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CM Revanth Reddy seeks Chhattisgarh NOC for Sammakka Sagar Barrage



Hyderabad, Nov 17 (Way to News): Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy sought NOC (No Objection Certificate) for Sammakka barrage from the Chattisgarh Government. CM Revanth Reddy requested Chattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo the issuance of a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the Sammakka Sagar project.

CM Revanth Reddy, accompanied by Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, met with Chhattisgarh CM in Raipur today. During the meeting, Telangana CM briefed his Chattisgarh counterpart on increasing water requirements in view of prevailing drought conditions due to El Nino weather conditions in the state. The Chief Minister requested to grant permission to store water in the Sammakka sagar barrage and sought cooperation in obtaining other pending clearances for the project. Responding to CM Revanth Reddy's plea, Chhattisgarh CM assured that the process for issuing the NOC would be completed expeditiously.

Initially, the Telanganaa government envisaged plans to construct the Sammakka Sagar project at Kantanapalli. It was estimated that 11,408 acres of land would be submerged, affecting 17 Adivasi (tribal) villages and security infrastructure. To minimize submergence, the site for the barrage construction had been shifted to Tupakulagudem. According to a study conducted by IIT Kharagpur, approximately 33 acres of land in Chhattisgarh would be submerged when the water reaches its full reservoir level. Even during the time of heavy flooding, the affected area would not exceed 100 acres.

On the request of Chattisgarh, the Telangana government has already paid Rs 9.883 crore to IIT Kharagpur for the study in April.



Quad to launch Indo-Pacific security set-up

FLAGS BID TO CHANGE STATUS QUO VIA COERCION

New Delhi, Nov 17 (Way to News): The Quad on Tuesday announced a series of new initiatives to strengthen maritime security, secure critical supply chains and deepen cooperation in emerging technologies, while explicitly condemning cross-border terrorism and warning against unilateral attempts to change the status quo through force or coercion in the Indo-Pacific.

At the Quad Leaders' Summit in Manila, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Donald Trump, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi agreed to launch an Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration, enhance cybersecurity cooperation and establish an AI Accelerator to expand access to trusted artificial intelligence across the region. In a joint statement, the four leaders expressed grave concern over "economic coercion", including arbitrary export restrictions, and reiterated their opposition to destabilising actions that undermine regional peace and stability.

"We strongly oppose any destabilising or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo, including by force or coercion," the statement said, without naming any country. The leaders also committed to ensuring open, safe and resilient maritime transit corridors, underlining the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight in the strategically significant Indo-Pacific. The new maritime surveillance initiative will enhance information sharing and maritime domain awareness among the four countries.

As part of the collaboration, their P-8 and P-3C maritime patrol aircraft are scheduled to participate in a joint maritime exercise in 2027—the first such exercise in a Quad context. The leaders also announced enhanced cybersecurity cooperation in response to the rapid increase in the number and scale of cyber incidents in the region.

On artificial intelligence, they reaffirmed the importance of the AI Accelerator, announced by their Foreign Ministers in Atlanta, which will coordinate and fund efforts to support access to trusted AI, its deployment and technical assistance across the Indo-Pacific.

The summit also saw the announcement of the inaugural Quad Business Leaders' Forum, scheduled for early 2027. It will bring together business leaders, government officials and policy experts to promote commercial partnerships and strengthen private-sector ties among the four countries.

The leaders welcomed progress under the Quad Partnership for Cable Connectivity and Resilience, with Australia expanding its contribution to include electricity cables to strengthen regional energy security and connectivity. They also welcomed upcoming undersea cable projects in the Indian Ocean.

Congress and SP defer UP poll talks as seat-sharing formula remains unsettled



NEW DELHI, Nov 17 (Way to News): The Congress and Samajwadi Party have postponed a planned meeting on seat-sharing for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections following discussions between Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav. The two parties are yet to reach an agreement on the number of seats each will contest.

The meeting, which was expected to take place on Tuesday, is now likely to be held between November 23 and 25, according to NDTV. Sources told the news channel that the two leaders discussed a draft seat-sharing formula, but its details have not been made public.

Differences over the allocation of seats remain a key issue. The Congress is reportedly seeking 181 of the state's 403 Assembly constituencies, while the Samajwadi Party is reluctant to concede that number. Both parties have indicated that seat allocation should take into account the winning prospects of candidates.

Uttar Pradesh Congress in-charge Rajendra Pal Gautam said the discussions had begun at the leadership level and that party representatives were working on the proposed formula. He said the two sides would take up individual constituencies before finalising the arrangement.

The postponement comes a day after the Congress formed a five-member committee led by Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to negotiate with the Samajwadi Party. The panel also includes KC Venugopal, Rajendra Pal Gautam, state Congress president Aradhana Misra-Mona and working president Imran Masood.

Both parties have reiterated their commitment to contesting the elections together as part of the INDIA bloc. Akhilesh Yadav had earlier said that formal seat-sharing discussions had not begun, but maintained that the alliance would remain united.

Allahabad HC Grants Interim Bail to Azam Khan Till December 10



Prayagraj, Nov 17 (Way to News): The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday granted interim bail to Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Mohammad Azam Khan till December 10 in the Rs 426 crore money laundering case linked to Mohammad Ali Jauhar University in Rampur. A division bench of Justices Rajiv Gupta and Devendra Singh granted him the interim relief till the next date for listing of the matter. The case is likely to come up for hearing on December 10.

Earlier during the day, the High Court said it would pass an appropriate order on Khan's application seeking interim relief in the Enforcement Directorate (ED) case registered under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The court also gave a week's time to the ED to file a counter-affidavit addressing the broader merits of the case. The High Court heard Khan's appeal over two days before granting interim bail against a personal bond and two sureties of like amount. On November 12, a Special Court (PMLA) in Ghaziabad had sent Khan to ED custody for four days in the money laundering case linked to the university.

Earlier on November 5, the Supreme Court declined to grant immediate relief to Khan in his plea challenging his arrest by the ED in the money laundering case and asked him to approach the Allahabad High Court.

ECI Extends TG SIR Deadline to December 22

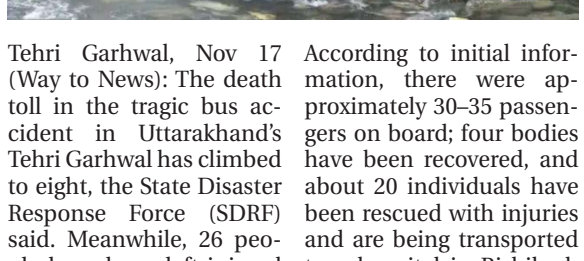


Hyderabad, Nov 17 (Way to News): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has extended the deadline for the disposal of claims and objections under the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Telangana to December 15. The final electoral rolls will now be published on December 22, instead of November 30.

The election body also announced a seperate enumeration of voters categorised under the Absent, Shifted, Dead and Duplicate (ASDD) category. As per the directions issued on Tuesday, November 17, enumeration forms should be generated and printed by November 18. Their distribution and collection will take place between November 18 and 30. Their disposal must be completed by December 10.

Apart from Telangana, the ECI has extended the timelines for six other states and Union Territories (UTs) – Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand, Nagaland and New Delhi.

Uttarakhand bus accident death toll rises to 8



Tehri Garhwal, Nov 17 (Way to News): The death toll in the tragic bus accident in Uttarakhand's Tehri Garhwal has climbed to eight, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) said. Meanwhile, 26 people have been left injured after the bus travelling from Rishikesh to Srinagar with 34 passengers fell into a ravine nearly 100 metres below (about 328 feet and 1 inch) a bridge in Tehri Garhwal on Tuesday.

The information regarding the incident was received at around 5:30 a.m. The accident occurred near the Gular area on the Rishikesh-Badrinath National Highway in the Tehri district. Upon receiving information about the accident, teams from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) posts at Byasi and Dhalwala, along with the police, immediately reached the site and commenced rescue operations. According to initial information, there were approximately 30–35 passengers on board; four bodies have been recovered, and about 20 individuals have been rescued with injuries and are being transported to a hospital in Rishikesh via ambulance.

Given the gravity of the incident, and under the instructions of Commandant Arpan Yaduvanshi, additional SDRF teams have been dispatched to the scene. Police forces are present on-site, and relief and rescue operations are currently underway through the coordinated efforts of the SDRF and the police. Officials said that rescue operations are underway, and further details are awaited. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the loss of life in the tragic bus accident and wished for the speedy recovery of those injured.

AP CM Chandrababu urges Centre to provide funds for cyclone relief



Amaravati, Nov 17 (Way to News): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday urged the Centre to provide immediate financial assistance to the state, which has suffered extensive damage across several sectors, including agriculture, due to two consecutive cyclones.

The Chief Minister met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi and discussed the state's financial situation, the damage caused by the recent cyclones, the Rayalaseema Horticulture Hub, release of Purvodaya funds and region-specific development plans, according to an official release here.

The Chief Minister explained the extensive damage caused by Cyclones Arnab and Murasu, which recently hit the state. According to preliminary estimates, the two cyclones together caused losses exceeding Rs. 7,000 crore.

He briefed the Union Finance Minister on the precautionary measures taken by the State Government ahead of the cyclones and the subsequent relief and restoration efforts.

The Chief Minister said that crops, which were ready for harvest, had been submerged in floodwaters, causing severe losses to farmers. He stated that despite the impact of El Nino, the State Government had ensured irrigation water supply to several areas through the Pattiseema project to support farmers. However, the cyclones had severely affected farmers. The Chief Minister pointed out that coastal infrastructure had suffered extensive damage, with the power distribution network being among the worst affected sectors.

Third US Aircraft Carrier Arrives In Middle East Amid Iran Tensions



Washington, Nov 17 (Way to News): The USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier has arrived in the Middle East, bringing the number of US carrier strike groups in the region to three amid continued tensions with Iran, a US official confirmed.

The carrier arrived in the area of responsibility of the US Central Command on Sunday, according to US media outlets on Monday (local time). It joins the USS George H.W. Bush and the USS George Washington, which have been deployed in the region since April and August, respectively. The US Navy's presence in the Arabian Sea now includes three aircraft carriers, 13 destroyers, two cruisers and a littoral combat ship, reports Xinhua news agency, citing US media reports. The deployment comes as diplomatic efforts between Washington and Tehran remain stalled and US President Donald Trump is considering whether to resume large-scale military strikes against Iran.

On February 28, Israel and the United States launched joint attacks on Tehran and other Iranian cities. Iran responded with waves of missile and drone strikes targeting Israel and US bases and assets in the region, while tightening its control over the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump Will Avoid 'Forever War' In Iran: Vance



Washington, Nov 17 (Way to News) US Vice President J.D. Vance has said that President Donald Trump would not allow the conflict with Iran to become a "forever war", rejecting even a two-year American commitment while defending the President's decision to attack Iran's nuclear programme.

In an interview to Fox News host Laura Ingraham on Monday (local time), Vance expressed confidence that Trump would end the conflict successfully. However, he did not set a specific withdrawal date in the remarks reported by Iran International.

"He is not going to let this become a forever war," Vance said. "We told the American people we would do no more forever wars." Vance defended Trump's stated objective of destroying Iran's nuclear programme, which he described as a threat to the United States. But he rejected a prolonged military commitment. "We are not going to allow this to become a 10- or 15-year commitment, or frankly even a two-year commitment," he said.

Prasad Kumar Promises to Develop Vikarabad on Siddipet Lines

Hyderabad, Nov 17 (Way to News): Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker and Vikarabad MLA Gaddam Prasad Kumar on Tuesday said that Vikarabad town would be developed on the lines of Siddipet, with a focus on roads, infrastructure, education and healthcare.



Speaking at a Cheyutha pension sanction letter distribution programme held at Satyabharathi Function Hall in Vikarabad, organised under the leadership of Vikarabad Town Congress President Artha Sudhakar Reddy, the Speaker distributed pension sanction letters to eligible beneficiaries. Vikarabad Municipal Chairperson Gaddam Ananya also attended the programme. Prasad Kumar said construction of a school at Mekala Gandi in Vikarabad was underway at a cost of 200 crore. He added that the government was giving priority to education and healthcare and was constructing major hospitals at four locations across Greater Hyderabad.

He assured that the Railway Over Bridge (ROB) construction work in Vikarabad would be completed within six months. He also announced plans to construct two more bridges in the constituency with the support of BJP MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy. Stating that development works were being undertaken without political discrimination, the Speaker urged political leaders to offer constructive suggestions instead of making allegations and criticism. He said the government was extending welfare benefits to eligible people irrespective of their political affiliations.

Highlighting the government's welfare initiatives, he said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy would launch the Indiramma Kutumba Jeevitha Bima scheme in Siddipet on November 19. Under the scheme, every eligible family would receive life insurance coverage of 5 lakh, irrespective of caste, religion or income. He praised the Chief Minister for working nearly 18 hours a day to fulfil electoral promises and implement welfare schemes.

He also said the Congress government was implementing all six guarantees despite the financial burden of approximately 8 lakh crore in debt left by the previous government. Prasad Kumar said road development works worth 1,000 crore were already underway in the Vikarabad constituency. He assured that all villages and mandals would receive improved road connectivity and basic infrastructure. He added that CC roads were being laid in several streets across Vikarabad town and promised to transform the town into a beautiful urban centre on the lines of Siddipet.

Criticising the previous government for neglecting farmers and discontinuing subsidies, he said the present government had implemented a farm loan waiver of up to 2 lakh, irrespective of political affiliations.

Four Fake Silver Waraq Units Busted in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Nov 17 (Way to News): The Hyderabad Commissioner's Task Force, along with local police, busted four illegal fake silver waraq manufacturing units in and around Charminar and seized huge quantities of counterfeit silver leaves, aluminium flakes and adulterants. Police registered four cases against the units operating under the names Ittehad Waraq Shop, UTC Silver Leafs, M.A. Metro Waraq Shop and Tara Unit in Charminar, Hussainialam, Mogalpura and Falaknuma areas. During the raids, police seized 49 bundles of fake silver leaves, 10 kg of aluminium flakes, fake silver-coated sugar balls, tobacco, Qiwam, flavoured paan chutneys, maize starch and other adulterants. Machinery, including mixer grinders, packing machines and weighing equipment, was also confiscated.



According to police, the accused allegedly used cheap aluminium instead of genuine silver to manufacture edible waraqs and flakes without valid FSSAI licences. These products were reportedly supplied to sweet shops, bakeries and paan shops across Telangana, where they were used in sweets, cakes and flavoured paan preparations. As per food safety regulations, edible silver leaf must have a minimum silver purity of 99.9 per cent. Police warned that the use of non-food-grade aluminium products could pose health risks to consumers. Four criminal cases were registered under Sections 318(4) and 110 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at the respective police stations. Further investigation and legal action are underway.

The operation was conducted under the supervision of DCP Commissioner's Task Force Gaikwad Vaibhav Raghunath, IPS, led by Inspector N. Ranjith Kumar Goud and his team. Police said the accused allegedly procured aluminium flakes from Uttar Pradesh and increased supplies during peak festival seasons to meet rising demand. Preliminary screening methods, including chemical and rubbing tests, may help identify fake silver waraq, but laboratory analysis is required for conclusive confirmation.

The Task Force urged sweet manufacturers, bakery owners and paan shop operators to verify the quality and authenticity of silver products before purchasing them. Offi Officials cautioned consumers against the use of suspicious decorative silver coatings on food items.

Police said the seized materials would be subjected to further examination to establish their composition and safety risks. Investigators are also probing the supply network to identify other traders and establishments that may have procured the counterfeit silver leaves from the accused units.

1,459 Cheyutha Pensions Sanctioned in Secunderabad Cantonment

Hyderabad, Nov 17 (Way to News): District Collector Dr. Priyanka Ala stated that the revenue department has thoroughly scrutinized all applications submitted under the 'Cheyutha' pension scheme in the district and has ensured that the pensions are provided to all eligible beneficiaries.



At an event held at 'Le Palace, Crown Villa' in Secunderabad—organized for eligible 'Cheyutha' pension beneficiaries from the Tirumalagiri, Marredpally, and Secunderabad mandals—the District Collector, accompanied by local MLA Shri Ganesh, distributed pension sanction documents to the beneficiaries. On this occasion, the Collector remarked that a pension serves as a symbol of self-respect and extended her best wishes to the recipients. Speaking on the occasion, District Collector Dr. Priyanka Ala announced that a total of 1,459 pensions have been sanctioned for eligible individuals—comprising widows, persons with disabilities, and single women—across the Tirumalagiri, Marredpally, and Secunderabad mandals within the Secunderabad Cantonment area. She noted that the scrutiny of remaining applications is currently underway, and those found eligible will be granted pensions in the next phase. She commended the revenue officials for their diligent verification process in selecting the beneficiaries. Emphasizing that the government places the highest priority on providing support to those in need, she stated that the selection process was conducted with complete transparency and urged the beneficiaries to make the best use of the financial assistance provided by the government. In response to a request from the local legislator to keep the online application process open for other eligible individuals, the Collector assured that the matter would be considered.

Speaking on the same occasion, Cantonment Legislator Sri Ganesh stated that the people-centric government, led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, is implementing welfare schemes with the primary objective of providing social security to the deserving poor. He observed the joy on the faces of the beneficiaries receiving the pensions, noting that they expressed great happiness, describing the day as a festive occasion for them. It was noted that the foundation for the pension system was laid by the Congress government as early as 1967—a fact underscored by the receipt of pensions during the Congress administration even 13 years ago—with the aim of providing financial security to the elderly, widows, and persons with disabilities facing economic hardship. These schemes have since been implemented across the country. A pension is not merely financial assistance; it is a symbol of self-respect and security. The government places a high priority on the empowerment of women and the welfare of families.

Srihari Distributes 455 Cheyutha Pension Sanctions



Amarchinta, Nov 17 (Way to News): Telangana Minister for Sports, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries and Youth Services, Vakiti Srihari, said the Congress government was committed to extending welfare schemes to every eligible poor person, irrespective of political affiliation, caste or religion.

The Minister distributed sanction letters for 455 newly approved Cheyutha pensions in Amarchinta Mandal. He also distributed cheques under the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes to eligible beneficiaries. Speaking on the occasion, Srihari criticised the previous government, alleging that no new pensions or houses had been sanctioned for the poor during its tenure. He said the Congress government was ensuring that all eligible beneficiaries received welfare benefits without discrimination.

The Minister said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was giving top priority to women's empowerment through several initiatives. These include free bus travel, interest-free loans and opportunities for women to operate petrol bunks and RTC rental buses. He said cheques under the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes were being handed over directly to women beneficiaries.

Srihari said the Chief Minister's vision was to transform one crore women in Telangana into financially empowered and prosperous individuals. He added that women's self-help groups could obtain bank loans of up to 20 lakh upon request.

He urged women to stay informed, speak fearlessly and counter misinformation with facts.

Referring to the possibility of drought conditions due to the El Niño effect, the Minister appealed to people to use water carefully and advised farmers to give priority to short-duration crops requiring less water.

He said the government was continuing to distribute six kilograms of fine rice every month through ration shops, even amid concerns over drought conditions. Highlighting rural development, Srihari said the Congress government had been making significant efforts to improve rural road connectivity in the Makthal constituency.

Rangareddy Collector Inaugurates Health Camp at IDOC

Rangareddy, Nov 17 (Way to News): With the objective of raising health awareness among the public, detecting diseases at an early stage, and ensuring timely access to quality medical treatment, a health camp was organized on Monday at the Integrated District Offices Complex under the aegis of the Medical and Health Department. District Collector C. Narayana Reddy inaugurated the camp.



The health camp, conducted in collaboration with Continental Hospitals, provided medical services o both beneficiaries of the Employees' Health Scheme (EHS) and the general public. During the camp, experienced medical specialists from Continental Hospitals conducted check-ups in the fields of Cardiology, General Medicine, and Gynecology, while also providing necessary health advice and guidance to those who required it.

HC issues guidelines on opening and renewal of rowdy sheets

Hyderabad, Nov 17 (Way to News): The Telangana High Court has issued a set of guidelines regulating how police open, continue and close rowdy sheets, making it clear that simply having a rowdy sheet against a person does not give police the right to repeatedly summon them to the police station, restrict their movement or harass them. It observed that police surveillance is meant to prevent crime and maintain public order, not to punish or humiliate a person.



It clarified that maintaining a rowdy sheet alone cannot be a reason for repeatedly calling someone to a police station, forcing them to attend, restricting their movement, interfering with their work or publicly humiliating them. Any such action must have a separate legal basis and follow the procedure prescribed by law. However, the court clarified that these guidelines do not prevent police from exercising their lawful powers to prevent crime. Rules towards rowdy sheeters Hearing both sides' arguments, the Telangana High Court has laid down the following guidelines for the state police.

Verification of Eligibility: The Station House Officer (SHO) would be required to independently verify whether an individual falls under Standing Order 601 by the police. Mere registration of first FIRs (first information reports) or isolated criminal cases cannot justify opening a rowdy sheet. Reasoned Proposals: The SHO must submit detailed proposals specifying the applicable category, case outcomes, and material establishing 'habituality' and the necessity for surveillance. Independent Approval: Senior officers must not mechanically approve SHO recommendations. They must record specific reasons for authorising the opening of a rowdy sheet.

Comprehensive Review: Before renewal, the SHO must undertake a fresh assessment, specifically recording if the individual has been an accused in any case in the preceding five years, the date of the last crime, and material indicating if victims are unwilling to complain.

Kadiyam Kavya Distributes Cheyutha Pension Sanction Orders

Warangal, Nov 17 (Way to News): MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavya has said that the Congress government is committed to extending welfare schemes to every eligible beneficiary, irrespective of electoral considerations. She said the government was fulfilling its promises one by one while giving equal priority to public welfare and development. Empowering women economically and socially and ensuring their participation in all sectors is a key objective of Indiramma Rajyam, she added.



Dr. Kadiyam Kavya, along with Wardhannapet MLA K.R. Nagaraju, attended the distribution programme of newly sanctioned Cheyutha pensions at Nandanam FSCS Function Hall in Ainutolu mandal of Wardhannapet constituency on Tuesday. The MP participated as the chief guest and handed over pension sanction orders to beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Kavya said that while around 40 lakh people had previously been receiving pensions, the present government was extending the benefit to a wider range of eligible sections, including widows, persons with disabilities, single women, toddy tappers, handloom workers and thalassemia patients. The State government was spending approximately Rs.12,000 crore annually on pensions, she said. She expressed satisfaction that around 1,400 new pensions had been sanctioned in Wardhannapet and Ainutolu mandals and Wardhannapet Municipality. Highlighting the government's initiatives for women's empowerment, the MP said the Mahalakshmi scheme had provided free bus travel for women, while women's self-help groups were being encouraged to become owners of RTC buses. Through bus operations, these groups were earning approximately Rs.70,000 per month in rental income, she said. The government had set a target of extending Rs.1 lakh crore in bank-linked loans to women's self-help groups over five years. Of this, around Rs.75,000 crore had already been extended over the past three years, enabling women to establish businesses and small-scale industries. She said women's groups were also being entrusted with the management of solar power plants, petrol pumps, rice mills and IKP centres to promote financial independence. Providing subsidies for agricultural equipment in the names of women was another step towards strengthening their economic position, she added.

Dr. Kavya said that while poor families had spent years waiting for double-bedroom houses under the previous government, the Congress government had sanctioned around eight lakh Indiramma houses across the State in two phases since coming to power. The government was spending Rs.40,000 crore on the housing programme, she said.

IICA Signs MoU with ARC Association to Strengthen Insolvency Programme

Hyderabad, Nov 17 (Way to News): The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Association of ARCs in India. The Association is the representative body of Asset Reconstruction Companies registered with the Reserve Bank of India. The MoU was signed under the august presence of Shri Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh. Director General & CEO, IICA, by Shri Amrinder Puri, Chief Administrative Officer, IICA and Shri Hari Hara Mishra, Chief Executive Officer, Association of ARCs in India.



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

Delivering the keynote address on the occasion, Shri Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh, DG &CEO IICA informed the role of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) in the insolvency resolution ecosystem, including their eligibility and participation as resolution applicants under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). He highlighted that the significant development in the evolution of ARCs came on 11 October 2022, when the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), following the recommendations of the Sudarshan Sen Committee.

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Quad Summit Eyes Practical Indo-Pacific Cooperation

Manila, Nov 17 (Way to News): The outcomes of the Quad Leaders' Summit in Manila demonstrate the breadth of the Quad agenda and are focused on delivering tangible public goods for the people in the Indo-Pacific, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said. Briefing the media on the summit, Misri said, "The outcomes that I have just mentioned demonstrate the breadth of the Quad agenda. They are focused as always on delivering tangible public goods for people in the Indo-Pacific. They address issues related to resilience, diversification, connectivity and capacity building."



The Foreign Secretary said that the first exercise under the newly announced Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration will be conducted on the sidelines of Exercise Sea Dragon in Guam in March 2027. According to Misri, the initiative will take forward the existing cooperation between the Quad countries on maritime domain awareness and address shared challenges such as illegal fishing and trafficking.

All Indian Seafarers Safe After LPG Tanker Comes Under Missile Attack

New Delhi, Nov 17 (Way to News): Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal on Tuesday confirmed that all 24 Indian seafarers aboard Panama-flagged LPG tanker TARA GAS were safe after the vessel came under a missile attack in the Strait of Hormuz. In a post on X, Sonowal said that the tanker was targeted on Monday and all 25 crew members were safe with none of them sustaining any injuries.

He said that the situation was being closely monitored, with the Indian authorities in touch with the ship management company to ensure the safety and well-being of the seafarers.



"On Nov 16, Panama-flagged LPG tanker TARA GAS, carrying 24 Indian seafarers, was targeted in a missile attack in the Strait of Hormuz. All 24 Indian nationals, along with the entire 25-member crew, are completely safe with no injuries. We are continuously monitoring the situation and remain in close contact with the ship management company to ensure the ongoing security and wellbeing of our seafarers," the Union Minister stated.

The latest incident comes days after another vessel carrying Indian seafarers was struck by a projectile in the Persian Gulf. Last week, Sonowal said that a Liberia-flagged Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) MT FUJAIRAH ENERGY was hit by a projectile while transiting the Persian Gulf, leaving four crew members injured, including one Indian national. Sharing the details in a post on X, Sonowal said that the vessel was carrying six Indian seafarers when it came under attack on November 10.

He added that the injured Indian seafarer had suffered minor injuries and was safely taken ashore for further medical examination, while the remaining 18 crew members, including the other five Indian seafarers, were safe. "On Nov 10, Liberia-flagged VLCC MT FUJAIRAH ENERGY, carrying 6 Indian seafarers, was hit by a projectile while transiting the Persian Gulf from Al Ruwais to Dubai. Four crew members sustained injuries in the attack, including one Indian national, who suffered minor injuries and has been safely taken ashore for further medical examination. The remaining 18 crew members, including the other 5 Indian seafarers, are safe and accounted for," the Union Minister stated.

"We are continuously monitoring the situation and remain in close contact with the ship management company to ensure the ongoing security, medical care and wellbeing of our seafarers," he added.

Hardeep Singh Puri Takes Oath as RS Member

New Delhi, Nov 17 (Way to News): Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan on Tuesday administered oath in the Parliament House to re-elected member Hardeep Singh Puri, representing the state of Madhya Pradesh.



Mansukh Mandaviya, Lok Sabha member and Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and Union Minister of Labour and Employment; Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Union Minister of Panchayati Raj and Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; and Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Law and Justice, and Minister of State of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs were present during the oath-taking. Earlier, Puri was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh on November 5 after the nomination papers of two independent candidates were rejected during scrutiny, leaving him as the sole candidate in the by-election. The by-election was necessitated by the resignation of Minister of State L. Murugan, who vacated the Rajya Sabha seat after being elected to the Lok Sabha from Tamil Nadu. His Rajya Sabha term was scheduled to end on April 2, 2030. Puri's election followed the rejection of nomination papers filed by two independent candidates, Rajkumar Lohani and Kante Sayanna, during scrutiny. With no other valid candidate remaining in the contest, Puri was declared elected unopposed.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had announced Puri's candidature on October 28. Puri filed his nomination papers on October 31 in the presence of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, Deputy Chief Ministers Rajendra Shukla and Jagdish Devda, State BJP President Hemant Khandelwal and other party leaders. The election certificate was received on Puri's behalf by Khandelwal from Returning Officer Umesh Kumar Sharma at the Madhya Pradesh Assembly in Bhopal. A former Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, Puri has served as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and held several important diplomatic assignments during his career.

He entered the Rajya Sabha in 2018 and subsequently joined the Union Council of Ministers. He has held portfolios, including Housing and Urban Affairs and Civil Aviation before taking charge of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry in 2021. Puri's election comes at a time when the BJP enjoys a comfortable majority in the 230-member Madhya Pradesh Assembly, which elects members to the Rajya Sabha from the state.

Bhupender Yadav Calls for Stronger India-SIDS Partnership on Coastal Resilience

Antalya, Nov 17 (Way to News):Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav on Tuesday called for strengthening India's partnership with Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to build resilient coasts and oceans through knowledge-sharing, technology partnerships and practical cooperation.



Addressing the high-level ministerial event on 'India–SIDS Partnership for Resilient Coasts and Oceans: Sharing Knowledge, Technology and Solutions' at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP31) that entered its final week in Turkey's Mediterranean resort city, the minister emphasised that healthy oceans and resilient coastlines are fundamental to economic security, ecological stability and people's well-being.

The event was organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in partnership with the International Solar Alliance (ISA). It saw ministerial-level participation from the island nations of Mauritius, Rajesh Anand Bhagwan; Tokaibure Rabaua from Kiribati; and Jess Gasper from the Marshall Islands, besides senior officials from Fiji, TERI and ISA.

Highlighting the growing challenges of sea-level rise, coastal erosion, ocean warming, coral bleaching, stronger storms and marine pollution, Yadav said these are immediate concerns for island nations, affecting homes, infrastructure, livelihoods and, in some cases, the long-term habitability of their territories.

Guided by the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, India "believes that environmental protection and development must advance together, with climate resilience centred on people, livelihoods and ecosystems", he said. Sharing India's experience in coastal resilience, the minister highlighted the country's approximately 11,099-km coastline and its efforts in scientific assessment, ecosystem conservation, shoreline management and disaster preparedness.

Maharashtra NCP Legislators Donate One Month's Salary for Drought-Hit Farmers

Mumbai, Nov 17 (Way to News): The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) legislators in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council on Tuesday donated one month's salary to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to support drought-hit farmers in the state. The legislators, led by NCP National President and Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar, handed over the cheques to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis during the state cabinet meeting at Mantralaya.



"Standing firmly with farmers during times of crisis and ensuring they receive the necessary assistance is the true lesson imparted by late Ajit Pawar," the legislators said in the press release.

Carrying forward his legacy and ideology, sharing hardships of farmers and contributing to resolving their difficulties is a collective responsibility, they said, adding that the party remains committed to safeguarding the interests of the farming community.

Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar, veteran party leader and Food and Civil Supplies Minister Chhagan Bhujbal, Medical Education Minister Hasan Mushrif, Co-operation Minister Babasaheb Patil, Food and Drug Administration Minister Narhari Zirwal, Agriculture Minister Dattatray Bharne and Women, Child Development Minister Aditi Tatkare and senior legislator Shivajirao Garje were among those present. Earlier, in response to emerging drought and severe water scarcity conditions across the state, the Maharashtra government issued a comprehensive statement on a series of Government Resolutions (GRs), circulars, and directives from October 5 through November 6. The state administration has decentralised administrative powers, fast-tracked water and soil conservation projects, prioritised fodder availability for livestock. , and set up district and taluka-level coordination committees. The government has already declared drought in 304 talukas due to a deficit of rain. The Taluka-level Chief Minister's Relief Fund cells and coordination committees are being established to manage public health services effectively in drought-hit regions.

For water conservation and infrastructure development, the administrative deadlines for works under the District Annual Plan (General) for 2026-27 have been extended, allowing administrative sanctions up to November 30. The Chief Secretary's directives empower local secretaries and District Collectors to expedite technical sanctions. Under the MLA Local Area Development (LAD) program, District Collectors are authorised to sanction drought and water-scarcity works up to Rs 25 lakh per project in rural and urban areas. Members of Parliament (MPs) have also been requested to recommend priority works under the MP LAD programme.

In 304 talukas facing Trigger-1 and Trigger-2 conditions, soil and water conservation works including deepening and widening streams, building farm ponds, constructing recharge shafts, installing check dam gates, and creating rainwater harvesting structures are be-

Om Birla Hopes for 33% Women's Reservation in Parliament, Assemblies



Bengaluru, Nov 17 (Way to News): Expressing hope that the country would move forward in implementing 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies under the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said on Tuesday that women's leadership should be strengthened across all democratic institutions, from panchayats to Parliament. Addressing the inaugural session of the first Conference of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP)'s India Region at the Vidhana Soudha Banquet Hall here, he added that women were no longer merely participants but were taking leading roles in all fields of society, including policy-making and legislation. Birla said several states had already provided 33 per cent or 50 per cent reservation for women in panchayats and local bodies.

He expressed hope that the implementation of the 33 per cent reservation in Parliament and State Assemblies would take the country forward in ensuring women's leadership at every level of democracy. Greater women's participation in democratic institutions, policy formulation and law-making would make governance more empowered and effective, Birla said, adding that women worked with sensitivity and responsibility, making democracy more responsive. Describing Karnataka as a land with a rich cultural and democratic heritage, the Lok Sabha Speaker said that Bengaluru had earned global recognition.

as India's technology capital through its contribution to IT, artificial intelligence and research. He welcomed the delegates and noted that representatives from around 150 countries had arrived in the city for the Bengaluru Tech Summit. Congratulating D. Purandeswari for organising the conference, Birla recalled that its first edition was held in Tirupati and said the second was being hosted in Bengaluru.

He thanked Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar for organising the event and inviting dignitaries from across the country.

Recalling Karnataka's democratic legacy, he cited the 12th-century Anubhava Mantapa associated with Bhagwan Basaveshwara as an example of democratic values, debate and women's participation.

He also recalled the contribution of Kittur Rani Chennamma to the freedom struggle. Birla said women had made significant contributions to India's progress in education, science, technology, research, industry, sports, politics, agriculture and the armed forces.

Highlighting the growing role of technology, he called for greater use of artificial intelligence and digital platforms to help women representatives interact with citizens, address public grievances and improve accountability.

He also stressed the need to train elected representatives at all levels in the effective use of technology.

He urged women legislators to mentor emerging leaders and share their experiences and best practices. Such efforts, he said, would strengthen women's leadership and ensure that the benefits of technology reached the last woman in society. Birla added that India was called the mother of democracy because democratic values, discussions and women's participation had existed in the country even before Independence.

Recalling the contribution of women to the freedom struggle, he cited Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi, who led the struggle in 1857, and Kittur Rani Chennamma of Karnataka. He said that women had contributed to every section of society through their sensitivity, creativity and leadership.

Delhi HC Gives Kejriwal, Sisodia 3 Weeks to Reply in Contempt Case

New Delhi, Nov 17 (Way to News): The Delhi High Court on Tuesday granted a final opportunity to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Convenor Arvind Kejriwal, former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and other party leaders to file their replies in criminal contempt proceedings initiated over alleged attempts to scandalise the Judiciary in connection with the excise policy case.



A Division Bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Arun Bharadwaj made it clear that the alleged contemnors must file their responses within three weeks, failing which their right to file replies would be closed.

"We will not give you further time. You are taking us for a ride. We have a report from the registry that compliance of the court's order to serve the record of the case on the alleged contemnors has been done. Now you file your replies, otherwise, we will close your right," the Delhi High Court remarked. During the hearing, counsel appearing for the AAP leaders said that the High Court's directions regarding supply of the relevant material had not been fully complied with and that certain documents were yet to be provided.

However, the Justice Chawla-led bench said that it had received a report from the registry confirming compliance with its earlier order. It added that if any material had not been supplied, the alleged contemnors could raise the issue in their respective replies.

The matter will now be heard after three weeks, with the next hearing scheduled for January 2027.

TN Raises Monsoon Relief for Salt Workers to Rs 7,000

Chennai, Nov 17 (Way to News):Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay has ordered an increase in the annual monsoon relief provided to salt workers' families from Rs 5,000 to Rs 7,000, benefiting 23,979 families during the 2026-27 financial year. The State government will bear an expenditure of Rs 16.78 crore towards implementing the scheme this year, according to an official statement. The enhanced assistance is intended to protect the livelihoods of workers unable to engage in salt production during the rainy season.

The increase of Rs 2,000 per family represents a 40 per cent rise over the existing relief amount. The assistance will be extended to eligible salt workers' families registered with the Tamil Nadu Manual Labourers' Social Security and Welfare Board. According to the statement, the decision fulfils a longstanding demand of salt workers and forms part of the government's "Vettri Tamil Nadu Vision" initiative, under which measures are being implemented to improve their livelihoods.

The government order follows an announcement made by the Industries Minister on August 25, 2026, during the discussion on demands for grants for the Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce Department. During the discussion, the Minister announced that the annual monsoon assistance paid to salt workers' families would be increased from Rs 5,000 to Rs 7,000. The latest order gives effect to that commitment and provides for the enhanced payment.

Editorial

India's Economic Resilience

The news that India has become the world's sixth-largest economy, with a nominal GDP of USD 3.92 trillion for 2025-26, as per the IMF's World Economic Outlook, deserves to be read not merely as a statistical milestone but as a testament to deeper economic resilience. That a nation of 150 crore people, many of whom remain first-generation beneficiaries of economic reform, continues to record one of the fastest growth rates globally is no small achievement. It is, in fact, a story of policy continuity, institutional maturity and an enormous domestic market that has, time and again, cushioned India against the worst of global shocks.

Consider the road already travelled. The Covid-19 pandemic caused a severe disruption to the global economy, leading to supply chain breakdowns, production halts, and the immediate loss of livelihoods. India, with its vast and often vulnerable population, could easily have suffered a prolonged setback. Instead, through a combination of fiscal prudence, targeted stimulus and an ambitious vaccination drive, the economy not only recovered but accelerated. This was followed by successive waves of global uncertainty-rising inflation, aggressive monetary tightening by Western central banks, and geopolitical flashpoints-none of which managed to derail India's growth trajectory in any lasting sense. That consistency is the real story behind the headline ranking.

Much of this resilience can be attributed to the size and depth of India's consumer market. Unlike smaller, trade-dependent economies that are entirely at the mercy of external demand, India's growth is substantially driven by domestic consumption. This insulates the economy, to a meaningful degree, from the vagaries of international trade cycles. When export markets falter, India's own citizens-an ever-expanding middle class with rising purchasing power-continue to sustain demand for goods and services. This is not to suggest immunity but a genuine buffer that few economies of comparable scale possess.

That said, complacency would be a grave error, and there is little evidence that either the Government or the Reserve Bank of India is inclined towards it. The ongoing West Asia conflict and the depreciation of the rupee against the dollar have already begun to weigh on India's relative standing. Rising crude oil prices, driven by conflict and the spectre of sea lane blockades, have pushed up the country's petrol and diesel import bill considerably-a persistent vulnerability given India's continued dependence on imported energy. Alongside these issues, a decline in FDI inflows and a widening import-export imbalance are causes for genuine concern, not dismissal.

Encouragingly, the data suggests that policymakers are neither blind to these pressures nor passive in response. The steady decline in gross non-performing assets of public sector banks, with the GNPA ratio falling from 3.47 per cent to 1.93 per cent-demonstrates that the banking sector, once the Achilles' heel of Indian economic policy, has been substantially strengthened. The Government's stated strategy-strengthening manufacturing through production-linked incentive schemes, easing quality control orders, supporting MSMEs, expanding infrastructure through PM Gati Shakti, and pushing forward on trade agreements-reflects an understanding that growth cannot rest on consumption alone. Renewed emphasis on Make in India, the IT sector, start-ups, agriculture and industrial production is precisely where the next phase of expansion must be anchored, particularly as global energy

Bureaucratic reforms that have changed the way India functions

Dr Jitendra Singh



There is a phrase the British left behind, almost as an afterthought, when they packed up and sailed home in 1947: the 'steel frame'. That is what they called the Indian Civil Service, the administrative skeleton on which the Raj hung its authority. Steel does not bend easily, and that was the point. It was built to hold an empire steady, not to listen to the people it governed. For decades after Independence, we inherited that frame, gave it a new name, dressed it in khadi and told ourselves it was now our own. But a frame built to control is not automatically a frame built to serve. And for the first many decades of our republic, India kept living inside the architecture of its coloniser, filing the same forms in triplicate, standing in the same queues before the same raised platforms, waiting for a 'saheb' to decide its fate.

I have spent much of my own working life inside this frame, first as a citizen and as a professional, then as someone entrusted with the charge of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions in the Government of India, the department whose very job is to examine the steel and ask what needs to be reforged. So, when I am asked whether India has reformed its bureaucracy, my answer is neither the defensiveness of someone protecting an institution, nor the cynicism of someone who has given up on it. It is the answer of someone who has watched, quite literally from the inside, 12 years of quiet but determined re-engineering of a system that had not been meaningfully touched since independence, and may have remained untouched even now if Narendra Modi, known for his path-breaking thinking, had not taken over as the 15th prime minister of India.

Consider where we began. In 2014, a citizen's grievance to the central government took, on average, 157 days to be resolved, if it was resolved at all. Filing it meant navigating a system with barely ten thousand grievance officers spread across the country, most of them unreachable, all of them unaccountable to any real deadline. A young man queuing outside a government office for a job, a widow chasing her husband's pension file, a farmer wanting to know why his crop-insurance claim had vanished into some ministry's cupboard, all of them met the same wall: a system designed to make citizens wait, and officials who could shrug without consequence. This was not merely inefficiency. It was the last living relic of an administration built to be feared rather than accessed.

The comparison with today is not a matter of opinion; it is written into the numbers. That 157-day grievance disposal time has fallen to 15 days. The number of grievances the system handles has grown nearly ninefold, from about three lakh a year to nearly 27 lakh and the number of officers empowered to redress them has grown more than tenfold, to over a lakh. In March this year alone, the Central Secretariat crossed the one-lakh-grievances-redressed mark for the 45th month running. We built the Centralised Public Grievances Redress and Moni¬toring System (CPGRAMS), into a platform that now speaks in 22 languages, reads a citizen's complaint using artificial intelligence to route it to the right desk, and even lets a farmer in a remote hamlet lodge a complaint by voice, in their own tongue, through a chatbot we named, quite deliberately, Samadhan Didi, "The sister who brings solutions". A villager who once needed to travel to a district offi¬ce and hope for the best can now do this from a Common Service Centre (CSC) in his own panchayat, and the 20th of every month is set aside as a CSC-CPGRAMS day precisely so that this promise reaches the last mile. or the first many decades of our republic, India kept living inside the architecture of its coloniser, filing the same forms in triplicate, waiting for a 'saheb' to decide its fate. But the deeper change, the one I consider the true reform of the steel frame, is not digital plumbing. It is a change in the philosophy of how we build our civil servants in the first place. For 70 years, the government ran on what could be called a 'rule-based' culture: an official was judged by whether he had followed the correct procedure, not by whether he had solved the citizen's problem.

In 2020, we launched Mission Karmayogi, the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building, precisely to shift this to a 'role-based' culture, where an officer is trained and evaluated according to what her job actually demands of her, not according to which colonial-era rulebook she can quote. Today, over 1.65-crore government employees.

Vande Mataram: A Timeless Invocation of Patriotism

Vijay Hashia



Vande means "I bow to," or "I salute"; Mataram means "the Mother." Together, the phrase does not merely describe an emotion; it transforms that emotion into an invocation. To utter it is to perform an act of reverence, the way a child touches a parent's feet, or a devotee's genuflection before a deity. It is not merely a statement about the motherland; it is an invocation addressed to the motherland, as a living presence, a sacred inheritance, and a reality far greater than a mere geographical expanse. Land as mother, not land as territory. A territory is measured in kilometers, defended by borders, governed by law. A mother is not measured by any means at all; she is the condition from which measurement becomes possible. She gives before she is asked to, and she is owed a debt that can never be repaid, but only honoured. To call one's homeland "mother" is to say that one's very existence, language, memory, the shape of one's thought, was formed inside her, the way a child is formed inside a womb. In a much deeper reflection, patriotism transcends mere political allegiance to the institutions or obedience to its administrative machinery. It is a more primordial bond, a filial love rooted with the soil, memory, culture, and collective civilization that precedes the State itself. It is less an ideology than an awakening, recognition of a belonging that lies deeper than the divisions and dichotomies imposed upon it.

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's, this song emerged in 1870s, and was later incorporated into his novel Anadamath published in 1882. The novel was set against the background of the late eighteenth century Bengal famine and the Sanyasi-Fakir resistance. Within the novel, the song is placed in the mouths of the Santans, ascetic revolutionaries who renounce ordinary attachments and dedicate themselves to the liberation of the motherland. Thus, from its literary sense, the mother invoked in Vande Mataram was more than geographical territory; she became an object of sacrifice, devotion and collective awakening.

For over two decades (1875-1896), the words remained within the realm of literature. Then, in 1896, Rabindranath Tagore sang Vande Mataram at the Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress A literary invocation thereby entered the public arena, and what had lived upon the page began to acquire a political life of its own.

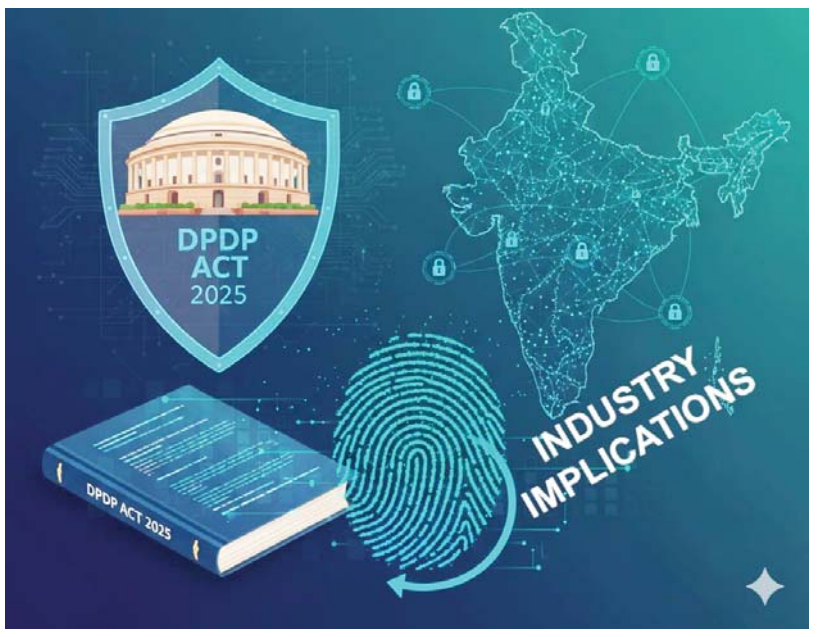
Vande Mataram was first raised as a political slogan on 7 August 1905, during the movement against the partition of Bengal, and the moment the British Empire first recognized its power that could transform sentiment into effective collective action. Over the following decades, it became the pulse beneath the freedom movement, chanted in processions, scrawled on banners, whispered in prison cells. In far-off Karnataka's Gulbarga region in 1948, freedom leaders led marches chanting the phrase against the Nizam's rule, facing violent repression for it and it demonstrated a proof that the mother invoked was not confined to Bengal, nor even to a territory but the whole independent India, the idea capacious enough to be claimed anywhere Indians longed for self-rule.

On the morning of 15 August 1947, Pandit Omkarnath Thakur broadcast the tune over All India Radio at 6:30 a.m., marking the dawn of India's first Independence Day and the voice is a practice ever since. Every 15th August, invites a false dichotomy: to place Vande Mataram and Jana Gana Mana on opposite sides, as though national devotion were a contest in which one must claim victory and the other surrender its place. But the historical record offers a quieter philosophically honest answer than precedence. When the Constituent Assembly took up the matter in 1950, Dr. Rajendra Prasad declared that the song, which had played a historical part in India's struggle freedom, would be honoured equally with Jana Gana Mana and would hold equal status with it. Jana Gana Mana was adopted as the National Anthem; Vande Mataram, as the National Song, neither above the other, but standing together as two dialects of the same devotion. One the formal oath of the state, spoken in the voice of institutions; the other intimate hymn of the people's memory, spoken in the voice of the heart that remembers what the state was built to protect. That was until January 2026, the Ministry of Home Affairs introduced a new ceremonial protocol that whenever, both were performed together, Vande Mataram was to precede Jana Gana Mana. The question of 'which one comes first' had, for the first time, moved from the realm of rhetoric into the realm of official protocol."

Another change that took place was much deeper in reflection and meaning. That, after seventy five years (1950-2025) of its partial opening of two stanzas use, 150th anniversary observance marks a new beginning, the song as a practice, will be sung in full. The deeper lesson is that a mother does ask her children to love her in only one way. Vande Mataram speaks to the nation as motherland of soil, memory, sacrifice and civilization, while the Jana Gana Mana speaks of the nation as a constitutional and sovereign community.

DPDP Rules Need Stronger Privacy Safeguards

Asheef Iqubbal



Sixteen months after the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act was enacted in August 2023, the much-awaited DPDP rules were published in January this year. Following this, the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) conducted stakeholder consultations on the draft rules.

The draft rules outline the implementation timeline for India's data protection regime, beginning with the establishment of the Data Protection Board of India (DPBI) as the enforcement authority under the DPDPA. The board will be constituted upon the official notification of the rules in the Official Gazette after the public consultation is concluded.

However, the exact timeline remains unclear. While the draft rules are a welcome step, certain provisions require further discussion and refinement before finalisation to ensure the framework effectively serves businesses, the state and users without unintended consequences. The proposed framework aims to balance innovation with individual rights but contains vulnerabilities, including ambiguous notice and consent mechanisms and broad government powers that could compromise privacy. The concept of "informed consent" remains contentious in India, where digital literacy is low and the process to obtain it remains ambiguous. While Draft Rules 3 sets standards for consent notices, their delivery methods are left to data fiduciaries' (the entity processing the data) discretion, raising concerns that users may not fully understand what they are consenting to. The framework assumes data principals – or the person whose data is being processed – can read and make informed decisions, despite evidence showing that most users skip privacy policies due to their length.

Clear process for obtaining consent is essential for effective data protection. Additionally, data fiduciaries should adopt privacy labels, similar to nutrition and energy labels, after testing their effectiveness in a controlled environment. The regulator should also mandate prominently displayed "most important terms and conditions', as seen in RBI's digital lending guidelines. In the electricity sector, India's star labels approach helps consumers choose energy-efficient appliances; similarly, privacy labels could help users identify privacy-protecting services.

Data fiduciaries should disclose the specific purpose, good or service provided, or use enabled by each data item collected. This transparency allows data principals to clearly understand the link between their personal data and its intended use, facilitating informed, data-item-specific consent. It will help in preventing "take-it-or-leave-it" services, ensuring individuals are not compelled into consenting to excessive data collection. Service providers should also offer basic services using only the necessary information from data principals, collecting additional data only for optional features. Currently, the consent mechanism functions in an all-or-nothing fashion, forcing data principals to either share all requested data or be denied access entirely. This lack of choice was also observed in a CUTS' study, 'My Data or Yours? Unravelling Multi-Party Privacy among Consumers of Digital Credit in India'. The study noted that people believe permission should be obtained before sharing co-owned data, but practical constraints often become a challenge. A key issue is app design, applications lack mechanisms for seeking consent before sharing contacts or co-owned data.

Under Rule 4, specific provisions outline the role of consent managers in enabling users to provide, manage, review and revoke consent for the processing of their personal data by data fiduciaries. Companies meeting certain criteria can apply to become consent managers, requiring registration with the DPBI and compliance with technical, operational, and financial standards. However, as a relatively new framework in global data protection mandates, its efficiency remains untested. Meanwhile, a publicly accessible registry of approved consent managers should be maintained, allowing data principals to verify legitimate providers. It should include service details, compliance status and regular updates. A trust mark, developed by the DPBI in consultation with stakeholders, should be displayed to ensure legitimacy and prevent fraud. Further, the rules rightfully prohibit consent managers from having conflicts of interest with data fiduciaries but fail to adequately define such conflicts in Part B of the schedule. This ambiguity allows multiple interpretations, potentially compromising their independence. Clear definitions and examples are needed to ensure consistent enforcement and maintain the integrity of the consent management system.

Consent managers should also disclose mechanisms to prevent conflicts of interest, making this information publicly available on their website, in policies, and through regular updates to data principals, especially when a new fiduciary is engaged.

Government Must Engage Gen Z, Not Lecture Them

Mrinal Pande



Like the cockroaches the Gen Z roaches are a comic, tragic and sturdy generation evolving with minimal equipment. With their smart phones they generated memes, placards, little videos on YouTube, some of which seemed pure genius. Smart phones in 2026 thanks to them have emerged as a new Gandhian instrument for mass mobilisation. How can anyone be hurt by songs and dances and rippling laughter that goes viral globally at the press of a button? Even the police and bystanders are nonplussed. In stark comparison to these unkempt but merry and excited gang the blow dried, carefully attired anchors in NOIDA appeared as pawns in a propaganda contest in which the cockroaches were clearly winning.

In his seminal work On the Evolution of Species, Charles Darwin describes how organisms evolve over generations through a process of 'natural selection', which alters inherited physical or behavioural traits in various species for their survival. This conclusion, mind you, was voiced in 1859, way before the theory and technology for capturing genetic mutation arrived. This sophisticated technology later brought forth data to support Darwinian observations.

Ironically, the Chief Justice of India was right when he expressed a certain horror at the hordes of India's young jobless taking to streets like bands of cockroaches. Cockroaches belong to a certain ancient species of roachoids who, for over 3 million years, have survived waves of mass extinction of mega life forms like dinosaurs, numerous wars and even nuclear challenges. How did they do it you may ask.

First, they have made sure they appear to be nothing, but are everything and without them nothing will be anything because they are Mother Nature's scavengers for surviving with minimal resources and cleaning all sorts of messes. Their key traits are flat oval bodies, tough outer shells and rapid reproduction. They have also developed mouths that can detect threats as they chew. For example they will not eat sugar coated stuff including pesticides that kill lesser species. With this toolkit, cockroaches easily drifted across continents starting with Asia and finally transitioned into an indoor species dependent for their survival on humans around 2100 years ago Germany. Over the past four centuries an increase in trade-based capitalism helped cockroaches hitchhike and become a global phenomena.

The cockroaches of the CJP have revealed the same tenacity in surviving the full onslaught of the government's might against their dharna (protest). They showed, not just to India but the world, New Delhi for what it is: a city scared of roaches that have spawned and grown in the last decade. Watching the strikes against it – 'surgical', 'cathartic ' or tactical – the general impression was that the cockroaches as a species of young jobless humans were not easy to waive, crush and finish.

Whether you were physically present at Jantar Mantar or like this writer, out of the country at that point in time, the images reached you. We saw the cockroaches having a good time laughing at the system as institutes, foundations, committees and a dozen new and old ministerial offices along Kartavya Path sat hunched over their TV screens and phones feeling miserable. What we all outside the cockroach area experienced can only be described as an addictive fascination about the terrible glamour of these gender inclusive hordes, their capacity to thrive on squalor, profanity and lathi charges, often with vital water and food blocked from reaching them.

Like the cockroaches the Gen Z roaches are a comic, tragic and sturdy generation evolving with minimal equipment. With their smart phones they generated memes, placards, little videos on YouTube, some of which seemed pure genius. Smart phones in 2026 thanks to them have emerged as a new Gandhian instrument for mass mobilisation. How can anyone be hurt by songs and dances and rippling laughter that goes viral globally at the press of a button? Even the police and bystanders are nonplussed. In stark comparison to these unkempt but merry and excited gang the blow dried, carefully attired anchors in NOIDA appeared as pawns in a propaganda contest in which the cockroaches were clearly winning.

If pre-2014 history of our democracy is a nightmare from which India is trying to awake, then the last 12 years can be seen as a blackout when the midnight's children, and their children, parents to the millennials, were dumbed down by the media and barred from every conceivable fora for public debate.

The Indian public, for the last decade, has been fed a diet of information through government-controlled digital technology. This, like a rancid milk stored in temperature-controlled rooms, helped them past the Covid years. But as the nation emerged in daylight after two years, there were 'DO NOT ENTER' signs once again hanging outside airless governmental buildings – re-designed, bigger, uglier and more guarded against independent media and citizens who still thought the laws worked.

Boomer politicians and several superannuated but re-employed Boomers, who were so sure of their Superman-like powers over all species within the land, now see a new phenomena – a mass of Gen Z standing outside, demanding to be let in and talked to properly, not talked at or ordered. They are what they are. But please remember their capacity for devouring and surviving the foulest words from party spokies, booming police threats over megaphones and old-style semantic verticals released at the stroke of midnight when boomers and millennials are asleep.

The answer to a predicament of this size needs to be at least the size of the predicament. It needs congruence. After ages, it has to be a debate about children, not parents or grand parents' misdeeds. Betrayed by their previous generations, our children, like cockroaches, have reworked their own subspecies and are working in self defence. The state needs to take deep breaths, wipe its glasses and stare into their eyes for once and hear their side of the story in their own language.

"If you ask me to name one species or organism I respect the most," says Chow Yang Lee, eminent entomologist at the University of California, quoted by the National Geographic, "it is probably the cockroach."

Demolitions Have No Place in Counter-Insurgency

Ali Ahmed



Thus far it was not uncommon for encounter sites in disturbed areas to be reduced to rubble. If houses cave-in or burn down during firefights, such as by the employment of rocket launchers, it is understandable. Preserving human life supersedes considerations of material damage, but with the principles of humanitarian law – proportionality and discrimination – kept in mind. Whereas the AFSPA provides a permissive cover for post-operations action – destroying a 'shelter' or 'hide-out' – the army must recall that the AFSPA was conjured up in the face of the troubles in Nagaland's jungles. Even that deployment set-off with the army chief's Special Order calling for respect for human rights. It has since been transplanted

Media reports the army has recently demolished two houses purportedly belonging to alleged perpetrators of the terror attack resulting in the death of a policeman on Amarnath yatra-securing duty in Kashmir. This is not the first time the army has deployed its resources to such effect in aid to civil authorities. The last time was in the wake of the dastardly terror attack at the Baisaran meadow, when ten Kashmiri houses allegedly linked with terrorists were demolished. Three months later it turned out that the three Pakistani terrorists killed in Operation Mahadev were the perpetrators of that terror attack.

At the operational level, if the intent is retributive, clearly, the demolitions in wake of Baisaran were patently excessive, if not wholly arbitrary. Given that demolitions continue, the deterrent effect appears to be somewhat meager. At best useful for venting, such actions appear to have a political rationale. Answering terror attacks with demolitions threatens to acquire policy imprimatur. Such insertion into the Indian counter insurgency play-book needs to be examined and, if called for, shot down timely.

Doing so is important, since there is now a negative two-way street between Kashmir and rest of India. Not only is there Kashmirisation of India, such as the recent letting-off of a pellet gun and a Kalashnikov on street protestors, but practices in the mainland – as demolitions – have been imported into Kashmir. At the tactical level, the army is perhaps lending its combat engineer assets in an area – demolitions – where policing expertise is noticeably deficient. The amateur manner the confiscated explosive material in the Delhi blast case was handled after it was shifted to Kashmir shows the police requires a helping hand with explosives. However, the police's expertise on demolishing without use of explosives is considerable. The use of explosives appears to be an egregious turn to the knife.

At the operational level, the army may believe that such collaboration shows cooperation between security forces. The underside of blind collaboration is that potentially all get tarred with the same brush. An uncalled-for bonhomie also leads up to mutual back-scratching, a force degrader.

At the strategic level, if the army is itself persuaded on the desirability of the tactic – that controlled explosions demolishing civilian property deters – then it needs to be disabused speedily. The demolition of houses is most closely and long associated with the Israelis. Having truck with Israelis can only be at the cost of strategic autonomy and avoidable mimesis.

From the genocide in Gaza and the ongoing ethnic cleansing in West Bank, it is clear Zionists do not see Palestinians as fellow humans. Further, Israel is an occupying power in Occupied Palestinian Territory with its obligations in international law disregarded with impunity. Taking Israel as model for anything by a democratic polity as India is fraught.

Consequently, the incidence of an Israeli tactic – demolitions – in India must raise eyebrows, if not hackles. Given that counter insurgency in India is instead incident on Indian territory inhabited by Indian communities, an uncritical borrowing of military practices must remain unthinkable. To the extent demolitions have an Indian inspiration – taking cue for the bulldozer action in the Indian hinterland in right-wing governed provinces – the army must surely know that the Supreme Court has ruled against such arbitrary 'justice.' If and since bull-dozers have come to signify a political position, the army cannot lend its sappers in Kashmir for tasks plausibly linked to a political plank.

Thus far it was not uncommon for encounter sites in disturbed areas to be reduced to rubble. If houses cave-in or burn down during firefights, such as by the employment of rocket launchers, it is understandable. Preserving human life supersedes considerations of material damage, but with the principles of humanitarian law – proportionality and discrimination – kept in mind. Whereas the AFSPA provides a permissive cover for post-operations action – destroying a 'shelter' or 'hide-out' – the army must recall that the AFSPA was conjured up in the face of the troubles in Nagaland's jungles. Even that deployment set-off with the army chief's Special Order calling for respect for human rights. It has since been transplanted almost verbatim to Kashmir (and elsewhere momentarily to Punjab). By no means can the interpretation of what is permissible make post-facto destruction of housing – even if encounter sites – legal or reasonable. With the termination of an encounter, encounter sites cease to be military objectives, lapsing the rationale of military necessity.

Premeditated destruction unrelated to military necessity amounts to war crimes (para 8b): civilians and civilian objects enjoy protections unless found to be in direct participation in conflict. Belligerent reprisals are prohibited.

Nevertheless, customary international law on collective punishments and human rights laws (right to due process) apply. To be sure, India is not a signatory to the additional protocol on internal armed conflict and no internal security situation in India has thus far been recognised as crossing the threshold into conflict. Even so, the domestic law corpus is enough to put the demolitions policy through the legal grinder.

The argument behind demolitions is that the property targeted are 'proceeds of crimes' or built without authorisation. In Kashmir, it a means to address the political economy of terror, divesting vested interests and over ground workers of resources and habitat to fund terror. Clearly, the AFSPA does not empower the army to demolish any property with such a consideration. Supporting the civil administration acting through the police can of course be done but without a blank cheque.

Recall the Supreme Court directions were six months prior to the Pahalgam incident. The alacrity with which both instances of demolitions mentioned have occurred – within five days of the Pahalgam terror attack and within a day of the recent terror incident in Anantnag – shows up the state as a flailing actor. Alongside, the last time 2,500 were detained while this time's figure is close. The demolitions are increasingly a pavlovian response, intended as signal to a partisan constituency on the muscularity of the state.

Wary of this, the army's operational leadership that is beholden to its members must ensure no illegal orders are handed down. It would be too much to expect sappers in an operational environment receiving orders in good faith to push-back.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Shivraj Singh Chouhan Launches Nationwide 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan'

New Delhi, Nov 17 (Way to News): Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan today formally launched the nationwide 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' from the historic town of Taraori in Haryana's Karnal district. During an interactive Kisan Chaupal organised as part of the campaign, he engaged directly with farmers and stressed that serving the farming community was his highest duty. Shri Chouhan reiterated that, under the leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, protecting the dignity, honour and self-respect of farmers and farming remained a top priority for the Central Government. Haryana Agriculture Minister Shri Shyam Singh Rana, local legislators, senior agricultural scientists from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), and a large number of progressive farmers attended the programme. Opening the interaction, Shri Chouhan said he regarded himself not as a leader holding a high office but as a servant of farmers and a committed farmer himself. "This turban symbolises the honour and self-respect of farmers, and I will never allow it to be lowered. The need of the hour is to bring modern practices and traditional wisdom together in a way that protects our soil while improving farmers' incomes," he said.

Expressing concern over excessive use of chemical fertilisers, Shri Chouhan clarified that the objective of the Khet Bachao Abhiyan was not to oppose fertilisers indiscriminately but to promote their balanced and scientific use. Explaining the consequences of excessive application, he said that just as taking calcium supplements without a medical need could harm the body, applying chemical fertilisers unnecessarily was damaging soil fertility. He urged farmers to move away from competitive and imitative practices in fertiliser use. "If Ramlal applies four bags of fertiliser, Shyamlal should not feel compelled to apply four and a half bags. Farmers must break free from this tendency to imitate others. First, assess the soil through the Soil Health Card and then provide balanced nutrition according to its actual requirements," he said. Such an approach would help reduce cultivation costs while protecting soil health for future generations, he added.

Addressing farmers' concerns about natural farming, Shri Chouhan shared his personal experience of cultivating vegetables, fruits and other crops on his own farm, where he also practises natural farming. He emphasised that natural farming could deliver good results when undertaken using scientifically appropriate methods. The correct proportions and timely application of Jeevamrit, Ghanjeevamrit and Beejamrit were important to its success, he said. Shri Chouhan encouraged farmers with landholdings of three to five acres to begin by adopting natural farming on just one acre and learning the complete process before expanding it to the rest of their land. Once farmers witnessed the benefits themselves, he said, others would be encouraged to follow the practice. He stressed that natural farming should not be dismissed as an unviable proposition, adding that farmers could benefit when they adopted the practice properly.



Farmers raised questions during the Chaupal about the conservation of indigenous cattle breeds, the market value of their milk and advanced breeding technologies that increase the likelihood of producing female calves through sex-sorted semen. The issues were discussed in the presence of agricultural scientists. It was conveyed that the government was working to validate such technologies more widely and make them accessible to farmers at affordable rates. The discussion also highlighted the need to secure better market prices for milk from indigenous cows and the role of cow dung and cow urine in natural farming.

Shri Chouhan praised Haryana's farmers for their increased awareness of crop residue management and the reported sharp decline in stubble-burning incidents in the state this year. Recalling the smog and smoke that often characterised this period in previous years, he said farmers in Haryana had demonstrated how the adoption of crop residue management practices and technologies such as Super Seeders could help protect the environment. He described the efforts as an example for the rest of the country, crediting the collective commitment of farmers, the public and the government for the progress.

The Kisan Chaupal at Taraori served as a platform for farmers to raise issues arising from their day-to-day agricultural practices and discuss scientific solutions directly with the minister and agricultural experts. Shri Chouhan assured farmers that the Agriculture Ministry would act on their suggestions and requirements and take concrete steps to address their concerns.

Registration Portal for Fifth Kashi Tamil Sangamam Launched

New Delhi, Nov 17 (Way to News): Union Minister for Education, Shri Pralhad Joshi, today launched the registration portal for the fifth edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS 5.0) scheduled to be held from 28 November to 12 December 2026. The programme will celebrate, reaffirm and strengthen the age-old civilizational bonds between Tamil Nadu and Kashi, the two ancient seats of learning, strengthening the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.



Speaking at the Launch, Shri Pralhad Joshi said that since ancient times, the country has had a strong cultural unity. He noted that many people visited Kashi and Rameswaram as part of their religious traditions, reflecting the deep-rooted cultural bonds between the northern and southern parts of India. He stated that the Programme would bring together students, teachers, writers, professionals, agriculturalists, artists, women and spiritual scholars. He also highlighted that educational outreach initiatives would be carried out in higher education institutions to familiarise students with the objectives of Kashi Tamil Sangamam. The Union Minister reiterated that Kashi Tamil Sangamam played an important role in strengthening national unity and celebrating India's shared civilisational heritage.

The first Kashi Tamil Sangamam was held in 2022 and over the last four editions, it facilitated meaningful exchanges of knowledge, language, traditions and lived experiences between the two regions. The Event is organized by the Department of Higher Education, Union Ministry of Education, in collaboration with IIT Madras; Banaras Hindu University (BHU); Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Chennai; Uttar Pradesh Government and Central Govt Departments/Ministries of Culture, Railways, School Education, Tourism, Textiles, Food Processing Industries, Information & Broadcasting, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, etc. The theme of KTS 5.0 is "Thirukkural Payilvom – Thirukkural Abhyas Karen". The fifth edition seeks to bring the timeless ethical and moral wisdom of the classical Tamil text Thirukkural closer to the youth and learners across the country. Through educational engagement, multilingual resources and wider public outreach, the programme seeks to encourage reading, understanding and application of universal values as enshrined in the text, in everyday life. As part of the Programme, around 1,400 participants from Tamil Nadu, organized into seven groups of around 200 persons each, will undertake an eight-day journey comprising four days of travel and four days of visits and structured programmes. The itinerary will include Varanasi, Prayagraj and Ayodhya, featuring cultural, academic, domain-specific and spiritual engagements. The emphasis on youth participation will enable a new generation to engage meaningfully with India's classical knowledge traditions and carry their values into contemporary academic, professional and social life. Interested applicants may register through the official portal at https://kashitamil.iitm.ac.in/ hosted by IIT Madras with effect from October 22, 2026. The Portal will accept applications till November 13, 2026 under seven categories: (i) Students, (ii) Teachers, (iii) Writers and Media Professionals, (iv) Agriculture.

Amazon To Invest $7 Billion In India Renewable Energy By 2030, Unveils 4 New Projects



New Delhi, Nov 17 (Way to News): Amazon on Tuesday announced plans to invest an additional $7 billion in renewable energy projects in India by 2030, expanding its clean energy footprint in one of its fastest-growing markets.

The company has unveiled four new utility-scale renewable energy projects with a combined capacity of 934 megawatts (MW).

These projects include a 234 MW wind project in Karnataka which Amazon described as its largest wind energy project in Asia to date, a 200 MW hybrid wind-solar facility in Karnataka, a 300 MW solar project in Madhya Pradesh and a 200 MW solar installation in Rajasthan.

The projects are being developed through long-term power purchase agreements and will lift Amazon's contracted renewable energy capacity in India to more than 2 gigawatts (GW) once fully operational.

According to the company, the projects will generate enough electricity annually to meet the needs of more than 3.5 million Indian households.

In addition, the fresh investment comes on top of about $4 billion already committed to renewable energy projects in India.

However, the company recently set a goal of reducing the carbon intensity of electricity used across its operations by 65 per cent by 2030 compared with 2019 levels as part of its target of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2040.

"Our renewable energy investments in India reflect years of sustained collaboration and underline our long-term commitment to supporting India's clean energy ambitions," said Kara Hurst, Amazon's Chief Sustainability Officer.

Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi welcomed the announcement, saying such investments strengthen India's energy security, support sustainable economic growth and demonstrate global investor confidence in the country's renewable energy sector.

Moreover, Amazon currently operates 57 renewable energy projects in India, including 14 utility-scale wind and solar facilities and 43 rooftop solar installations across its operations.

Apart from its green energy push, Amazon highlighted progress in water conservation and sustainable packaging initiatives in India, including achieving water-positive status in 2025 and increasing the use of reduced packaging for customer deliveries.

Bhopal to Host Fisheries Investors and Exporters Conclave 2026

New Delhi, Nov 17 (Way to News): The Department of Fisheries, Government of Madhya Pradesh and the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAHD), Government of India (GoI) are organising Fisheries Investors & Exporters Conclave 2026 to be held on 23 October 2026 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The Conclave aims to strengthen linkages between inland fisheries production and investment, processing, cold-chain infrastructure, value addition and export markets. It seeks to encourage a shift from a predominantly production-oriented approach towards an integrated value-chain model, with a focus on improving market access and returns for fishermen and fish farmers.



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

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

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

The Conclave assumes significance in the context of India's expanding fisheries sector and its growing contribution to food security, livelihoods and export earnings. India's fish production reached 197.75 lakh tonnes in 2024–25, of which 151.60 lakh tonnes came from inland fisheries, accounting for nearly three-fourths of the country's total fish production. India's seafood exports were valued at 73,890 crore in 2025–26. These figures highlight the importance of strengthening infrastructure, processing capabilities and market linkages to realise the potential of inland fisheries.

'Where Is Accountability?': Passengers Slam SpiceJet After Flight Cancellation

New Delhi, Nov 17 (Way to News): Several passengers travelling from Bagdogra to Ahmedabad were left stranded after a SpiceJet flight was reportedly delayed multiple times before being cancelled, forcing travellers to make expensive last-minute travel arrangements and seek accommodation on their own. The disruption triggered frustration among passengers, with some alleging that alternative flight tickets were available only at sharply higher fares, significantly increasing their travel costs.



According to passengers, around 50 to 70 people were affected by the cancellation. One of the affected travellers, Kajal Mohta, took to Instagram to criticise the airline's handling of the situation and questioned the lack of support provided to stranded passengers.

She said the flight, originally scheduled to depart at 6 a.m., was first delayed to 8 a.m. and then further postponed to 10 a.m. before being cancelled altogether. "Our Bagdogra to Ahmedabad flight kept getting delayed (6–8, then 8–10) and was eventually CANCELLED," she stated. "Now 50–70 passengers are stranded in a small town, figuring out hotels and spending over Rs 1 lakh collectively on unexpected expenses. This is our hard-earned money, time and peace of mind. Where is the accountability?" Mohta noted. Describing the experience as "absolutely pathetic service," Mohta said passengers were left scrambling for alternatives after the cancellation.

She alleged that many travellers were being forced to pay substantially higher fares on other airlines to reach Ahmedabad. In her social media post, Mohta said the incident had cost passengers not only money but also valuable time and peace of mind. She questioned the airline's accountability and sought guidance from other users on how to pursue refunds, compensation and formal complaints with government .

Rupee Gains 31 Paise Against US Dollar Amid Falling Crude Oil Prices

New Delhi, Nov 17 (Way to News): The Indian rupee traded 31 paise higher in early deals against the US dollar on Tuesday amid a fall in crude oil prices and strong foreign fund inflows. The domestic currency opened at 93.72 against the greenback and gained further ground to touch 93.62 in early trade.



On Monday, the rupee had appreciated by 25 paise to close at 93.94 against the US dollar. According to currency experts, the rupee is set to trade with a positive bias on easing inflation concerns amid softening crude oil prices and strength in the domestic markets. FII inflows and easing concerns over large-scale attacks between the US and Iran may also support the rupee. However, strength in the dollar and a surge in US Treasury yields may cap sharp upside, the experts said. Meanwhile, the dollar index — which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies — was at 103.50, higher by 0.04 per cent. The analysts highlighted that the US Dollar Index climbed above 103.5 on Tuesday, reaching its highest level since April 2025, as strong October inflation and hawkish Federal Reserve commentary supported the greenback.

Cleveland Fed President Beth Hammack favoured gradual interest rate increases but acknowledged that larger hikes may be necessary if inflation intensifies. Markets currently assign more than a 95 per cent probability to a 25-basis-point December increase, with remaining odds suggesting a potential 50-basis-point hike, according to them. Brent crude — the global oil benchmark — was trading 0.75 per cent lower at $91.75 per barrel in futures trade. According to experts, crude oil prices have extended their sharp downward slide, driven primarily by growing fears of a global supply surplus, with the International Energy Agency projecting a Q4 surplus of roughly.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Five IPL Trophies, Uncountable Memories; Chennai's Favourite 'Thala Dhoni' Retires From IPL

Chennai, Nov 17 (Way to News): MS Dhoni won't be seen donning the yellows on the field, with the bat in his hand and behind the wickets with those gloves, as Chennai's favourite son moves on from the player role to the Team Mentor of the Super Kings from 2027 onwards. A career spanning 19 years in the Indian cash-rich league, bagging five IPL trophies, two Champions League titles and giving countless memories to the fans. Not just CSK spectators; fans cheering any franchise had a special liking for the man from Ranchi. Jerseys were often switched to yellow for him, and fans have flocked to the stadiums in huge numbers just to catch a glimpse of Dhoni, just to see him bat for a couple of balls.

The chants of "Dhoni, Dhoni" have been customary whenever he came out to bat. Voices hitting the stratosphere, the stadium going into a frenzy in yellow. The sight that will still be there whenever Dhoni is shown on screens, this time only preparing plans against opponents.

Dhoni, 45, has had a limited presence on the field in the last few seasons and did not play a single game in 2026 while nursing a knee issue. Prior to that, he had already curbed his batting time and positioned himself as a few-ball hitter. Dhoni hangs up his boots as a five-time IPL-winning captain and a seven-time trophy-winner, along with the CLT20 titles he won with the franchise. The five titles stand level with Rohit Sharma, but he leads in total crowns, having won one CLT20. Dhoni was roped in by CSK at the IPL 2008 auction for 1.5 million USD. He captained some of the legends of the game, including Michael Hussey, Stephen Fleming, Muttiah Muralitharan and Matthew Hayden during his early days at CSK.



Dhoni guided the Super Kings to five IPL titles, leading the franchise to wins in 2010, 2011, 2018, 2021 and 2023. He was the first captain to defend an IPL title after winning back-to-back seasons in 2010 and 2011.

Later, when the Super Kings returned from a two-year ban and Dhoni came back after two seasons with the now-defunct Rising Pune Supergiant, he led what was called a 'Dad's army' to the 2018 title, with several veteran players in the side against youngsters in the tournament.

The Super Kings reiterated their dominance in 2021 by winning their fourth title under Dhoni and then bagged their fifth one in 2023 after defeating the Gujarat Titans in an absolute thriller. The last few seasons did not go as per plan, with CSK falling behind the new-age cricket, but Dhoni remained at the centre of CSK's heart. He bids adieu after playing in 278 IPL matches, out of which 248 were for CSK. He has scored 5439 runs in the IPL, of which 4865 were for CSK, the most of any player. Additionally, he played 24 CLT20 matches for CSK, scoring 449 more runs, bringing his CSK total (IPL and CLT20) to 5314 across 272 matches.

Dhoni's move into a mentoring role marks the end of an iconic chapter in the IPL, but his association with Chennai Super Kings will continue. His experience, leadership and understanding of the game are expected to remain valuable assets as the franchise prepares for the 2027 season and beyond.

Throughout his career, Dhoni earned a reputation for remaining calm under pressure, making bold tactical decisions and backing young talent. His ability to guide players and bring out the best in his teammates made him one of the most influential captains in the history of the IPL.

For millions of fans, however, the transition will be emotional. The sight of Dhoni walking out to bat in the yellow jersey may become a memory, but his legacy at CSK, built on trophies, leadership and an unmatched connection with supporters, will continue to define the franchise for years to come.

SAFF Championship: Mandi's Late Goal Seals India's Comeback Win And Historic Title Hat-Trick

Dhaka, Nov 17 (Way to News): Suhail Ahmed Bhat and Sandip Mandi scored a goal each as India came back from a goal deficit to prevail 2-1 over Pakistan in the final of the SAFF Championship and completed a hat-trick of titles at the National Stadium in Dhaka on Tuesday. Mandi's header bounced off the turf, climbed beyond Yousuf Butt in the Pakistan goal and nestled in the top corner; with two minutes of regulation time remaining, India had found the moment that would turn a troubled evening into a historic one. The defender's 88th-minute winner completed a dramatic 2-1 comeback victory for India over 10-man Pakistan, securing a record-extending 10th SAFF Championship crown.



Naushad Moosa's side was in deep trouble, stretched, unsettled and eventually breached by Alamgir Ghazi's curling finish in first-half stoppage time. With Pakistan leading 1-0 approaching the hour-mark, the Blue Tigers were under a lot of pressure.

But Junaid Shah's dismissal following a VAR review changed the course of the final, Suhail Ahmad Bhat restored parity, and Mandi supplied the decisive blow just as extra time loomed. For Pakistan, appearing in their first SAFF Championship final, it was a painful ending to a contest they had controlled for much of the opening half.

Moosa retained the starting XI that had beaten Bhutan in the semifinals, but India struggled to find cohesion in the first half. Bhat offered an early threat, almost intercepting a back pass before firing over after cutting inside from the left.

Pakistan attacked with pace and width, finding space to deliver into the Indian penalty area. Arsh Anwer Shaikh was drawn towards the edge of his box in the 17th minute, and Muhammad Ali Khan's attempt towards the exposed goal required a covering intervention.

Moments later, McKeal Abdullah met a cross with an acrobatic flick from close range, only for Shaikh to react sharply and keep it out. The Indian goalkeeper remained busy as Pakistan continued to threaten, producing another important save during a spell in which India struggled to escape their own half.

The cooling break offered Moosa's men some respite. India began to retain possession more effectively, and Butt was forced into a sharp save to his right by a fierce effort from the edge of the area. Yet the improvement was brief, and Pakistan's pressure eventually brought its reward.

IPL 2027: Ganguly Confident Of Turning Around Delhi Capitals' Fortunes As They Retain 16 Players

New Delhi, Nov 17 (Way to News): With Delhi Capitals retaining many experienced players to form the core of its squad, coach Sourav Ganguly welcomed the return of former captain Rishabh Pant and expressed confidence that they will be able to turn their fortunes around in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2027.



Perpetual underperformers, Delhi Capitals on Tuesday retained 16 players ahead of the IPL 2027 season, expressing faith in a core group that features several established Indian names, including team captain Axar Patel, leading Indian batter KL Rahul, wicketkeeper-batter and former captain of the team Rishabh Pant, who returned to the franchise in June this year, and opener Prithvi Shaw. The franchise also retained its international experience through the likes of David Miller, Kyle Jamieson, Lungi Ngidi and Tristan Stubbs.

The group is further strengthened by a promising group of young talent, including Sameer Rizvi, Ashutosh Sharma, Madhav Tiwari, Vipraj Nigam, Auqib Nabi, Mukesh Kumar, Tripurana Vijay and Zeeshan Ansari, giving the franchise a blend of experience and emerging talent as it looks ahead to the new season. Talking about the thought process behind the retentions and releases, coach Ganguly told JioStar, "It's a mix of everything – performances over the last few years, what the franchise believes it needs for the next two years, who the franchise values, and who it believes is good enough to win cricket matches in the IPL." "It's great to have Rishabh Pant back at Delhi Capitals. He is a quality player. I'm confident about turning the franchise's fortunes around," Ganguly was quoted as saying by JioStar.

Highlighting captain Axar Patel's importance to the squad, Ganguly told JioStar, "Axar is irreplaceable in Delhi Capitals. Yes, there had been people asking, but we have also gone and asked for players who we knew wouldn't get released. That's simply how things work during an IPL trade window. However, when it came to both Axar and Ashutosh, the answer was an outright no. They are integral to our team."

Speaking about the young players the team has invested in, Ganguly added, "Sameer Rizvi is a young player to watch. His game has been improving, and Ashutosh Sharma is another player we bank on a lot.

Gurnoor Brar Reprimanded For Code Of Conduct Breach, Handed One Demerit Point

Dubai, Nov 17 (Way to News): India fast bowler Gurnoor Brar has been reprimanded for breaching level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the fourth ODI of the five-match series against New Zealand.



"Brar was found to have breached Article 2.5 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to 'using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon his/her dismissal during an International Match,'" ICC said in a media release.

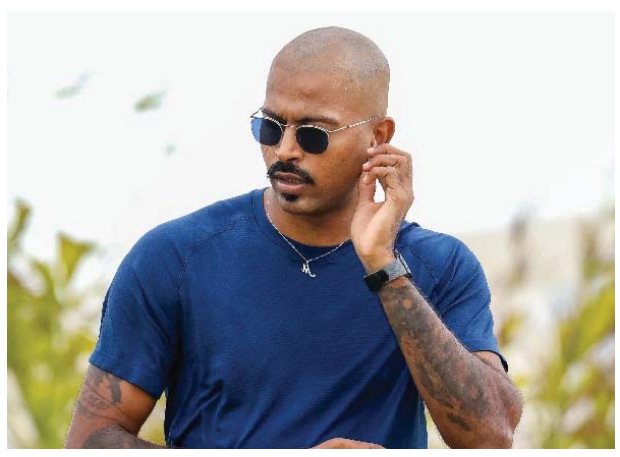
Additionally, the speedster has also been handed a demerit point for his aggressive celebration after dismissing Tim Seifert during the fourth match, which India lost by 244 runs in Mount Maunganui on Friday. "As this was his second offence within a 24-month period, his accumulated total now stands at two demerit points," the ICC added.

Meanwhile, the incident occurred in the 12th over, when he dismissed Seifert and celebrated aggressively. Virat Kohli stepped in to calm things, but Brar was already in Seifert's face.

"Brar admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Ranjan Madugalle of the Emirates ICC International Panel of Match Referees, eliminating the need for a formal hearing.

'It's Always A Big Blessing To Talk To Him,' Says Suryansh Shedge On Hardik Pandya Joining PBKS

New Delhi, Nov 17 (Way to News): Suryansh Shedge was recovering from a minor quadriceps injury at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) in August-September when he first picked Hardik Pandya's brains. Now the seam-bowling all-rounder will be sharing a dressing room with the two-time T20 World Cup winner, and Shedge said the chance to learn from the premier all-rounder is something he does not take lightly.



As previously reported by IANS, Pandya officially joined Punjab Kings (PBKS) through a trade deal on November 11 ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2027, at a revised fee of Rs 18 crore, up from the Rs 16.35 crore he earned while leading Mumbai Indians (MI) from 2024 to 2026. PBKS will be his third IPL team, after MI and Gujarat Titans (GT).

"So, obviously, at CoE, the staff there, the coaches, the physios, the trainers, everyone wanted me to come back quickly because there was an A series (against Australia A) coming up (in October). Secondly, obviously, being around someone who has played for so many years for India and is in that position where you want to be, and he is doing what you want to do for the country, is a special experience." "It's always a big blessing to talk to him, pick his brains, and I spent quite a bit of time with him. We spoke about bowling technique quite a bit. We sorted a few things out and then obviously the mentality as a bowler and as a batter. I think the kind of insights and the kind of enthusiasm he shows while talking to you, you are bound to learn something from the conversation," Shedge, who will turn out for India A in the upcoming Rising Stars Men's Asia Cup in Doha, told IANS in an exclusive conversation.

Pandya began his IPL career with MI in 2015. He moved to Gujarat Titans (GT) when the competition expanded to ten teams in 2022 and captained them for two seasons, including a title win in their debut year, before returning to MI ahead of IPL 2024. He has lifted the trophy five times, four of them with MI and one with GT.

Mumbai's results under his captaincy since 2024 have been uneven. They finished last in the points table in that year, qualified for the playoffs the next season, and ended up in ninth place in 2026. Across 39 matches with Pandya in charge, they won 15 games and lost 24 matches. The duo also turned out together in a practice game, and Shedge recalled how it unfolded. "So, I think having people like that around really helps, especially when you are bowling or batting with him, which I did. You are visually learning, and you are constantly learning from everything that is coming out of his mouth.

IPL 2027: All Ten Teams' Retained Players List, Slots Available Details Ahead Of Mini-Auction

New Delhi, Nov 17 (Way to News): All 10 Indian Premier League (IPL) franchises have announced their lists of retained players ahead of the 2027 mini-auction, with star names such as Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sanju Samson, Rishabh Pant, Ravindra Jadeja and Jasprit Bumrah continuing with their respective teams. With the retention lists finalised, the franchises will now turn their attention to the mini-auction, with 66 squad places, including 25 overseas slots, available across the 10 teams. Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) will enter the auction with the biggest remaining purse of Rs 47.45 crore, followed by Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) with Rs 41.65 crore and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) with Rs 40.15 crore.



Chennai Super Kings (CSK) have retained 19 players, including captain Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sanju Samson, Dewald Brevis, Shivam Dube, Sarfaraz Khan, Ayush Mhatre, Liam Livingstone, Noor Ahmad, Rahul Chahar, Jamie Overton and Mukesh Choudhary. Ramakrishna Ghosh, Kartik Sharma, Jack Edwards, Akeal Hosein, Anshul Kamboj, Gurjapneet Singh, Shreyas Gopal and Urvil Patel complete the list. With Rs 28.05 crore remaining, CSK have six slots to fill, including two overseas positions.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have retained 20 players, with former India captain Virat Kohli leading the list alongside Rajat Patidar, Phil Salt, Devdutt Padikkal, Tim David, Venkatesh Iyer, Jordan Cox, Josh Hazlewood, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Krunal Pandya and Jitesh Sharma. The other retained players are Kanishk Chouhan, Rashikh Dar, Yash Dayal, Jacob Duffy, Vicky Ostwal, Suyash Sharma, Abhinandan Singh, Nuwan Thushara and Romario Shepherd. RCB have Rs 14.15 crore remaining for five slots, with one reserved for an overseas player.

Mumbai Indians (MI) have retained 16 players, including former captains Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav, along with star batter Tilak Varma and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah. Naman Dhir, Will Jacks, Sherfane Rutherford, Ashwani Kumar, Raghu Sharma, Raj Bawa, Corbin Bosch, Shardul Thakur, Arshdeep Singh, Mitchell Santner, Quinton de Kock and Ryan Rickelton are the other players in the squad. Mumbai have Rs 32.60 crore left to fill nine slots, including two overseas positions.

Delhi Capitals (DC) have retained 17 players, with KL Rahul, David Miller, Axar Patel, Tristan Stubbs and Nitish Rana among the prominent names. Delhi's squad is also bolstered with wicketkeeper-batter and former captain of the team Rishabh Pant, who returned to the franchise in June this year. Sameer Rizvi, Ashutosh Sharma, Prithvi Shaw, Madhav Tiwari, Zeeshan Ansari, Kyle Jamieson, Mukesh Kumar, Auqib Nabi, Lungi Ngidi, Vipraj Nigam and Tripurana Vijay are the other retained players. Delhi have Rs 39.50 crore remaining and nine slots to fill, including four overseas positions.

Gujarat Titans (GT) have retained 22 players, including captain Shubman Gill, Jos Buttler, Sai Sudharsan, Glenn Phillips, Rashid Khan, Kagiso Rabada, Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna. Tom Banton, Nishant Sindhu, Rahul Tewatia, Arshad Khan, Gurnoor Brar, Sai Kishore, Ashok Sharma, Manav Suthar, Luke Wood, Jason Holder, Washington Sundar, Jayant Yadav, Kumar Kushagra and Anuj Rawat complete their retained group. Gujarat have the smallest purse among the franchises, with Rs 8.75 crore available for three slots, including two overseas players. Kolkata night Riders (KKR) have retained 17 players, including Rinku Singh, Cameron Green, Finn Allen, Sunil Narine, Varun Chakaravarthy, Harshit Rana and Angkrish Raghuvanshi. Manish Pandey, Rovman Powell, Ramandeep Singh, Sarthak Ranjan, Vaibhav Arora, Saurabh Dubey, Prashant Solanki, Kartik Tyagi, Anukul Roy and Tim Seifert are also part of the retained squad. KKR have Rs 41.65 crore remaining for eight slots, including three overseas positions.

Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) have retained 19 players, including Nicholas Pooran, Aiden Markram, Mitchell Marsh, Sam Curran, Ayush Badoni, Abdul Samad, Avesh Khan and Mayank Yadav. Their squad has also strengthened with the entry of Kuldeep Yadav through a trade. Mukul Choudhary, Akshat Raghuwanshi, Himmat Singh, Mohsin Khan, Digvesh Rathi, Akash Singh, Arjun Tendulkar, Prince Yadav, Shahbaz Ahmed and Josh Inglis are the other retained players. LSG have the highest remaining purse of Rs 47.45 crore and seven slots to fill, three of which are available for overseas players.

Punjab Kings (PBKS) have retained 19 players, including captain Shreyas Iyer, Marcus Stoinis, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Priyansh Arya, Prabhsimran Singh and Shashank Singh. Hardik Pandya is present in the squad as he joined through a trade with Mumbai Indians earlier. Cooper Connolly, Musheer Khan, Suryansh Shedge, Harnoor Singh, Vishnu Vinod, Xavier Bartlett, Harpreet Brar, Ben Dwarshuis, Yash Thakur, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Azmatullah Omarzai and Marco Jansen are also part of the squad. Punjab have Rs 18.60 crore remaining for six slots, including two overseas positions. Rajasthan Royals (RR) have retained 20 players, with Yashasvi Jaiswal, Riyan Parag, Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Jofra Archer among their key names. Shubham Dubey.

WAY TO NEWS
English Daily Hyderabad, Telangana

Dhanush, Mammootty-starrer 'Om' cleared for release with U/A certificate!

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has now cleared director Rajkumar Periasamy's eagerly awaited action entertainer 'Om', featuring actors Dhanush and Mammootty in the lead, for release with a U/A certificate.

Taking to its X timeline, Wunderbar Films, one of the production houses producing the film, wrote, "Unleashing action, adrenaline and unlimited excitement. #OM is U/A certified, and on the way to theatres on November 20. A @Rajkumar_KP Film."

The film has triggered huge excitement among fans and audiences ever since the makers released a trailer. Contrary to what audiences were initially led to believe, the trailer revealed that Dhanush plays a member of an intelligence unit constituted by the Tamil Nadu Police to deal with organised crimes in the film. The trailer also had another surprise in the form of Mammootty being the antagonist in the film. The trailer began with the makers pointing out that "Some of these things actually happen...". The story is set between two temple towns. There is a crime being committed against nature and the cops consider the criminals committing the crime as wild animals. To track and bring them down, the Andhra Pradesh police constitutes a Special



Task Force (STF), which is led by Nithya Reddy (Sai Pallavi). She runs an operation to infiltrate the network behind the smuggling of Red Sanders and codenames it 'OM' -- Operation Mole. Meanwhile, the Tamil Nadu police team, for its part, has a specialised team called OCIU (Organised Crime Intelligence Unit) to deal with the problem and we realise Dhanush is from this unit. He is referred to as D 402 and has a wife and child, about whom nobody in the outside world knows.

Interestingly, contrary to what the public was led to believe earlier, Mammootty plays the antagonist in this film. He plays a character called Red Hills Karthikeyan, the man behind this organised crime network.

Only recently, the makers had revealed that actress Sai Pallavi plays an IPS officer called Nithya Reddy in the film. Sree Leela, who plays Dhanush's wife in the film, plays a character called Roja. The film is slated to hit screens on November 20 this year. The makers had originally planned to release the film on October 16. However, actor Dhanush, in a statement, had announced the film's postponement. He had said that they had chosen to postpone the release of their film out of respect for Superstar Rajinikanth, whose film Jailer 2 hit screens on October 15.

Dhanush had also made it clear that their film would not be releasing for Deepavali as Suriya's film had already been announced for the same date. The actor and producer later announced November 20 as the date of release for their film. Dhanush and Mammootty are collaborating on a project for the first time in Om. For the unaware, Bollywood star Naseeruddin Shah too is a part of this film. The film's title has a tagline called Chapter 1 indicating that there could be a sequel. Wunderbar Films Head Sreyas, while speaking at the title teaser launch event, had disclosed that this would be one of the biggest budget films in Dhanush's career. He had also said that this film would bring back the mass vintage Dhanush that fans had longed to see. The film, which features Sai Pallavi and Sreeleela as the heroines, has music by Sai Abhyankkar. Cinematography for the film is by Ezhil Arasu. Editing for the film is by Kalaivanan R and costumes are by Kavya Sriram.

Samantha Questions Double Standards in Treatment of Women

Samantha, who is eagerly waiting to enjoy the moments of motherhood, is known to be a mother soon. Recently, she impressed her fans with a baby bump photoshoot. Usually, women take rest during pregnancy. But Samantha is doing her job and waiting for the arrival of the baby on the other hand. On the one hand, she participates in many interviews and shares many things. As part of that, her recent questioning of the injustices being done against women in the industry and society has gone viral on social media.

Especially since the film industry is a public one, any small thing in this industry goes viral. However, comments are constantly being made that women are not safe anywhere, not just in the film industry. In this context, Samantha's questioning of the way the world views women made everyone think. In a recent interview, Samantha said, "In this world we live in, only those who have been sexually harassed are criticized. But no one questions those who have committed sexual harassment. Moreover, only single mothers are criticized. But irresponsible fathers are not criticized," she said, responding in her own style to the difficulties faced by women in society. Overall, these comments made by Samantha are going viral on social media. Wherever something goes wrong, it has become common to point out and show women especially. Whoever faces trouble, it is okay. It is the one who is troubled who is called out, but why are those who caused trouble not questioned? Many netizens are also supporting her, saying that there should definitely be a change in this policy. Currently, these comments made by Samantha are going viral on social media.



Samantha, who has become a producer and has impressed the audience, is known to be impressing with lady-oriented films as a heroine. Currently, she is away from films due to her pregnancy. She is seen as a celebrity judge in Celebrity Master Tamil, which is aired on Sony Live. She was supposed to act in a web series called Rakta Brahmandam: The Bloody Kingdom. But this film was postponed due to her pregnancy. Samantha, who recently joined the Rs. 100 crore club with the film Maa Inti Bangaram, is also planning a sequel to this film. It remains to be seen when the makers will officially announce this.

Rajinikanth Enjoys Family Getaway in Greece

Producer Soundarya Rajinikanth, who is also the younger daughter of actor Rajinikanth, on Tuesday shared pictures of the Superstar spending quality time with his family members in Greece and wrote, "What amazing memories we've made in Athens!" Taking to her Instagram page to post a couple of pictures of the entire family including Superstar Rajinikanth enjoying a walk in Athens, Greece, the producer wrote, "What amazing memories we've made in Athens! Soaking up every moment of this lovely family getaway." For the unaware, Rajinikanth and his entire family had flown to Greece to attend the wedding of his relative and one of India's top music directors, Anirudh Ravichander.



Anirudh Ravichander wed Kavya Maran, the daughter of Sun Group Chairman Kalanidhi Maran and the owner of the IPL franchise SunRisers Hyderabad, at a grand wedding ceremony that took place on November 11 this year.

The wedding, which took place in Greece over a two-day period and which was attended by a number of distinguished guests, had been the cynosure of all eyes. Among those present at the wedding were Tamil film Superstar Rajinikanth former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin and Union Minister Dayanidhi Maran.

Sun Pictures, the production house of Kalanidhi Maran, had recently taken to its timeline to share moments captured during the star-studded wedding. The production house had wished the couple saying, "Heartiest congratulations to Kaviya and Anirudh on their wedding! #KAVIYAandANIRUDH."

The news of the music director's wedding was first officially confirmed by the Telangana Chief Minister's office which put out a post on its X timeline saying that Sun Group Chairman Kalanidhi Maran and his wife Kavery Maran had called on the Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy at his residence in Jubilee hills to invite him to the wedding reception of his daughter Kavya Maran, which was to be held in Chennai on November 21. The post put out by the Telangana CM's office read, "Sun Group Chairman Shri Kalanithi Maran and his wife, Smt. Kavery Maran, met Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy at his residence in Jubilee Hills and invited him to the wedding reception of their daughter, Kavya Maran."

'Moonwalk' Starring Prabhudeva to Release on December 24

The makers of director Manoj NS's 'Moonwalk', featuring actor Prabhudeva in the lead, have now announced that the film will hit screens for Christmas on December 24 this year. The film has triggered huge expectations among fans and filmbuffs as the film will also mark the acting debut of Oscar award winning music composer AR Rahman.Sources say that the ace music director will make a fun cameo appearance in the film. A R Rahman, who took to his X timeline to share the update on the film's release, wrote, "MOONWALK – A FAMILY COMEDY ENTERTAINER! Worldwide theatrical release on December 24! #FamilyLaughter #HolidaysLaughter Starring @PDdancing @iYogiBabu @AjuVarghesee #ArjunAshokan @Satzsathish321 Directed by #ManojNirmalaSreedharan Produced by #ManojNirmalaSreedharan #DivyaManoj and @praveenelak @behindwoods DOP @Anoopvshylaja."

It may be recalled that the film had originally be scheduled for release for Deepavali. Behindwoods Productions, while announcing the film's release for Deepavali, had said the film would deliver to audiences a spectacular festive celebration filled with laughter and unforgettable family moments. Apart from acting in it, AR Rahman has also scored the music for the film. Apart from Prabhudeva, the film will also feature actors Yogi Babu, Aju Varghese, Arjun Ashokan, Satz, Nishma, Sushmitha, Redin Kingsley, Mottai Rajendran, Lollu Sabha Swaminathan, Dr Santhosh Jacob, Deepa Shankar, and Ramkumar Natarajan among others.

Another highlight of the movie, sources say, will be Yogi babu appearing in 16 different roles. Sources claim that 'Moonwalk' will seek to seamlessly blend comedy, music and dance into a vibrant cinematic celebration. The film features cinematography by Anoop V Shylaja, choreography by Sekhar VJ and Piyush Shazia, production design by Shanoo, and costume design by Divya George and



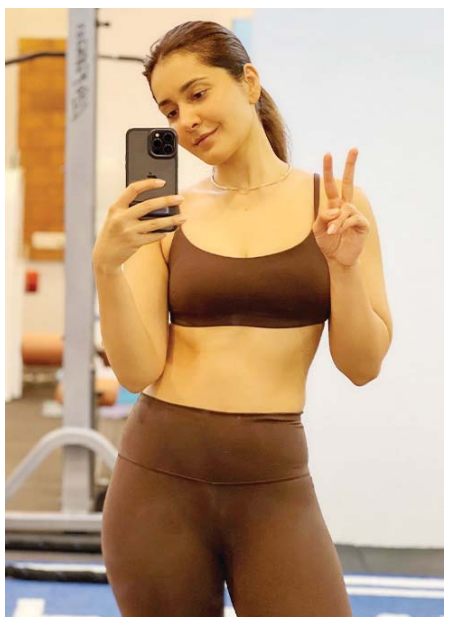
Swetha Raju. MOONWALK, produced by Manoj NS, Divya Manoj and Praveen Elak under the banner of Behindwoods Productions, will release simultaneously in Tamil, Telugu and Hindi languages.

Raashii Khanna Shares Fitness Routine, Stresses Importance of Discipline

Actress Raashii Khanna took to social media to share a glimpse of her workout routine, along with a fitness reminder about the importance of consistency and showing up even on days when motivation is hard to find. Taking to Instagram, Raashii shared a workout video in which she is seen putting in the effort during her fitness session. Along with the video, she penned a note highlighting how discipline often matters more than motivation."Not every day comes with motivation. Some days, you just have to get yourself there. And that is half the job done," she wrote.

The 'Madras Café' actress also shared footage from her gym session, in which she is seen dressed in comfortable sportswear. The video captures her performing different exercises, focusing on both her lower and upper body. In one part of the video, Raashii is seen performing leg exercises to strengthen her lower body. She then moves on to arm workouts as part of her fitness routine. The video offers a glimpse into her varied workout session and the effort she puts into staying fit. Raashii regularly shares glimpses of her professional commitments, fitness routine and personal moments on social media. Earlier, Raashii Khanna reflected on the complexities of mother-daughter relationships, highlighting how love, hurt and admiration can coexist within the same bond. The actress shared her thoughts on Arundhati Roy's memoir 'Mother Mary Comes to Me' and praised the author's honest portrayal of her relationship with her mother, Mary Roy.

An excerpt from her post read: "There is something extraordinary about 'Mother Mary Comes to Me': the way Arundhati Roy



holds the contradictions of a woman who could be both a force of nature and a source of deep hurt. Mary Roy was a formidable feminist who challenged the world and carved out a place for herself, yet the same fierce, uncontained spirit could wound those closest to her. Arundhati writes of her with a startling honesty that neither diminishes her mother's achievements nor conceals the wreckage left behind. What emerges is an inheritance of extraordinary complexity: a daughter shaped by the very person she has struggled to understand, carrying both her mother's fire and the scars of its burning." On the work front, Raashii will next feature in the upcoming film 'Mauja Hi Mauja', which also stars Akshay Kumar and Vidya Balan.

Sonam Kapoor Urges Environmental Protection

Bollywood actress Sonam Kapoor has advocated for eco-conservation, as she said that the damage to our natural resources can be reversed. The actress attended the 6th annual Earthshot Prize awards ceremony in the city on Tuesday. The actress spoke with at the event, and shared that people need to do their bit in taking care of the planet. "I think this issue is very important, obviously, but at the same time, it's never too late. We can also reverse whatever has happened to our water, to our air, to our animals, everything, whatever we can do, we can do something. And as human beings, it is our responsibility to take care of the planet".

When asked what message she would like to give to Gen Z with regards to taking care of the planet, she said, "Our generation is also very important because whatever has been done to our planet, is because of us. We have to take care of it, and we have to ensure that we preserve it for the next generations, and our kids".

The Earthshot Prize, established by Prince William in 2020, is an annual global environmental awards initiative recognising innovative solutions to the planet's most pressing ecological challenges. Inspired by US President John F Kennedy's Moonshot programme, it aims to identify and accelerate environmental breakthroughs by 2030. The awards recognise five categories, Protect and Restore Nature, Clean Our Air, Revive Our Oceans, Build a Waste-Free World and Fix Our Climate. Each year, 5 winners receive $1.3 million each to scale their projects and expand their global impact.





Sharad Kelkar Says Creative Obsession Means Perfection

Actor Sharad Kelkar, who is gearing up for his upcoming film 'Kaali Kheti', has shared what creative obsession means to him. The actor spoke with IANS along with Jackie Shroff and director Haris Imtiyaz Khan in the Andheri West area of Mumbai during the promotions of the film. He told IANS, "For me creative obsession is pegged on perfection. It has to be perfect. The director of our film is a painter. So we were very sure of each and every frame, how it should look. And because they've been working on pre-production with Kiran Deohans sir, they were aligned. So we were not bothered about how it's going to look. The one thing which was a question in my head, obviously Kiran sir is doing it, but as a first time filmmaker, there are a lot of VFX shots. And as an actor, we were all curious and I'm not very sure how it is going to look. Because there are a lot of shots in VFX".

He further mentioned, "So we were always confused about how it will come out, how much time do we have to do it, how it will look. Do we have that much of time to do the most? VFX can take maybe a few months and a few years also. I've done such films". "VFX took around 1.5-2 years. But they were so sure about how much time we need and we'll work round the clock. So I think the benchmark is going up. You just need to give it to him. Give your passion and everything to the film", he added. Meanwhile, written and directed by Haris Imtiyaz Khan and produced by Sana Khan under the banner of BlackCanvas Studio, 'Kaali Kheti' is set to release in cinemas on November 20, 2026. Kelkar also highlighted the importance of teamwork in bringing a filmmaker's vision to life, particularly when a project involves extensive visual effects. He noted that clear planning during pre-production helped the cast understand the film's visual requirements and allowed the team to work towards a common goal. The actor's comments reflect the growing role of technology and meticulous preparation in contemporary filmmaking. With 'Kaali Kheti' set to explore a visually demanding cinematic world, audiences will be keen to see how the director's vision translates onto the big screen.

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