale of regulated and hazardous explosive substances on its online platform. The action comes after the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) dismissed two appeals filed by the company, upholding the penalties and directions issued by the consumer protection regulator.

In two separate orders dated November 12, 2026, the NCDRC upheld the CCPA's final orders imposing a penalty of Rs 10 lakh each for the online listing of Ammonium Nitrate, Pentaerythritol Tetranitrate (PETN) and Picric Acid. The commission found no infirmity or error of law in the CCPA's decisions.



"The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), New Delhi, through two orders dated 12 November 2026, has dismissed the appeals filed by Weblink.In Private Limited, operator of ExportersIndia.com, against two final orders of the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)," the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution said.

"The NCDRC has thereby upheld in full the penalties and directions issued by the CCPA for the online listing, hosting, advertising and facilitation of sale of regulated and hazardous explosive substances on the platform," the ministry added. The CCPA had initiated a sector-wide review of e-commerce platforms to examine the online listing, advertising and sale of hazardous chemicals, explosive substances and their precursors.

The review covered substances such as Ammonium Nitrate, Gun Powder, Picric Acid and PETN, which are regulated or restricted under the Explosives Act, 1884, and the rules framed under it.

The regulator found that several online platforms were allowing these substances to be listed and advertised without adequate safeguards, including verification of sellers' valid licences issued by the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), verification of buyers' identities and legal eligibility, and mechanisms to ensure traceability of transactions. Following the investigation, the CCPA issued two separate final orders against Weblink.In Private Limited on September 8 and September 10, 2026.

The first order concerned the listing of Ammonium Nitrate and PETN, while the second related to Picric Acid. The company subsequently challenged both orders before the NCDRC.

Apart from the financial penalties, the CCPA directed the company to permanently discontinue the listing, hosting, advertising or facilitation of the sale or enquiries for such substances and any other material classified as an explosive under the Explosives Act, 1884, or the Explosive Substances Act, 1908. The CCPA held that the platform's conduct amounted to misleading advertisements and unfair trade prac-

Hidden Soft Error, Heavy Load Among 3 Factors Caused Microsoft Outage; Over 80 Pc Servers Hit

New Delhi, Nov 16 (Way to News): The recent major global outage of Microsoft 365 services was caused by a hidden software flaw, an unusually high volume of traffic and a reduction in server capacity, the company said on Monday.

According to these triggers, the US-based software services provider witnessed a global Microsoft 365 outage earlier this month, disrupting services including Teams, OneDrive, SharePoint and Office applications.

In a post on X, the company's Executive Vice President for Copilot, Agents and Platform apologised to customers and shared the early findings of the investigation into the November 12 disruption. According to Microsoft, the problem started in a networking system that sits in front of many Microsoft 365 services. A hidden software flaw caused servers to get overloaded and stop responding under certain conditions. The company said the code change linked to the flaw was first rolled out in July and had been running across the world for more than three months without causing any trouble. The flaw went unnoticed because the company's testing systems used different traffic patterns and hardware than the real-world systems.



Microsoft said traffic on the affected system rose sharply after Teams traffic was moved from a backup system to the main system about 15 hours before the outage. At the same time, nearly 14 per cent of server capacity was unavailable because of an unrelated issue from the previous day.

While either factor alone would not have caused an outage, together they exposed the hidden flaw, causing requests to pile up until servers stopped responding during peak traffic hours in the US, the company said.

Microsoft said its automatic systems first tried to send users to healthy servers, but the extra traffic increased the chances of the same failure happening elsewhere. This set off a chain reaction that spread quickly across the system.

At the worst point of the incident, more than 80 per cent of the affected servers stopped responding, according to the top executive. The software giant also said a separate issue stopped its internal safety systems, which are meant to contain failures within a region, from working, allowing the problem to spread globally. Microsoft said recovery was difficult because servers that came back online were immediately hit by pending traffic and stopped responding again.

Sensex Jumps Over 500 Points As Bank, FMCG Stocks Shine

Mumbai, Nov 16 (Way to News): The benchmark equity indices closed higher on Monday, supported by gains in banking and FMCG stocks amid positive global market cues, even as broader markets remained under pressure. The Sensex rose 510.40 points, or 0.63 per cent, to end at 82,102.85, while the Nifty gained 146.80 points, or 0.58 per cent, to settle at 25,291.10. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that after a strong two-week rally, the index is witnessing range-bound consolidation.



"The index may witness minor retracement or consolidation within the 25,000–25,500 range before the next leg of buying emerges. Positional support is placed at 24,800," analysts stated. "However, the broader undertone remains bullish, and a buy-on-dips strategy should be preferred while closely monitoring key support and resistance levels," market experts noted.

Market sentiment was aided by buying in heavyweight banking and consumer goods stocks, helping frontline indices extend gains despite weakness in the broader market.

Among the Nifty constituents, Max Healthcare Institute, ITC and Tata Consumer Products emerged as the top gainers, leading the benchmark's advance.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Jay Shah reappointed unopposed as ICC chair for second term

Dubai, Nov 16 (Way to News): Jay Shah has been reappointed unopposed as the International Cricket Council (ICC) Chair for a second term, with the global governing body's Board confirming the decision during its meetings in Bali.

Shah was unanimously elected ICC Chair in August 2024, becoming the youngest to hold the position at age 35. He marked the beginning of his tenure as ICC Chair on December 1, 2024.

Shah was the sole candidate after the then-ICC chairperson, Greg Barclay, chose not to seek a third term. He also became the fifth Indian to head the ICC after Jagmohan Dalmiya, Sharad Pawar, N Srinivasan and Shashank Manohar.

The reappointment provides continuity in leadership as cricket prepares for its return to the Olympic Games at Los Angeles 2028, while pursuing wider global expansion, increased participation and commercial growth.

The ICC said Shah's reappointment followed a proposal by the Board's directors and reflected their confidence in his leadership at a significant stage in the sport's development.

Cricket's inclusion in the LA28 Olympics is among the major priorities alongside strengthening the international game, expanding the women's game, creating more opportunities for Associate Members and ensuring the sport's long-term commercial sustainability.



Reacting to his reappointment, the former BCCI president said he was grateful for the Board's continued support and stressed the responsibility of working with member nations to advance cricket globally.

"I am deeply honoured by the confidence the ICC Board has placed in me and sincerely grateful to every Director for their continued trust and support. Serving as Chair of the ICC is both a privilege and a responsibility, and I remain committed to working with our Members to advance the interests of cricket across the world," Shah said.

He described the sport's return to the Olympics as a significant opportunity to reach new audiences and inspire future generations.

"We are entering one of the most important and exciting periods in our sport's history. Cricket's return to the Olympic Games at LA28 presents an extraordinary opportunity to introduce our game to new audiences and inspire a new generation of players and fans.

"Our responsibility extends well beyond delivering successful events. We must build a stronger and more sustainable future for the sport with a focus on fans, athletes, commercial partners and other key stakeholders.

"I have always believed that cricket's greatest strength lies in its ability to bring people together. With the support of the Board and our Members, our focus will be on turning ambition into action and ensuring that the progress we make leaves a lasting legacy for generations to come."

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Chair Richard Thompson welcomed Shah's continued leadership, emphasising the need to maintain the relevance of bilateral cricket while adapting to the changing commercial and sporting landscape.

Badminton: World And Asian Medallists Jagsher, Shaina Headline 49th Junior Nationals In Sikkim



Gangtok, Nov 16 (Way to News): The country's leading junior shuttlers will start their quest for individual honours as the 49th Junior National Badminton Championships got underway at the Indoor Badminton Hall, Paljor Stadium, Gangtok, with focus on World Junior Championships bronze medallist Jagsher Singh Khangurra in Men's Singles and Asian U-17 Championships silver medallist Shaina Manimuthu in Women's Singles.

Following the conclusion of the Inter-State Inter-Zonal Team Championships, which saw Karnataka boys and Tamil Nadu girls emerge champions, attention has now shifted to the individual competitions, where the country's promising young players will battle for national titles.

The opening day witnessed action across all five individual events, with the Girls' Singles and Girls' Doubles matches being played on Courts 4 and 5.

In the Mixed Doubles, Prince and Ishita Negi registered a hard-fought victory over Bhashy Pathak and Siona Gala, winning 15-9, 13-15, 16-14. Amith Raj Natraj and Suhina Roy also began their campaign on a winning note, defeating Sanidhya Sunil Ekade and Yutika Chavan 15-9, 15-9.

Bhanu Pratap Singh Chouhan and Kavya Swami registered a straight-game victory over Saksham Vatsa and Bhawna Kumari, while Shatradu Banik and Adrija Dey progressed after a competitive three-game encounter against Gitartha Gogoi and Liyana Dutta.

The Boys' Singles competition also witnessed some exciting encounters. Arnav Yadav produced a commanding performance to defeat Divyam Kejriwal 17-15, 15-5, while Vedansh Negi recovered from an opening-game defeat to overcome Medhansh Sharma 7-15, 15-10, 15-6.

Tuesday's action is expected to attract considerable attention with some of India's most promising international performers taking centre stage.

World Junior Championships bronze medallist Jagsher Singh Khangurra will be among the major attractions in the Boys' Singles, while Asian U-17 Championships silver medallist Shaina Manimuthu will be a key contender in the Girls' Singles. Both youngsters will look to carry their international form into the national championship and make a strong start to their respective campaigns.

The individual championship will continue until November 21, with the country's top junior shuttlers competing.

MCA unveils 'Batography', celebrating Sachin's Legacy At Wankhede



Mumbai, Nov 16 (Way to News): The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) on Monday unveiled 'Batography', a one-of-a-kind section in the MCA Sharad Pawar Cricket Museum, which is dedicated to Bharat Ratna Sachin Tendulkar.

Featuring 25 bats that trace his extraordinary cricketing journey from 1978 to 2013, along with select headgear and apparel from his personal collection, 'Batography ' was unveiled by Sachin Tendulkar, accompanied by Ajinkya Naik, President, Mumbai Cricket Association, at a special event on 16 November 2026. The day marks thirteen years since the end of Tendulkar's 200th and final Test, against the West Indies at the Wankhede Stadium (on November 16, 2013). It was also at the same venue on November 27, 1983 that a ten-year-old Tendulkar first watched a Test match and witnessed his hero, Vivian Richards, score a century.

Conceptualised around the idea of telling a cricketer's story through the instrument most closely associated with his craft, 'Batography' presents each bat as a chapter in Tendulkar's life and career.

The collection begins with the Kashmir willow bat gifted to him by his elder sister, Savita, in 1978, when he was five years old, and culminates with the bat he used in his final Test innings at the Wankhede.

Among the most significant pieces are the bat with which he scored his maiden Test century at Manchester in 1990, aged 17; the bat gifted to him by Sir Donald Bradman in 1998; the bat that he used in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2003 and was declared Player of the Tournament; and the one with which he scored his 100th international century against Bangladesh in Mirpur on March 16, 2012.

Complementing the collection of bats is an assortment of memorabilia that captures defining moments from Tendulkar's career. These include his first helmet, his Mumbai Ranji Trophy jersey, the India jersey and helmet from his 200th and final Test, and the sheet of paper he referred to during his farewell speech at the Wankhede.

Joined by his family during the unveiling, Sachin Tendulkar said, "For 24 years, my life revolved around 22 yards, and through that journey, my bats were the one constant. They always felt like an extension of my arms, each bringing back memories of a particular phase, a dressing room, a pitch or the roar of a crowd.

"From picking up my first bat in 1978, the one my sister brought back from Kashmir, to the one I picked for my last international innings here at Wankhede, the journey holds memories that I share with all the people who lived those with me. It is wonderful to see these bats brought together at the Wankhede, the place where it all began, through the efforts of the MCA and President, Mr Ajinkya Naik," he said.

Ajinkya Naik, president, Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA), said, "What we have unveiled today is a tribute to a phenomenon. Sachin Tendulkar has given this city and the nation a legacy that will be celebrated for years to come. In a year since we started India's first museum and stadium tour, more than 23,000 people have taken the MCA Museum and Wankhede Stadium tour. The new zone now gives more reasons for people of all walks of life to take the tour and get inspired by the 'Batography' of a legend."

Rinku Singh meets Prime Minister Modi, invited to wedding ceremony

New Delhi, Nov 16 (Way to News): Team India cricketer Rinku Singh has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to his wedding. Rinku, who went to the Prime Minister along with his family members , presented his wedding invitation and sought his blessings. His wedding to Samajwadi Party MP Priya Saroj will take place on December 4 in Lucknow. Rinku shared a photo of the meeting with the Prime Minister on social media. He said that it was a special experience for them to meet Modi along with his family and to invite him to the wedding and seek his blessings.



The wedding arrangements are in full swing. Rinku's family members have already met Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and presented the wedding invitation. Rinku's mother Bina Devi, brother Sonu Singh, and sister Neha Singh went to the CM's residence in Lucknow and invited him to the wedding. Rinku and Priya's wedding ceremony will be held at the Ramada Hotel in Lucknow. Many celebrities from the fields of cricket and politics are likely to attend the ceremony. The couple got engaged on June 8 last year at 'The Centrum' hotel in Lucknow. Rinku had previously revealed about their love story in an interview. He said that while he was in Mumbai for the IPL matches during Corona, he saw Priya's photo on a fan page. He said that she liked his photos and got the courage to send him a message. He explained that the acquaintance that started like that gradually turned into words and led to love.

Priya comes to the stadiums to encourage Rinku when he is playing matches. She was also seen in the audience when Rinku played for Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens.

IPL 2027: Shami Likely To Move From LSG To RR In Swap With Curran Ahead Of Retention Deadline

New Delhi, Nov 16 (Way to News): Veteran fast bowler Mohammed Shami is likely to switch from Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) to Rajasthan Royals (RR) in a swap deal for England's seam-bowling all-rounder Sam Curran, ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2027 retention deadline on November 17.

According to a report by Cricinfo on Monday, LSG have also agreed to let Tamil Nadu left-arm spinner M. Siddharth go to RR as part of the deal. Shami, who turned 36 in September and recently retired from Test cricket, had a modest IPL 2026, taking 12 wickets in 13 matches at an economy rate of 9. It was a season where LSG finished at the bottom of the points table.



Shami previously turned out for Gujarat Titans, Kolkata Knight Riders, Delhi Capitals, Punjab Kings and Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL. RR, who reached the playoffs before losing to Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 2, will gain a new-ball bowling option in Shami and can be paired up with England speedster Jofra Archer. For Curran, LSG will be his third IPL franchise after two stints each with Punjab Kings and Chennai Super Kings. He missed IPL 2026 for RR due to a groin injury.

At LSG, Curran will be reunited with his friend and mentor Tom Moody, who serves as LSG's global director of cricket. The duo have worked together at Oval Invincibles in the Hundred and at Desert Vipers in the UAE's ILT20, where Curran led Vipers to the title in January this year with Moody as head coach.

Curran, who was the Player of the Final and the Player of the Tournament when England won the 2022 T20 World Cup in Australia, can offer great flexibility – he can move up and down in the batting order, as per the given situation, and bowl in different phases of the game.

He could also be a candidate for the captaincy, a role vacant since Rishabh Pant stepped down and returned to Delhi Capitals through a trade after the 2026 season was over. Aiden Markram, Nicholas Pooran, Mitchell Marsh and Josh Inglis are other overseas captaincy contenders.

Siddharth, meanwhile, recently won the Tamil Nadu Premier League (TNPL) and is currently turning out for Tamil Nadu in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. In nine IPL games, he has picked nine wickets and was previously a part of Kolkata Knight Riders and Delhi Capitals set-ups in the competition.

Manipur CM Felicitates Youth Olympic Gold Medallist Lairenlakpam Ambekar Meetei

Imphal, Nov 16 (Way to News): Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Monday congratulated and felicitated Lairenlakpam Ambekar Meetei, who won a gold medal in the men's 50 kg boxing category at the 4th Youth Olympic Games 2026, held in Dakar, Senegal. A senior official of the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said that during the meeting at the Chief Minister's Secretariat in Imphal, Khemchand Singh underscored the importance of encouraging and supporting coaches, acknowledging their significant contribution to nurturing successful sportspersons in the state.



"His remarkable achievement has brought glory to Manipur and inspired our youth. Assured him of the State Government's continued support and wished him greater success ahead. You have made Manipur proud, Ambekar! I congratulated him for bringing pride to the nation and Manipur, praised his discipline and perseverance as an inspiration to young athletes, assured State Government support, and wished him future success," CM Yumnam posted on X. The Chief Minister observed that apart from the support extended by the government, encouragement and guidance from local sports clubs and elders also play a vital role in shaping the character and careers of sportspersons.

He also appreciated the authorities concerned for extending support to athletes at the grassroots level, noting that such initiatives contribute significantly to their success at national and international sporting events. India had two representatives in the boxing competition at the Youth Olympic Games, one from Manipur in the men's category and another from Haryana in the women's category. Both boxers won gold medals in their respective weight categories.

Later, Lairenlakpam Ambekar Meetei, while speaking to the media, expressed happiness over getting the opportunity to meet the Chief Minister and share his experiences. He also expressed his determination to continue working hard and strive for greater achievements by participating in more international-level tournaments in the future. The meeting was attended by the Director of Youth Affairs and Sports, officials of the National Sports Academy (NSA), coaches, the athlete's parents and others.

Vani, Ridhima And Tvesa Headline Field At 15th Leg Of Women's Pro Golf Tour

Greater Noida, Nov 16 (Way to News): The Women's Professional Golf Tour (WPGT) moves to the Jaypee Wishtown Golf Course for its 15th and final leg of the 2026 season, with 44 players in the field and several of the leading names in Indian women's golf set for another important week. The spotlight will be on the leading duo — Vani Kapoor, Ridhima Dilawari — and an array of stars on the domestic circuit. Tvesa Malik, another established name on the domestic circuit, adds to the strength of the field.



Ridhima has been the most consistent player on the tour, winning four times and finishing runner-up twice in her first 13 starts. Her victories have come at Kalhaar Blues and Greens, Poona Golf Club, Jaypee Wishtown and Prestige Golfshire. She has been very solid through the season and is firmly ahead in the season rankings. Kapoor, meanwhile, has won twice this season, including the 13th leg at DLF Golf and Country Club, where she beat rookie Anvvi Dahiya in a three-hole play-off. She has also been runner-up three times. Her second-place finish at the Hero Women's Indian Open, her best finish on the Ladies European Tour, has added to an already strong season.

The pairing of Ridhima and Tvesa will be one of the day's most closely watched groups. They are scheduled to tee off at 10.05 am alongside Lavanya Jadon. Tvesa will be keen to build on her seventh-place finish at the Hero Women's Indian Open, and she also has a domestic title to her credit this season.

Kapoor will begin her campaign at 9.10 am alongside Ananya Datar and Saanvi Somu. Her recent form and experience make her one of the strongest contenders, particularly as she looks to close the gap on Ridhima in the season-long standings. Last week, Jasmine Shekar held off Vani and Ridhima in the final round, carding a 1-over 71 to win by two shots for her second title of the season.

The field includes several other established professionals and promising younger golfers. Amandeep Drall, Sneha Singh, Seher Atwal, Mannat Brar and Shweta Mansingh are among the names capable of making an impact. The first round will tee off between 8.30 am and 11 am. The tournament also offers another opportunity for players to improve their positions in the Hero Order of Merit as the 2026 season approaches its conclusion.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

'VARANASI' SHOOTING COMPLETE

Jakkanna team is in suspense as the real blast is ahead

The most eagerly awaited project by movie lovers around the world is S.S. Rajamouli and superstar Mahesh Babu's upcoming film 'Varanasi'. As this is the next film by Rajamouli, who has established Telugu cinema on the world stage with the films 'Baahubali' and 'RRR', expectations are sky-high. In this context, the film team has recently given a crucial update and a hint that will further excite the fans.

The film team has officially announced that the entire shooting of the film 'Varanasi' has been completed. To this extent, the film team made a post on the official 'X' (Twitter) account of the film. It has been clarified that the film is currently in the crucial post-production stage, and re-recording is also underway along with visual effects work. It has been said that the dubbing work will start soon. It is known how much sensation the announcement event of this film, which was held in a grand manner exactly a year ago, created. Now that the shooting has been completed, another important stage in the production of the film has been completed. However, the real kick in this update is at the end. "If you think it's an update, it's an update. But, wait a little longer for the real blast," the film team said in their post. With this single comment, a new discussion has started among fans and film circles. What is the 'blast' that Rajamouli is planning? Will he release glimpses or a making video of the film? Or will he reveal the look of Mahesh Babu's character? Speculations are rife on social media. With



this small hint alone, expectations for the film have reached another level. In any case, with the post-production work going on at a rapid pace, it seems certain that the film will hit the screens on time. As announced earlier, the producers are preparing to release 'Varanasi' worldwide on April 7, 2027. There is a lot of interest in how Rajamouli is going to show Mahesh Babu in this global adventure thriller.

'A Star in the Sky' is a special film in my career: Dulquer Salmaan

Malayalam star hero Dulquer Salmaan is confident about the success of his latest film 'Aakashamlo Okta Tara'. He said that this film will stand as a special film in his career and will make everyone proud. The pre-release ceremony of this film, directed by Pawan Sadhineni, was held in Hyderabad on Sunday. Icon star Allu Arjun was the chief guest for this ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, Dulquer said, "After Sitaram, I felt very special when I heard this story. This will be a film that will remain in my career forever." He expressed confidence. The film, produced under the banners of Geetha Arts and Swapna Cinema, will be released worldwide on the 20th of this month in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi and Malayalam languages.

Dulquer recalled his association with Allu Arjun at the event. "My first film shooting took place in a village in Kerala. There was a photo of Bunny on the cupboard of the house where I stayed. He was already a big star there. Now he has become a global star. I really like the film 'Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo' in which he acted. I watched that film many times with my family during Corona. My daughter is also a big fan of Bunny," said Dulquer's words, which impressed everyone. Dulquer praised director Pawan for working on the story with great clarity and confidence. He said that when music director GV Prakash heard the story, he was more confident. He praised producer Allu Aravind's dedication and energy as amazing. He also praised the performances of heroine Satvika as well as Shruti Haasan and Ruhani Sharma, who played key roles.



15 years as a music director.. Anirudh's emotional message



Renowned music director Anirudh Ravichander, who has completed 15 years as a music director, shared an emotional message thanking his fans. Stating that he has acquired many sweet memories and achievements during his journey over the years, he revealed that he still has many dreams to achieve and that his best music is ahead.

Anirudh recalled that his first song was released on this day 15 years ago. He said that the journey that has been going on non-stop since then has brought him many music, memories and wonderful experiences. He said that he has had the opportunity to compose songs in Tamil, Telugu, Hindi and English. He said that independent music, working with international artists and singing songs in different languages are special experiences in his journey.

Anirudh said that he has had the opportunity to work with leading directors, actors and producers of the country. He said that creating streaming records, reaching out to crores of listeners and conducting music concerts around the world are unforgettable experiences. From chartbuster songs to thousands of fans singing along to their songs, every occasion is very special,

Anirudh said. This year is even more special for him. In 2026, five films for which he composed music, 'LIK', 'Janayagan', 'DC', 'Paradise', and 'Jailer 2', were released. Many of these songs have already become hits. He expressed his happiness that there could be no better celebration for 15 years of music career.

Anirudh said that despite the ups and downs and challenges, we have worked without taking a single day off. He said that the love for music that we had from day one is still driving us forward. Anirudh, who recently married Kavya Maran, thanked his fans and listeners for listening to, singing, and supporting his songs again and again. He said that even after the 15-year journey, he still has millions of dreams to fulfill and that he is stepping into the studio again. Anirudh also expressed his gratitude to his family, friends, mentors and collaborators for standing by him throughout his musical journey. He said their constant encouragement and the unwavering support of fans had inspired him to push creative boundaries and explore new musical styles. He vowed to continue entertaining audiences with fresh sounds and memorable compositions in the years ahead.

I have seen many hits.. but this film feels different: Allu Aravind



"I have produced many blockbusters over the past few decades. However, the excitement I felt while making 'Akashamlo Okta Tara' is very special," said renowned producer Allu Aravind. The pre-release ceremony of this film, starring versatile star Dulquer Salmaan in the lead role, was held in a grand manner. Iconic star Allu Arjun graced the event as the chief guest. Speaking about the film, which will be released on a pan-India level on November 20, Allu Aravind expressed his happiness over presenting such a great story to the audience.

Praising hero Dulquer Salmaan, he said that he is very cultured and is much gentler in real life than the roles he plays on the silver screen. He jokingly commented that Satwika, who is making her debut as a heroine with this film, has acted wonderfully and was impressed by her talent and signed two more films. He expressed confidence that she will become a great star in the future.

Director Pawan Allu Aravind said that he wanted to work with Sadhineni since his first film and he is happy to get that opportunity with this film. He said that it was a pleasure to work with the daughter of his close friend Ashwini Dutt. He said that GV Prakash Kumar has provided excellent music and this film will leave a great experience for the audience. Shruti Haasan and Ruhani Sharma are playing key roles in this film, which is being directed by Pawan Sadhineni and jointly produced by Geetha Arts, Swapna Cinema and Lightbox Media.

Telugu star Teja Sajja gets engaged to Mourya in a star-studded ceremony!

Telugu star Teja Sajja, who is best known for having delivered the pan-Indian blockbusters 'HanuMan' and 'Mirai', on Monday got engaged to Mourya in an intimate yet grand ceremony in the presence of family, close friends, prominent political leaders, and some of the biggest names from the Telugu film industry. Sources present on the occasion said that the event, which was held at the Taj Krishna in the city, was graced by Megastar Chiranjeevi, Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, Union Minister G Kishan Reddy, Telangana Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Minister Seethakka, Harish Rao and Ganta Srinivasa Rao among others.

The Telugu film fraternity came together in impressive numbers to bless the couple. Among those in attendance were legendary director K. Raghavendra Rao, producers Allu Aravind, Suresh Babu, Dil Raju, TG Vishwa Prasad, Sushmita Konidela, Sahu Garapati, Venkat Boyenpalli, actors Srikanth, Ravi Teja, Nani, Rana Daggubati, Adivi Sesh, Sudheer Babu, Varu Sarath Kumar, Nidhi Agerwal, Niharika Konidela, Ritika Nayak, Imanvi and renowned filmmakers B. Gopal, Anil Ravipudi, Prasanth Varma, Shiva Nirvana, Nandini Reddy, Karthik Gattamneni, Maruthi, Chandoo Mondeti, Sailesh Kolanu and BVS Ravi.

Sources claimed that despite the presence of numerous celebrities and dignitaries, the engagement remained a warm and personal celebration, bringing together people close to Teja Sajja and his family. It was a memorable occasion filled with joy, love, and heartfelt blessings as Teja Sajja and Mourya embarked on a beautiful new chapter in their lives. The wedding is to take place at a destination



in December. On the work front, the actor will be seen playing the lead in Suparn S Varma's 'Zombie Reddy2 NXT LVL- Dead Or Alive'. The film is slated to hit screens next year in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Hindi, Nepali and Japanese.

Director Prasanth Varma, who introduced the zombie genre to Telugu cinema with 'Zombie Reddy', is playing the role of a creator for the sequel, with Suparn S Varma directing the upcoming film.

The new-age zombie entertainer is being mounted on a massive scale by TG Vishwa Prasad and Krithi Prasad under the People Media Factory banner. This marks the second collaboration between Teja Sajja and PMF, after the Pan India blockbuster 'Mirai'. Real Star Upendra too is expected to play a prominent role.

The wait is over! Meet the new James Bond after Daniel Craig

The wait is finally over! After years of speculation, countless fan theories and several Hollywood A-listers being linked to the coveted role, the makers of James Bond have finally revealed the new face of Agent 007. And the choice has certainly come as a surprise to many.

British actor Robert Pattinson, best known for his roles in Twilight and The Batman, has officially been announced as the next James Bond, taking over the iconic character from Daniel Craig.

The announcement was made by Amazon MGM Studios on Monday, November 16, bringing an end to one of Hollywood's most talked-about casting mysteries.The 40-year-old actor will become the seventh star to portray the legendary British spy on the big screen, following Sean Connery, George Lazenby, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton, Pierce Brosnan and Daniel Craig.

Craig, who first stepped into the role with Casino Royale in 2006, bid farewell to the franchise after five films, with his final appearance coming in No Time to Die in 2021. Interestingly, Pattinson's casting marks yet another major milestone in his career. From winning hearts as Edward Cullen in the Twilight franchise to portraying Gotham City's masked vigilante in The Batman, the actor is now preparing to take on one of cinema's most celebrated characters. Reacting to the announcement, Pattinson described playing James Bond as "the honour of a lifetime", adding that the opportunity was a dream come true.

What do we know about the next James Bond film? he upcoming film, currently



referred to as Bond 26, will be directed by Dune filmmaker Denis Villeneuve, while Peaky Blinders creator Steven Knight has been roped in to write the screenplay.

Amy Pascal and David Heyman will serve as producers. The film will also mark a new chapter for the franchise following Amazon MGM Studios taking creative control of James Bond in 2025. While an official release date is yet to be announced, the upcoming film is expected to introduce audiences to a fresh interpretation of the British secret agent.

With Pattinson already having played both a vampire and Batman, adding the title of 007 to his filmography is certainly an interesting turn in his Hollywood journey. Now, all eyes are on how the actor will bring his own charm, intensity and style to the legendary character made famous by generations of Hollywood stars.

Getting a chance in this film is God's will: Renu Desai

The pre-release ceremony of Kollywood star hero Dhanush's latest film 'Om' was held at the JRC Convention in Hyderabad. Veteran actress Renu Desai, along with her daughter Aadhya, was a special attraction at the event. Speaking on the stage, she got emotional while sharing her role in the film, shooting experiences and memories of working with her fellow actors.Speaking on the occasion, Renu Desai explained how she came into this project. "I got the call for this film when I was in the darshan of Goddess Kamakhya on the occasion of Mahashivratri in February. Mahashivratri, Kamakhya Kshetram, and then the name of the film 'Om'... all this seemed like a divine plan. Director Rajkumar sir, without meeting me or even doing any look test, chose me for this role with faith. His absence today is a loss, I thank him for his trust," he said.

Talking about her co-stars, Renu Desai said that while the lack of scenes with Sai Pallavi was a bit disappointing, the scenes with Srili were very good. Responding to hero Dhanush, she said, "A special thank you to Dhanush garu for patiently enduring my mistakes when I couldn't speak Tamil properly during the shooting."

She spoke very humbly about working with Malayalam megastar Mammootty. "I thought I had seen everything in life at the age of 45. But I didn't know the real level until I worked with Mammootty sir.



Printed by Published by Owned by Lingala Narender Published at H.No:10-1/-1-1/A, Thrimurthy Colony, Saroor Nagar, Ranga Reddy, Telangana and Printed at Rachakonda Publications H. NO. 5-2-396/P-21, VENKATESHWARA COLONY, SAHEBNAGAR KALAN, RANGA REDDY, TELANGANA- 500035 EDITOR: Lingala Narender, PRGI NO: TGENG/26/A6521, Ph:9010110808